



# The CHURCH Series

Part 4 – Supernatural

# Memory Verse

## – last week

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- *<sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:*
- *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”*
- *<sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up,*
- *and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength*  
Acts 3:6-7



# Introduction...

- Acts chapter 5 is an important chapter in the Book of Acts.
- It offers profound lessons from the early church for believers today.
- The chapter covers two significant events:
  - the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
  - and the apostles' arrest, trial, and miraculous release (Acts 5:12-42).
- It also highlights the nature of the community of believers and their leaders.

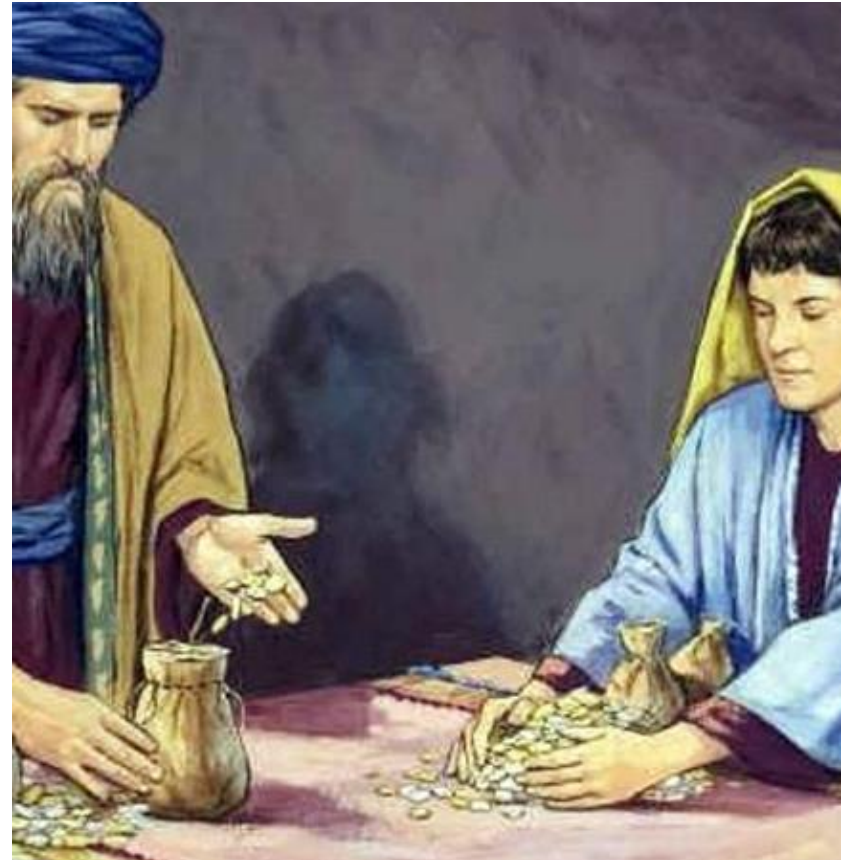




# Acts 5:1-11

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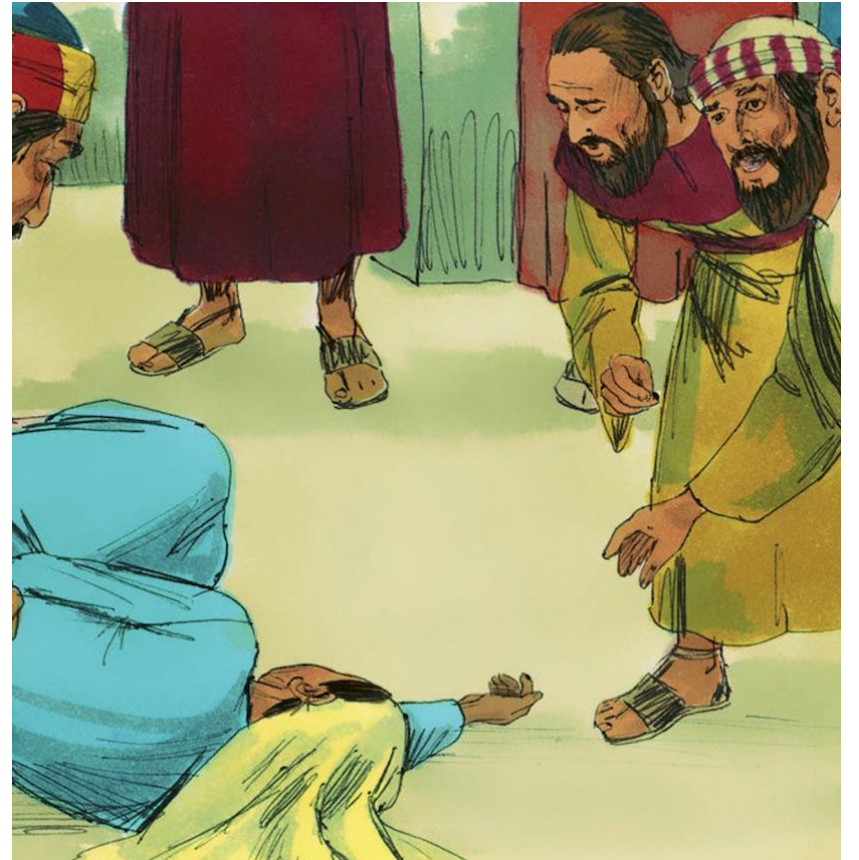
- Ananias and Sapphira, a married couple, sell a piece of property
- and deceitfully withhold part of the proceeds while pretending to give the full amount to the apostles.
- Peter, through the Holy Spirit, exposes their lie.
- Ananias and Sapphira both die as a result of their deceit, which leads to great fear among the believers.



