

The Bible Companion Series

# Christianity in Action

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## The Acts of the Apostles

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

The Bible Companion Series of Bible Studies

These Study Notes Belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

By Craig A. Ledbetter.  
Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig  
29 Westcourt Heights  
Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland  
(021) 4871234  
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# The Acts of the Apostles

## Chapter Five *Staying True!*

Focus Verse: **Acts 5:11**

“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”

### I. Study Introduction

- A. The OT parallel to the Book of Acts is *Joshua*. At this point, Acts 5 matches the instruction of Joshua 7.
- B. Dealing with the sin unto death (1 John 5:16,17) - Six instances:
  - 1. Flippant attitude towards the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 11:28-30)
  - 2. Direct \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s command - as with Moses (Num 20:8) that ended up ruining the presentation of a figure of Christ!
  - 3. Direct disobedience to a clear command of God - as with Jonah
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and complaining to God about His care - as with Israel in the wilderness - caused them to disregard His instructions and plan - they rebelled, and it cost them dearly!
  - 5. Taking what belongs to God as Achan and his family did in Joshua 7
  - 6. Putting on a religious show of hypocrisy as a Christian - as with Ananias and Sapphira here in Acts 5
- C. The principle is that it only takes one person who does not want to follow God, to hurt the whole body of believers. One person with bitterness, with anger, with sin in their heart, with rebellion can stop God’s blessings - that is what happens in Acts 5
- D. The challenge is for all of us to stay true to purity and to God’s word!

### II. Study Outline - Staying True!

#### A. Sin in the Camp (5:1-11)

- 1. The Deceit of Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-2)
  - a. They wanted the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ that Barnabas was getting for his generosity
  - b. They used the sale of their property as a means to ACT like they were more sacrificial than they really were - put on a big show of “spirituality” - it is wrong to *act* spiritual. Be real
  - c. They agreed together that it would not hurt anyone (5:2). Our sin hurts more people than we know!
  - d. They \_\_\_\_\_ to Satan’s pull toward his plan. They were not demon-possessed, but sin-filled instead of Spirit-filled (Eph 5:18). Peter one time had trouble with this (Matt 16:21-23), as did James and John (Luke 9:54,55)
- 2. The Death of Ananias and Sapphira (5:3-10)
  - a. It was not wrong to own property - the best thing
  - b. Peter had the gift of “discernment”
  - c. Peter also had the responsibility to keep the church pure by revealing sin in their midst - Peter did not “kill” Ananias. God did!
  - d. Peter pointed out that Ananias had not lied to people, but to God - specifically, to the Holy Ghost (5:4) - Deity of the Holy Ghost - proof of the Trinity!
  - e. The truth was used to *slay* Ananias - the word of God is a sword (Heb 4:12) and pricked the intention of Ananias’ heart
  - f. Produced great fear (5:5) - it is right to fear the consequences of sin - as a Christian, or unsaved!
    - 1) The consequences of sin in the unsaved: \_\_\_\_\_!
    - 2) The consequences of sin in the saved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 12:5-8), and it could lead to early death, and to lose of rewards in heaven!
  - g. This is the first death in Christianity (like the children of Israel having to die in the wilderness due to disobedience)
  - h. The Lord next has Peter identify whether Sapphira was an innocent party, or an accomplice. She was an accomplice (5:7-10), and she dies as well. Two types of sins:
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ - doing something wrong
    - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ - not doing something right - negligence
- 3. The importance of Ananias and Sapphira (5:11) - to make Christians realise that HIS church is supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_, and TRUE and REAL - not deceitful, and money-oriented!

#### B. Signs and Wonders (5:12-16)

- 1. **The meaning of Signs and Wonders:** special miracles that “signify” that something miraculous is going on - to make people “wonder” about important things instead of remaining numb. Signs and wonders included:

