

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 1, 2023

## Divine Protection

There are certain ingredients that if anyone told us not to put them into our bodies, we would immediately say, “FOR SURE!” To list a couple of them, rat poison and cyanide. Your immediate response would be; REPULSIVE! And that tells the story. Satan’s influence on our lives should have the same response. You say I am saved, and with all my heart, I pray you are correct (1 John 3:4-10). This does not mean satan will not seek to influence us. He tries every day to influence God’s decisions in heaven (Revelation 12:10), so why not us? If he could not influence us, why would he ask God for permission, and then our Lord says, “He will not give us more than we can bear” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

If we were able to ask Ananias and Sapphira, they would say; “yep this can happen.” (Acts 5:1-11) Peter would say the same, “Yep, that is true.” (Matthew 16: 21-23). Please note if satan would seek to influence Christ (Luke 4:1-13), why not us? Please note the last verse in this passage, “... he left Him until an opportune time.” Satan is described in the scriptures by the various names that define his nature. Here are a view and their meanings:

- 1. Satan – Described as our adversary (Revelation 12:10), constantly seeking ways to come against us.
- 2. Devil – He seeks to slander and deceive (Revelation 20:10). He is called the devil when he takes Christ out to the desert to tempt Him (Matthew 4:1-11). Slandering God while trying to deceive Christ. As long as Christ was fully human as well, he believed he had a chance.
- 3. Evil one – Seeks to stimulate evil through world leaders and people around the world (1 John 5:19).
- 4. Beelzebub – The prince of demons (Matthew 12:24). He directs all the evil that takes place through the earth.
- 5. Temper – (1 Thessalonians 3:5).
- 6. Dragon – Fierce and powerful (Revelation 12:3,7).
- 7. Prince of the air – (Ephesians 2:2).
- 8. Deceiver – (Revelation 12:9).
- 9. Belial – (2 Corinthians 6:15) – He is the personification of wickedness and lawlessness.
- 10. Prince of the world – (John 12:31) directs all evil on earth.

When the scriptures seek to encourage us to find protection by being in church, not just at church (Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:17-18) and encourage us to put on the armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) and seek only the things above (Colossians 3:1-14) so that we can hide in Christ, He is not trying to make life difficult. His focus as our Father (our Daddy; Romans 8:15-17 – this is why He says have child-like faith; Matthew 18:3) is to protect His children and bring us to the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).

BE INTENTIONAL AND STAY FOCUSED!!



## UPCOMING Events

**A.N.E.W MEET & GREET—10/21 AT 10 A.M.**  
Join the A.N.E.W. Ministry Saturday, Oct. 21st at 10 a.m. for a Meet & Greet. Come fellowship in a safe space community of love and support for women dealing with complex issues surrounding pregnancy, struggling with guilt or shame over the loss of a child or, abortion consideration. **For more information contact Siobhan Johnson at lwfcaneu@gmail.com**

**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
12 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Prayer at 11:45 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.  
Bible Study Series: The Book of Revelation  
3 WAYS TO CONNECT  
in person | Live on Facebook | Live on YouTube  
DR. PAUL CANNON

**REVELATION BIBLE STUDY—TUESDAYS**  
Living Word Family join us for Revelation Bible Study Tuesdays at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. Don't miss this walk through the book of Revelation. Grow spiritually through Bible Study for the entire family. For more information visit the events page of the website or call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**  
Join us January 12, 2024 for our 30th Anniversary Gala. This is a formal event including mocktails, entertainment, fellowship, and more! Tickets are selling out fast for \$85. Visit [bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala](http://bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala) to purchase your tickets today. **Last day to purchase tickets is Oct. 29th.** For more information, contact the church at **(281) 260-7402**.

**MARRIAGE MINISTRY MEET & GREET 10/21 AT 12 P.M.**  
All dating, married, or engaged couples, join the Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry Saturday Oct. 21st at 12 p.m. for food and fellowship. Please register and for more information, contact Terry or Sherri Randle at [lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com](mailto:lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com)

**LWCA BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL**  
Our children are back in school! Sign up for our LWCA before and after care for ages 5-12. students will learn robotics, arts and crafts, cooking classes, outdoor sports, and godly principles. Special lock-in price of \$55. Register at on the events page of the website or by calling **(713) 686-5538**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Presence Part II”  
Acts 5:1-11

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

**Infants—6th grade**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY  
e 7:30 PM



Presence  
Part II  
Acts 5:1-11

A. Absent (vs. 1-2):

- 1. Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, without the influence of anyone from the on-set, secretly conspired to deceive the members of the church when they knew the people (4:32-36) were freely sharing all that they had. They wanted everyone to think they were doing the same thing when they were not: hypocrisy.
- 2. Ananias and Sapphira were fully conscious and in full knowledge of their decision. They purposely, with complete knowledge, conceived to deceive Peter and the congregation.
- 3. Apostles, ambassadors of Christ, and eyewitnesses of Christ (2 Corinthians 15:6-9; Acts 9; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 1:20-26), operating with all authority provided to them by Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

B. Respected (vs. 3-6):

- 1. For this passage to say ‘fill their hearts’ is to assert that Satan had completely influenced them mentally and emotionally so that the Lord no longer guided their moral compass. Their entire desire was to do what they had made up their minds to do.
- 2. It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), and Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), so this is why Peter said, ‘Satan filled your heart,’ to speak falsehood against the Holy Spirit who lives in their lives. He is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17). Because He is the Spirit of truth, He would have convicted them when they chose to lie. Despite the conviction of the Holy Spirit, they persisted, causing Satan to influence their hearts.
- 3. Peter said that, what allowed Satan to influence Ananias is the fact that he constituted in his heart, once and for all, that this is what he will do. Nothing could have changed his mind; he was that purposeful and passionate about what he planned to do (same as Cain Genesis 4:6-7).
- 4. Peter was told by Christ that it is God who exposed to him that Jesus is the Christ and that it is based on God providing this revelation that the church will be built (Mathew 16:13-20). In Revelation, it is the seven Spirits (Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6) who moved among the churches. The presence of the Holy Spirit is what crystalizes the church being the church. So, when Ananias came to Peter, who received this revelation, he brought a lie before the Spirit, who is the truth, so it was easy for the lie to be exposed.
- 5. As soon as Ananias developed a clear understanding of what Peter was continuously saying to him (what Peter said to Ananias was constantly repeated), because he had no plans to change his mind, he died. To fall means that God’s judgment was executed. It also means that he has been punished.

C. Come Correctly (vs 7-11):

- 1. Because his wife’s spirit was the same as her husband, the result of her entrance was predicted. Her heart was just as stubborn as her husbands to the influence of God, represented by Peter.
- 2. Because she said yes, Peter asked why she would go along with her husband and fully agree with him. In other words, Peter believes that this was a joint decision. Ananias did not need to convince her of this matter; she wanted to do this.
- 3. What Peter is implicitly saying is that it makes no sense to try to make the Holy Spirit break down under evil and act in a manner that is disapproved by God. The Spirit of God would never be engaged in any form of evil or do anything contrary to the will of God. They were wasting time trying.
- 4. When the congregation became fully aware that Sapphira had died in the same manner as her husband, they were tormented with fear and wanted to flee from God’s presence.



PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** The family of Erik Hailey, Jessie Austin & family, Susie Farley & family. Derek Boykins & family, Patricia Deckard & family, Ogneta Polk & family, and Paulette Mayo & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, and Vivian Phillips.

