

Acts 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Analysis

Peter's penetrating question reveals that Ananias' sin originated in satanic influence ('why hath Satan filled thine heart'), yet holds him accountable for yielding to it. The specific sin of lying 'to the Holy Spirit' identifies the Spirit's deity—lying to Him equals lying to God (v. 4). This establishes the Spirit's personhood and divine nature.

Historical Context

This incident occurred in the Jerusalem church's early phase when radical generosity was common. Ananias and Sapphira's deception was particularly egregious because they pretended complete devotion while holding back, seeking reputation without sacrifice.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Satan exploit religious pretense to deceive believers today?
2. What does this passage teach about the Holy Spirit's nature and the seriousness of sin against Him?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν δὲ Πέτρος Ἀνανία διατί ἐπλήρωσεν ὁ Σατανᾶς
said But Peter Ananias why filled G3588 hath Satan
G2036 G1161 G4074 G367 G1302 G4137 G4567

τὴν καρδίαν σου ψεύσασθαί σε τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ
G3588 heart thine to lie G4571 G3588 Ghost G3588
G2588 G4675 G5574 G4151

ἄγιον καὶ νοσφίσασθαι ἀπὸ τῆς τιμῆς τοῦ χωρίου
to the Holy and to keep back part of G3588 the price G3588 of the land
G40 G2532 G3557 G575 G5092 G5564

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 23:24 (Parallel theme): Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Isaiah 29:15 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

Acts 5:9 (Spirit): Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

John 13:27 (Parallel theme): And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

John 13:2 (Parallel theme): And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

1 Peter 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

James 4:7 (Parallel theme): Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Acts 5:2 (Parallel theme): And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:4 (Parallel theme): Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Job 22:13 (Parallel theme): And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?