

## **A Church with the Fear of God – 10 Apr 05**

- **Joshua Daniel**

Let us turn to the book of Acts from the verse 34 of the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter: Neither was any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold the, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35: And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

36: And Joses, who by the apostles surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of Consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus.

37: Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Now the fifth chapter: But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

2: 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.

3: And Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4: 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 your heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5: And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

This is the early church. And see how subtly deceit and hypocrisy can creep in. Why should I expect praises and recognition from men? People just want to be accepted and they pay a very heavy cost in order to secure acceptance. So I must appear to be more saintly than what I am actually. Is that it? You know head knowledge is taken for spirituality today. No, there are great scholars, great teachers of God's word but the Lord Jesus said, he that teacheth and does not do shall be counted least in the kingdom of heaven. So often I say the fault is with us preachers. If we are right, the people will be right. That's what I say and that's what I believe. Be thou an example of the hearers in conversation, in faith, in love, in purity and when you are an example to all the hearers, of course there is a punch behind your preaching, your life is going to soon impact whom you have never met. There is a spiritual radio activity a positive one around a spiritual person. You know people are all the time looking for the podium. Oh they like to do this, they like to come up, they like to sing, they like to speak, they like to testify but Alas how many people after doing that have gone down to the gutter and what is the world to think oh

these fellows are not to be trusted. It is just a passing fant. Oh they talk big, who does this anyway. Who believes? And sometimes when people hear me preach, they try hard to size me up and they say he is really seems to believe what he preaches. Can you imagine? What is the world thinking of all these thing then? That we are all engaged in some kind of game? What a sad thing? We see a church in which pretense and lying was impossible. My father used to say, if you want to dance don't go into the power house and dance, that's not the place to dance. High voltage electricity is passing all round you, and you can get killed. So that's no place to dance. In revival I saw that people who tried to dissemble, that is, palm off certain things and say, say things just because everybody else was doing. My mother was a teacher who trained others who became teachers. So my mom's school began at 7:30 in the morning but she would get away at 7 so that she could first of all teach her girls the word of god, of course, this was not in school hours. But mother was invited later to address a retreat to the whole school where she had taught after she had come into full time work and a revival broke out in the school when all the teachers were converted except two out of 32, there were 2. In order to keep up with the rest one of them went up to the podium or lectern or whatever and said something just to keep up with the rest you know and my mother said we are not forcing anybody to make any confession here. What you speak hear should be truthful. That woman who had tried to palm off some kind of hasty type of thing, you know people don't tell the truth you know. She became mad and I think the other person died soon after. The rest were all converted and nearly all school children were converting. In the church where the Holy Spirit is, you can't hide a lie. If you hide a lie there is a punishment that comes upon you and sometimes it is very severe. I remember in a city full of idolatry, I was speaking in a big public hall, it was a battle. Here was a teacher who rolled across the big platform with demons and the demons cried out why do you bother yourself about me? I have come from that temple upon that hill. And what a battle it was to get that demon out of that woman who was a teacher and then when we were praying together in a little circle here came a young fellow, I asked him a question, young man did you live a clean life? He told me a lie and immediately he fell down. You see when the presence of god is there you must not fool around. Today, many people go to even conferences, retreats so on, not really to humble themselves or to learn but they feel they are there to teach. That's a wrong attitude. I tell people, I'm a learner, learner, learner. I want to learn faster and faster and faster. But because today, people have a lot of head knowledge they been in this meeting, that meeting a variety of meetings but do you know whether it is truly the Holy Spirit that was there? People fall on their back or they laugh their heads off and the whole service people are lying around. Why don't you go and preach in the grave yard, at least they are properly buried. Here are fellows who are just... Is that why you go to church or is it to learn at the feet of Jesus? It's become so absurd. There's no meaning to it anymore. And that supposed to be the Holy Spirit, where do you see it in the bible? Show me, where do you see it in the bible? In the bible, what do I see? A valley of dry bones, son of man, can these dry bones live? Ah, Lord God, thou knowest. Son of man, prophesy to these dry bones and the bones came together clattering. Son of man, prophesy to the wind that breath may come into these dry bones then there stood a mighty army before me. That's the church, a mighty

army. But today anything goes. And we think we are all filled with the Holy Spirit. No, you are filled with the spirit of lies and deceit. What do we see in the early church? As soon as there was pretense, as soon as there was deception, Ananias fell dead. My dear friends and fear came upon all them that heard these things.