



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church

-We are not a perfect people

**-We are here because we know we need
God's help and He has provided this help
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him
Known!**

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you have spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**

[Acts 4] 32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had

need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

[Acts 5] 1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet. 3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied

to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." 5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6 Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. 7 About three hours later his wife

came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” 9 Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” 10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died...

- What kind of stewards are we with what God has given us?
- This sharing was Spirit led – out of the heart!

- The early Church was taking care of the believers within the family! (not social needs-family needs)
- If they had extra – it was given or sold to meet the needs of those who didn't have enough.
- Ananias & his wife Sapphira's motivation wasn't helping the needy but to elevate themselves to receive praise and honor!
- Peter said: “Wasn't the land yours? Wasn't the money yours after? You could have done whatever you wanted - given 10%, given 50% but “claiming to give 100% and Not is a lie!

- We must understand the call of God in our life for stewardship but the issue we also want to address is the common practice of lying
- Peter goes right to the point – it was yours – you could do what you wanted BUT you LIED - Therefore you will pay the price for your lie
- Ananias and Sapphira did what a lot of people in the church do today - we tend to forget that God knows and sees everything – He knows our heart!
- Are we seeking attention for ourselves or praise for God?

- Why do you do what you do?
- Why do you give what you give?
- What is it that you do for others in the name of Jesus?
- The very thing that drove Ananias & Sapphira was their ego... pride... desiring to be recognized

[Matthew 6] “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

- It is and always has been an issue of the heart

- God knows your heart, your motivation, your intentions...
- Nothing is hidden from His sight!
- He is NOT ok with us claiming one thing in front of people and doing another behind the scenes!!
- He's NOT ok with us seeking human applause as the issue is doing what we do for the glory of God!
- What it all boils down to is the issue of the heart...

[Matthew 12] 33 “A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. 34 You brood of snakes! How could

evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. 35 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.

- What is within will feed what comes out and it will make the individual easy to identify!
- You will be seen as a man or woman of God or of self

Action Steps

- What have you done to help others in Jesus name?
- What is the motivation behind what you do for God?
- When is the last time you helped someone in need within the body of Christ? (meeting social needs in society is a completely different topic)
- Who's the hero in your words & actions – God or you?
- Knowing your heart, your motivation, your intent is laid open before God is there anything you need to make right with Him?