

HALF-HEARTED FAITH

ACTS 5:1-10

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: God values the purity of our relationship with Him. In new beginnings, as in the new church era, this has been dramatically illustrated in the deaths of Abihu, Nadab, and Uzzah. James Montgomery Boice, Acts, pages 94-95. (Read Acts 4:36, 37 & Acts 5:1)

REVEALS PRIDE. It appears that Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look good in the church. They wanted praise for themselves and not for the Lord. Their half-hearted gift reveals a half-hearted faith. (Acts 5:1, 2, James 4:4-10, fn 4:4-6, I Peter 5:5, 6. fn 5:6. Revelation 3:14-20, fn 3:15) *In your life, how do you make Christ look good?*

REVEALS CONTROL BY SATAN resulting in lying by Ananias and Sapphira. In contrast, God's Word commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3-6, fn 5:3ff, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18, Galatians 5:16-26, fn 5:16-18, fn 5:22, 23) *What is evident in your life that assures you of being filled with the Holy Spirit?*

REVEALS TESTING OF THE SPIRIT'S POWER (GRACE) IN OUR LIVES. Christ-centered lives do not try to extend the boundaries of the Christian faith. (Acts 5:7-10, Exodus 17:1-7, Matthew 4:5-7, fn 4:5-7, I Corinthians 4:6, I Corinthians 3:10-17, fn 3:11) *What would it be like if the referee changed the rules of a football game? How than can you avoid testing the Holy Spirit?*

Pray for one another's needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?