

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: JULY 14, 2026

BACKGROUND:

We have been looking at the role of the Holy Spirit in the church as written in the book of Acts. Below is a summary of everything we discussed to date. I hope it is of value to see the works of the Holy Spirit collated.

April 28th we looked at Acts 1:1 – 11.

- Jesus commands the apostles through the Holy Spirit
- Jesus orders the apostles not to depart from Jerusalem, and wait for the Father's promise of being baptized with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God the Father.
- The apostles will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.
- The Holy Spirit will help them be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

May 12th, Acts 2:1 – 13

- When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- The Holy Spirit empowers people to do things which others notice and are amazed.

May 26th, Acts 2:36 – 47

- You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit if you repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. This promise from God is for you and your children and for all who are far off... everyone whom the Lord God calls to himself.
- Works of the Holy Spirit in those who were filled:
 - 2:42 *devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers.*
 - 2:43 *awe came upon every soul, witnessed many wonders and signs.*
 - 2:44 *togetherness and had all things in common*
 - 2:45 *selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all who had need.*
 - 2:46 *attending the temple together, breaking bread in their homes, received their food with glad and generous hearts*
 - 2:47 *praising God, having favor with all the people.*
 - 2:47 *becoming saved by the Lord*

June 9th, Acts 4:1 – 22

- Peter and John were teaching and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. Many who were listening believed. God's word has power.
- The Holy Spirit will give you the power to speak the gospel message.
- The Holy Spirit will give you boldness to proclaim the name of Jesus.
- Those listening to you speak by the Spirit will be astonished at your words.
- The Holy Spirit will give you the power to do signs and wonders... like healing a lame person.
- The Holy Spirit will grow your relationship with God.

June 23rd, Acts 4:23 – 37

- When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will praise God.
- The Holy Spirit helps you pray to God the Father.
- V32: the full number of believers were of one heart and soul.
- V32: everyone shared what they had with everyone.
- V33: the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of Jesus and great grace was upon them all.
- V34: there was no needy person among them
- V34: many sold their land and brought the proceeds to the apostles
- V35: the apostles distributed to each as they needed

LESSON:

We continuing to see the works of the Holy Spirit and how the apostles and new believers grow their relationship with him. Please read Acts 5:1 – 16 and be ready to discuss the questions which follow.

ACTS 5:1 - 16

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹ But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

QUESTIONS:

1. Chapter 4 of Acts ends with Barnabas selling a field and bringing the money and laying at the apostles' feet. Chapter 5 begins with the word, "But". This invites a comparison between the actions of Barnabas and Ananias/Sapphira. Both laid money at the apostles' feet, but there was a noticeable difference.

- What was the difference?

2. Peter accused Ananias of lying to the Holy Spirit. Later Peter tells Ananias that his lie was not to man but to God. In these 2 statements Peter reveals that the Holy Spirit is God. The consequence of lying to God was death to Ananias.

- What was the reaction of all those who heard of Ananias' fate?

3. Three hours after Ananias' death, his wife Sapphira came to Peter. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much."

- Why do you think Peter asked Sapphira this question?

4. Great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

- Is this great fear good or bad for the church?

5. In Acts 5:12, many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles... not just Peter. This is an answer to the prayer in Acts 4:30, "...while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus". We have seen the penalty of lying to the Holy Spirit and it is equally bad to take glory from God. It is tempting to be a part of God's work and take credit for something which is a result of God's power. However, Peter always gives all the credit of God's signs and wonder to God... like the healing of the lame man to Jesus.

- Share a time when you believe you took some of God's glory.

6. The new church of Jesus Christ was growing, however some did not join them. Yet, the church was held in high esteem. People from towns around Jerusalem heard of the miracles and brought the sick, those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

- What did you learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in the church from today's reading?