

STUDY GUIDE

Acts 5:1-11

“The Power of the Spirit and the Fear of God”

- 1) C.S. Lewis wrote that our God is “the Lord of Terrible Aspect” in that He is not a God of “a senile benevolence that drowsily wishes you to be happy in your way” but He is “the consuming fire himself, the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist’s love for his work.” Describe and discuss the things that Lewis is trying to tell us about God in this statement.
- 2) What is *hypocrisy*? What does hypocrisy look like in the world? In the church? In your life?
- 3) How could hypocritical, self-centered heart attitudes like those of Ananias and Sapphira exist in a Holy Spirit empowered church of “*great power*” and “*great grace*”?
- 4) Having one’s heart “filled” – influenced - by Satan denotes the times in the lives of followers of Christ when Satan gets them so obsessed with an idea or course of action that they get carried away and are blinded to the consequences. Discuss what that might look like in the church.
- 5) Why did Jesus get so angry about the sin of hypocrisy among God’s people? What is the root cause of hypocrisy? How can followers of Jesus Christ fight against the being hypocritical?
- 6) Why was the church able to abundantly flourish after experiencing the “*great fear*” of the stunning deaths of Ananias and Sapphira? What can we learn from Peter’s leadership in this?
- 7) Why is the “fear of the Lord/God” resisted and rejected today? What has been the outcome for world and the church for doing so? How can we restore the reality of the “fear of the Lord”?
- 8) In what ways does hypocrisy produce death in the life of a born-again Christian?
- 9) Discuss the statement: “The fear of God is the gift of the Spirit that empowers God’s people to be His living witnesses of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world that desperately needs God.”
- 10) **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Discuss the implications (personally and for the church) of . . .

And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Acts 5:11