



The Harness Devotional

14 September – 19 September, 2026

Sapphira: Early Church Figure

Verses: Acts 5:1-10

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 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. 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? 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 to men but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. 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." Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. (NIV)

Song of the Week: [Search Me, O God" by The Worship Zone.](#)

"Search Me, O God" by Hillsong Worship is a heart-felt prayer inviting God to examine the listener and singer's heart, purify their intentions, and lead them into deeper surrender and truth.

Monday Day 1: The Pressure to Look Perfect

Scripture: "But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property..." — Acts 5:1

The Message: In the early church, believers were sharing everything they had. People like Barnabas were selling land and giving all the money to help the poor. Everyone cheered for their generosity. Ananias and Sapphira wanted that same applause. They felt the pressure to look just as spiritual as everyone else. We face this today when we try to look perfect on social media or at church. God cares about our real hearts, not our public image.

Reflection Question: Have you ever pretended to be doing better spiritually just to impress others?

Prayer: Lord, save me from the trap of pretending. Help me value real integrity over public applause.

Tuesday Day 2: The Secret Agreement

Scripture: "...and with his wife's knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it." — Acts 5:2

The Message: Sapphira was not a bystander. The Bible says she had full knowledge of the plan. She and her husband sat down and agreed to whisper a lie together. They decided to keep some money but pretend they

gave it all. True community requires total honesty. When we agree to hide secrets, gossip, or cut corners with the people closest to us, we invite darkness into our homes.

Reflection Question: Is there any area in your life where you are compromising the truth to fit in?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me the courage to stand for truth, even when the people around me choose to compromise.

Wednesday Day 3: Testing the Spirit

Scripture: "Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?'" — Acts 5:3

The Message: Ananias and Sapphira thought they were just tricking Peter and the other leaders. But Peter made it clear: they were actually lying to the Holy Spirit. We often think our "small" dishonest moments do not hurt anyone. But God sees every hidden motive. He desires truth in our innermost being because He loves us too much to let us live in deception.

Reflection Question: How does remembering that God sees your hidden motives change your daily choices?

Prayer: Father, search my heart today. Clean out any hidden dishonesty or impure motives.

Thursday Day 4: The Individual Choice

Scripture: "After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened." — Acts 5:7

The Message: Ananias had already faced his judgment, and three hours later, Sapphira walked into the room. She had a golden opportunity to tell the truth. She could have broken the cycle of deception. We cannot blame our spouses, our parents, or our friends for our choices. At the end of the day, God holds each of us responsible for our own obedience and our own words.

Reflection Question: Are you blaming someone else for a wrong choice you are making right now?

Prayer: Jesus, help me take ownership of my own faith and choices today.

Friday Day 5: The Cost of a Lie

Scripture: "Peter said to her, 'Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.' And she said, 'Yes, for so much.'" — Acts 5:8

The Message: When Peter asked her directly, Sapphira doubled down on the lie. She chose loyalty to a bad plan over loyalty to God. Her answer led to her sudden death. While God handles us with incredible grace today, this story reminds us that sin always brings death—the death of trust, the

death of relationships, and the death of peace. Holiness is serious business to God.

Reflection Question: What is a "small lie" you need to confess before it grows into a bigger problem?

Prayer: Lord, remind me of the high cost of sin so that I will run quickly toward your grace and truth.

Saturday Day 6: Cultivating a Healthy Fear

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

The Message: This story ends with the church experiencing a healthy, reverent fear of God. It reminded them that God is holy and cannot be mocked. A healthy fear of God does not mean we run away from Him in terror. It means we respect Him so much that we hate what hurts Him. Living in truth brings absolute freedom, safety, and power to the church.

Reflection Question: How can you practice deeper reverence and respect for God's holiness this week?

Prayer: Holy God, fill me with a clean and holy respect for who you are. Let my life reflect your truth. Amen.