



Fatal Distraction



The Promise – The Mission – Acts 1:8

8 **but you will receive**
POWER when the Holy
Spirit has come upon
you; and **you shall be**
My witnesses



Power Encounters

The Holy Spirit will give
you the ability to tell
what *you have*
experienced - with
miraculous results!!!!



Eye on the Prize

29 And [v]now, Lord, take note of their threats,
and grant **that Your bond-servants may
speak Your word with all confidence,**

30 **while You extend Your hand to heal, and
[w]signs and wonders take place through
the name of Your holy [x]servant Jesus."**

31 **And when they had prayed, the place
where they had gathered together was
shaken, and they were all filled with the
Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of
God with boldness.**



Normal Christian Life

³² And the [y] congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* [z] claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. ³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the [aa] proceeds of the sales ³⁵ and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

³⁶ Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of [ab] Encouragement), ³⁷ and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.





Acts 5:1-6

5 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's ^[a]full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he 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 *some* of the price of the land?

⁴ While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not ^[b]under your control? Why is it that you have ^[c]conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

⁵ And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.



But Wait, There's More

⁷ Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

⁸ And Peter responded to her, **"Tell me whether you sold the land [d]for such and such a price?"** And she said, "Yes, [e]that was the price."⁹ Then Peter *said*

to her, **"Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?"** Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out *as well.*"¹⁰ And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

¹¹ And great fear came over the whole **church**, and over all who heard of these things.



WHY????????????????

- First of all, WHY did they do this? Suggestions?
- **Misunderstood the Gospel** – they didn't need to do anything to impress anyone or curry favor with anyone or make themselves look important or compete for power or worth
- They were already deeply loved by God and completely, permanently forgiven. They already were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Not the only time saved and Spirit-baptized believers did stupid things.)
- I think they were **Fatally Distracted**– they misunderstood what was going on and joined the movement because it was current, hip, cool, or because they thought they could earn some status and be somebody – and somehow never got the memo that they already were somebody. No reason to assume they were not saved, but ...
- They thought they had to impress God or impress Peter, they didn't understand they were already loved, accepted, forgiven, blessed, and embraced by Him. This is still a huge problem in the church today.



Bigger WHY???????????????

- WHY did God take the action He did? After all, most of us have done things that are this bad, or worse. Suggestions?
- Context makes this crystal clear that their intention was not to just deceive the apostles and the church; they somehow thought they could fool God. This was an act of defiance to His sovereignty and an affront to His love and mercy.
- Potential infection that could corrupt the whole movement and crush it in its infancy
- Reminds me of what happened at Meribah
- Sin ALWAYS has consequences.



And great fear came over the whole **church**, and over all who heard of these things.



Outrageously Amazing Message!!

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY