

## 12-28-25 Summary

This message confronts us with one of the most sobering stories in early church history—the account of Ananias and Sapphira from Acts 5. We're invited to examine the first church community, where believers shared everything freely and no one considered their possessions their own. This wasn't mandated; it flowed from hearts transformed by the Holy Spirit. Yet in this beautiful picture of unity and generosity, we encounter a jarring reality: deception crept in. The couple sold property but kept back part of the proceeds while pretending to give everything. Peter's words cut to the heart of the issue—they didn't lie to men, but to God. What makes this passage so relevant for us today is the question it forces us to ask: Where do we allow pretense to replace authenticity in our walk with God? The message challenges us to consider our relationship with possessions, honesty, and the subtle ways Satan can infiltrate our thinking, turning something spirit-led into something flesh-driven. As we close one year and begin another, we're called to examine whether we're living genuinely before God or maintaining a religious facade. The divine power available to us can demolish these strongholds—those concrete mindsets contrary to God's word—but only if we're willing to surrender completely and trust Him with everything, including our finances, our reputations, and our need for approval.