

# Acts

The story of the church

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## Working Through Trials

**In the midst of the joys of the church, there was also troubles.**

*Acts 5:1–2 ... "But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet."*

**The Holy Spirit was revealing sin in the church.**

*Acts 5:3–4 ... "But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.""*

**The Holy Spirit built the church through miraculous healings, but also judgment.**

*Acts 5:11 ... "And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things."*

***The work of the Holy Spirit can not be stopped.***

Acts 5:38–39 ... *"So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice,"*

***The Holy Spirit gives boldness to proclaim the truth in the face of opposition.***

Acts 7:51–53 ... *"“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”"*

***The Holy Spirit gives strength respond to severe persecution with love.***

Acts 7:59–60 ... *"And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep."*