- a. Healing, raising the dead, giving sight
  - b. Speaking in tongues
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ - telling the future
  - d. Withholding rain for 3 1/2 years (Elijah) in judgment
  - e. The sun darkened, and moon turned into blood (Act 2:19,20)
2. **The Purpose of Signs and Wonders**
- a. To prove that Jesus was God (Acts 2:22)
  - b. To back up the word of God (Mark 16:20)
  - c. To show that God was with the \_\_\_\_\_ now in Acts 2, like as He had been with the Jews in Exodus (Dt 6:22)
  - d. To mark \_\_\_\_\_ in God's dealings with mankind (Act 2:19)
  - e. To deceive people and get them against God (Rev 16:14)
3. **The Producers of Signs and Wonders**
- a. \_\_\_ Himself - The Lord Jesus (Acts 2:22)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ - Moses and Aaron (Ex 7:3), and the prophets
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ - By the hands of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:43; 4:33; 5:12; 14:3,4; 19:11; Ro 15:19; 2 Cor 12:12). They got this personally from the Lord Jesus (Mt 10:1,2).
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ - By the first \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 6:8; 8:5-7) - they were given this power by the apostles (Acts 6:5,6)
  - e. The \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 24:24; Rev 13:11-15), and his "ministers" (Ex 7:10-12)
4. **The Proofs of True Signs and Wonders**
- a. They worked \_\_\_\_\_ time - with and without faith by the recipient (Acts 5:16; 28:7,8).
  - b. They worked until the \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostolic age (2 Tim 4:20; 1 Cor 13:8)
  - c. They never contradicted the word of God - always were subject to verification (1 John 4:1)
5. **The Problem with Signs and Wonders**
- a. An \_\_\_\_\_ people look for them - not true seekers of Christ (Mt 12:38-41), but of more sources of power!
  - b. The devil can easily counterfeit most of them (Ex 8:16-18)
  - c. The Lord will allow signs and wonders to confound the rebellious (2Thes 2:8-12), and test the Christian (Dt 13:1-5).
  - d. Miracles are to be subject to the word of God (Isa 8:18-20). If they aren't valid, then the magician is to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Dt 13)
  - e. People are only to believe the \_\_\_\_\_ - not miracles (John 4:48). The miracles were to get people to believe the word (Mk 16:20)!
6. **The Place of Signs and Wonders** - in the Past, and in the Future
- a. Primarily in \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. To the Jews throughout the world - to get them back to God
  - c. To some of the Gentiles - but not as a general rule. Paul was restrained in using miracles outside Israel (Cf 1Cor 1:22-24)
  - d. Were finished at the completion of the Bible (1 Cor 13:8-10)
  - e. They will occur again in the \_\_\_\_\_ (manna from heaven feeding the Jews; water from the rock; earthquakes, sun being turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, etc). These miracles will once again be directed at the Jews!
7. **The Proper Results of Signs and Wonders** - The apostles demonstrated authority over laying the foundation of the church
- a. Produced \_\_\_\_\_ in the church - already had it
  - b. Seriousness about being a part of the New Testament church
  - c. People getting saved - consistent focus!
  - d. People getting healed (5:16) - every one! Everybody was ready for the coming of the kingdom of Heaven-Millennium
- C. Staying Faithful (5:17-42) Consistent Christianity**
1. The assault on the Apostles (5:17,18) - this is the natural result of revivals (4:31; 13:44,45)
  2. God's \_\_\_\_\_ - miraculous (5:19). Doesn't always have to deliver, but delights to!
  3. The Angel's command (5:20)
    - a. **Go** (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15)
    - b. **Stand** (Eph 6:13,14)
    - c. **Speak** - not just living the Gospel, but preaching it
    - d. **Speak ALL** the words of this life (2 Tim 4:1,2)

4. The Apostle's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:21) - to obey - even though at great risk
5. The Council's Humiliation (5:21-26) - they are not in control!
6. The "Nice" Approach (5:26-28; Rom 8:31)
7. The Clear Goals of the Apostles (5:28-32) - not to heal everyone
  - a. To obey God, over man - in everything (Prov 3:5,6; Ex 1:22)
  - b. To fill Jerusalem (any area) with the doctrine (truth) of Christ - not satisfied with 11, 120, 500, 3000, 5000,!
  - c. To convince sinners of their responsibility for the murder of the innocent blood of Christ
  - d. To call people to repentance & forgiveness of sins by Christ
8. The Effect of the preaching of the word of God (5:33-42)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ deep down into the sinner's heart (Heb 4:12)
  - b. Causes people to want to \_\_\_\_\_ the messenger (Mt 21:33-39) and stop the message. Religion is the source of all killing (Rev 18:24) throughout history! Without Christ, religion is only the love of money!
  - c. Causes people to \_\_\_\_\_ (5:34-39)
    - 1) Gamaliel was a Bible-believer, not a Bible-doer (Ja 1:22) - teacher of the Pentateuch supposed to know truth
    - 2) He reasons that human endeavors will always ultimately fail, because they require perfect leadership. As with:
      - a) Theudas - a false prophet
      - b) Judas of Galilee - rogue leader of a tax rebellion
    - 3) He points out the God's endeavours cannot be stopped, because **He** never dies
    - 4) He wants to let the Christians go, because if Christianity is of man, then it will fail because its leader is dead. But if it is of God, then they had better be careful to not be found fighting God - guilt is showing up here!
  - d. Causes \_\_\_ in life of the Christian (5:40,41; 1Cor 1:18,23,24)
    - 1) Preaching and living godly will always produce persecution (2Tim 3:12). Should it ruin our attitude?  
**No**
    - 2) They were in good company - with all the other men and women of God throughout history, including Jesus
    - 3) It was all for the Lord anyway (Col 1:23)
    - 4) No matter what we lose - the Lord will make it up (Mk 10:28-30)
  - e. Encourages Christians to just keep on going for the Lord, and being faithful doing what God tells them to do (5:42)!
    - 1) Taught daily out in public - in the Temple - like church
    - 2) Taught daily in every house - personal discipleship!
    - 3) Taught Jesus Christ to Jews who already knew the O.T.

### III. Conclusion and Study Questions