

Acts 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Peter's charge - 'How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?' - reveals the conspiracy's true nature: testing whether God would notice their deception. The Greek 'symphōneō' (agreed together) literally means 'sounded together,' emphasizing coordinated action. 'Tempt' (Greek 'peirazō') means test in sense of probing boundaries, similar to Israel's wilderness testing (Psalm 78:18). The phrase 'behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door' announced imminent identical judgment, giving momentary warning before execution.

Historical Context

Testing the Spirit parallels Ananias and Sapphira to wilderness generation who tested God (Numbers 14:22) and died outside the promised land. Both questioned whether God truly saw and cared about His people's behavior. The 'feet at the door' indicated young men's return, ready for identical service.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do believers 'test the Spirit' by seeing whether God notices secret sins?
2. What does the coordinated judgment (both dying identically) teach about God's impartial justice?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Πέτρος	εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτήν	τί	ὅτι
G3588	Then	Peter	said	unto	her	How	is it that
	G1161	G4074	G2036	G4314	G846	G5101	G3754
συνεφωνήθη	ὑμῖν	πειράσαι	τὸ	πνεῦμα	κυρίου	ἰδοῦ,	
have agreed together	ye	to tempt	G3588	the Spirit	of the Lord	behold	
G4856	G5213	G3985		G4151	G2962	G2400	
οἱ	πόδες	τῶν	θαψάντων	τὸν	ἄνδρα	σου	ἐπὶ
G3588	the feet	G3588	of them which have buried	G3588	husband	thy	are at
	G4228		G2290		G435	G4675	G1909
τῇ	θύρᾳ	καὶ	ἐξοίσουσίν	σε			
G3588	the door	and	out	thee			
	G2374	G2532	G1627	G4571			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:9 (Parallel theme): Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Psalms 78:56 (Parallel theme): Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

