

ALL IN

The Church As Jesus Intended

Our Surrender

Acts 5:1-11

Weekly Takeaway:

ALL IN begins when God's mission becomes our mission.

Day 1

The Danger of False Appearances

Scripture: Acts 5:1–2

Insight

Immediately following Barnabas's genuine act of sacrificial giving in Acts 4, Luke introduces Ananias and his wife, Sapphira. Together, they sold a piece of property, but Ananias kept back part of the money for himself with his wife's full knowledge. He brought only a portion of the sale price and laid it at the apostles' feet, explicitly imitating the exact public posture of Barnabas. The Greek word used for "kept back" is the same term used for Achan's sin in Joshua 7, signaling a covert misappropriation. Their sin was not holding onto a portion of the land's profits, but deceitfully attempting to engineer a reputation of complete surrender while secretly retaining personal wealth.

Application

It is remarkably easy to perform spiritual actions for human applause rather than divine approval. We can easily curate an image of devotion - attending gatherings, using spiritual language, or giving publicly - while secretly holding back parts of our hearts, habits, or finances from Christ. God is never impressed by outward appearances when they mask inward duplicity. Being **ALL IN** requires honest self-examination: are we living with genuine integrity before God, or are we playing a religious role to impress those around us? True spiritual health begins when we trade performance for absolute honesty.

Checkpoint

Give – Trusting God enough to live generously with what He's given you.

Ananias and Sapphira failed to trust God fully, choosing financial self-preservation over genuine open-handedness. True generosity requires us to give out of authentic trust in God's provision rather than using giving as a tool for public status.

Prayer

Search my heart, Lord, and reveal any area where I am putting on a spiritual show instead of walking in truth. Help me give and live with complete integrity before You. Amen.

Day 2

The Gravity of Deceiving God

Scripture: Acts 5:3–4

Insight

When Ananias presented the gift, Peter confronted him directly, asking why Satan had filled his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit. Peter explicitly clarified the legal status of the transaction: the property belonged to Ananias before it was sold, and the funds remained entirely under his control after the sale. Giving was never mandatory; their offense lay in pretending to offer a 100% sacrificial gift while quietly withholding a portion. Peter's confrontation highlights a critical doctrine: lying to the church and the Holy Spirit is not merely a social misstep or white lie, but a direct attempt to deceive Almighty God Himself.

Application

We often downplay subtle compromises, rationalizing dishonest words, hidden motives, or partial obedience as harmless. But Peter reminds us that God sees directly into the human heart. Hypocrisy isn't just harmful to our relationships with others; it is a direct offense against the holiness of the Holy Spirit who dwells within the church community. Being **ALL IN** means cultivating radical transparency with God, recognizing that He values quiet integrity far more than public pretense or partial devotion.

Checkpoint

Connect – Choosing authentic community over isolated faith.

Ananias chose deceitful isolation over authentic relationship within the faith community. True connection thrives only in an atmosphere of genuine honesty, where we drop our masks and walk openly with God and His people.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, deliver me from the temptation of partial obedience and hidden motives. Give me the grace to live transparently in my church family and before Your throne. Amen.

Day 3

Holy Awe and God's Presence

Scripture: Acts 5:5–6

Insight

Upon hearing Peter's words of exposure, Ananias instantly fell down and died. The text records that "great fear seized all who heard what had happened." Young men immediately wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him according to ancient Near Eastern custom, which required rapid burial before sundown. This dramatic divine judgment served as a decisive boundary marker at the foundational stage of the early

church. It made clear that the Holy Spirit's dwelling within the community was not a passive concept, but an active, holy presence that could not tolerate unrepentant, deliberate corruption.

Application

In our modern culture, it can be easy to treat God's grace casually, treating His kindness as a license for compromise. But the judgment on Ananias reminds us that the God of grace is also a holy God who demands awe and reverence. When we lose our sense of God's holiness, we open the door to casual sin and spiritual apathy. Being **ALL IN** means re-establishing a healthy, reverent fear of the Lord in our daily lives—a deep honor for His presence that guards our hearts against cheap grace and spiritual compromise.

Checkpoint

Gather – Centering your life around God's presence and His people.

The dramatic judgment reminded the gathered believers that God's presence among His people is holy and worthy of reverence. Centering our lives around God's presence means approaching Him and His church with deep awe, honor, and purity of heart.

Prayer

Lord, restore a holy awe and deep reverence for Your presence in my daily walk. Forgive me for taking Your grace for granted, and keep my heart pure before You. Amen.

Day 4

The Cost of Conspiracy

Scripture: Acts 5:7–9

Insight

About three hours later, Sapphira arrived, entirely unaware of her husband's death. Peter provided her with a direct opportunity to tell the truth, asking whether they had indeed sold the land for the specific price Ananias had reported. Instead of repenting or disclosing the truth, Sapphira confirmed the lie, actively joining the deception. Peter revealed the tragic consequence: by agreeing together to test the Spirit of the Lord, she shared the same judgment as her husband. Her exposure proved that complicity in sin carries equal accountability before God's justice.

Application

Spiritual compromises are often reinforced by the people around us. Whether out of loyalty, fear of conflict, or shared convenience, we can easily go along with gossip, dishonesty, or questionable choices because someone close to us initiated them. But Sapphira's story warns us that personal loyalty to anyone else must never supersede our absolute allegiance to Jesus. Being **ALL IN** means having the spiritual courage to stand for truth, even when it means breaking ranks with friends, family, or colleagues who choose compromise.

Checkpoint

Serve – Choosing compassionate action over personal convenience.

Sapphira chose the convenient route of staying quiet and going along with a lie rather than acting righteously. Serving God faithfully requires us to choose compassionate, truth-filled action over the social convenience of hiding sin.

Prayer

Father, grant me the courage to stand firmly for Your truth, even when it is uncomfortable or costly. Help me never compromise my allegiance to You for the sake of human approval. Amen.

Day 5

Purity as a Magnet for Grace

Scripture: Acts 5:10–11

Insight

Immediately after Peter spoke, Sapphira fell dead at his feet and was buried beside her husband. Luke closes this sobering narrative with a key summary statement: "Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events." Notably, this marks the very first time Luke uses the word *ekklesia* ("church") in the Book of Acts. The solemn fear that gripped the believers was not a paralyzing terror, but a purifying, reverent awe that protected the young movement's spiritual integrity. Far from destroying the church, this divine purging preserved its purity, establishing a foundation through which God's power could continue to flow freely.

Application

We live in a culture that often values numerical growth and public popularity over inner holiness and spiritual health. Yet, God prioritizes the purity of His church above its size. When believers live with genuine reverence, radical honesty, and moral clarity, the church becomes a powerful testimony of Christ's transforming power. Being ALL IN means understanding that personal purity matters to the whole body. As we walk in truth, our lives create a safe, powerful environment where others are genuinely drawn to the real hope and grace of Jesus.

Checkpoint

Invite – Leading others toward the hope and grace of Jesus.

The sobering purity of the early church established an authentic testimony that pointed the surrounding community directly to God's holiness. Living out this checkpoint means maintaining an authentic life that genuinely leads others toward the true grace and hope of Christ.

Prayer

Holy God, purify my life and my church family so that we can reflect Your character to a watching world. Let our authentic devotion draw others to know the life-changing truth of Jesus. Amen.