# Lesson...

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- The Grace and Presence of the Holy Spirit was very strong amongst the early Church
- The death of Ananias and Sapphira shows that God takes integrity seriously,
- especially within the church that was laced with the HOLY SPIRIT.
- Their sin was not in holding back part of the money but in lying to God and the community.



# Lesson...

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- Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, discerns the deceit.
- This emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in convicting believers of sin and maintaining the purity of the church.
- What would happen in today's Church if the Holy Spirit came down with such force and power?



# Lesson...

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- This immediate and severe punishment of Ananias and Sapphira illustrates one key thing:
- that sin, particularly hypocrisy and deceit, can have grave consequences,
- not only personally but also within the community.
- This means that we cannot harbour deceit in our lives and expect a Holy God to tolerate it!





# Fear of God...

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- The incident instilled a deep reverence for God among the early believers.
- It reminds us that while God is loving and merciful, He is also holy and just.
- We need this holy fear of God to come back to the Church.
- A reverence and awe that makes Believers know that coming into the Presence of God is a serious matter.





# The Apostles...

- *<sup>12</sup> And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people.*
- *And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.*
- *<sup>13</sup> Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.*
- *<sup>14</sup> And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, .*



# The Apostles...

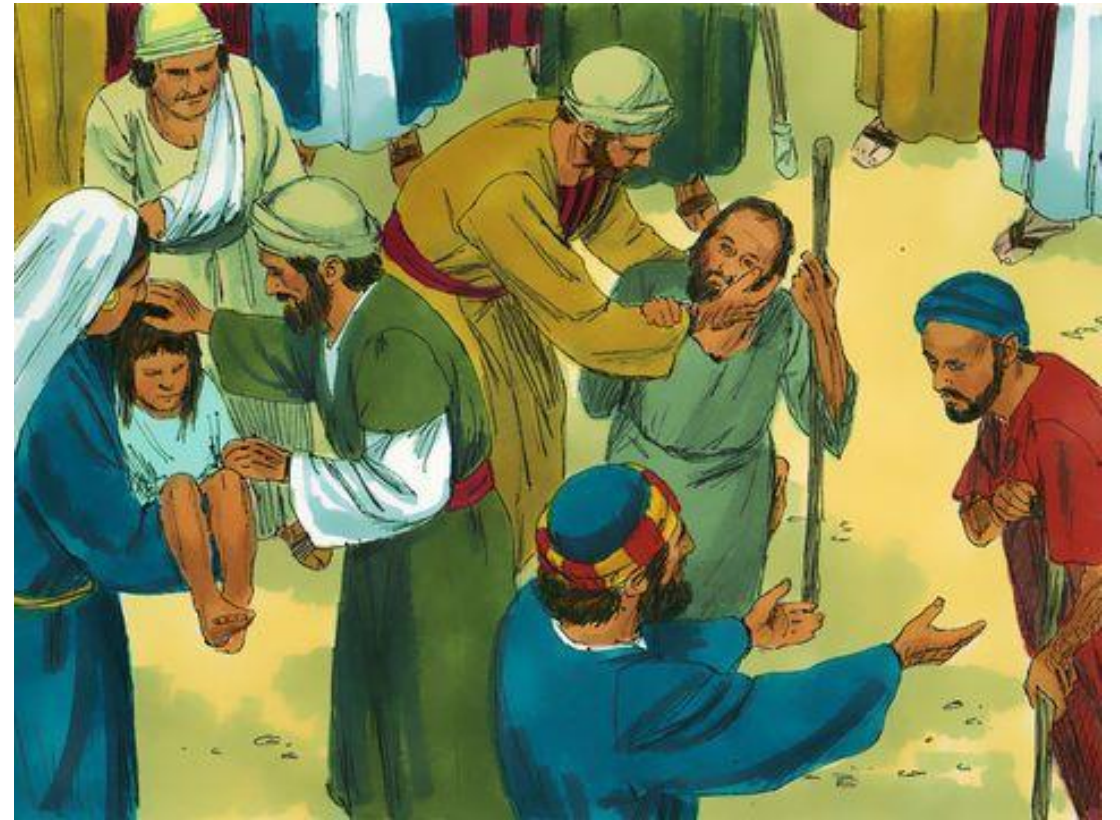
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- *<sup>15</sup> so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches,*
- *that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.*
- *<sup>16</sup> Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem,*
- *bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed*
- Acts 5:12-16



# Wonders....

- The signs and wonders from the Apostles who had spent time with JESUS shows this principle.
- That JESUS continues to perform His signs through His people.
- It was like JESUS never left the City of Jerusalem!
- The End Time Church will revert to this level before the Coming back of Christ.





# All Healed!

- Note that the leadership was plural not singular.
- The Power of God is an integral part of the Church.
- ALL HEALED!! – this is one of the biggest challenges that we face in this age.
- How can we seek God in this era so that the Sick are ALL HEALED!!
- Lets not debate it or over analyse it. The bottom line was that there were many, many healings in the midst of the Early Church
- The focus was not on one person or Apostle. The focus was JESUS.





# Miracles....

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- The miracles performed by the apostles demonstrate that the power of Jesus continues to work through His followers.
- This shows the continuation of Christ's ministry through the church.
- The people's faith in bringing the sick to the apostles reflects the importance of faith in experiencing God's power.
- The passage encourages believers to have faith in God's ability to heal and deliver.



# Signs....

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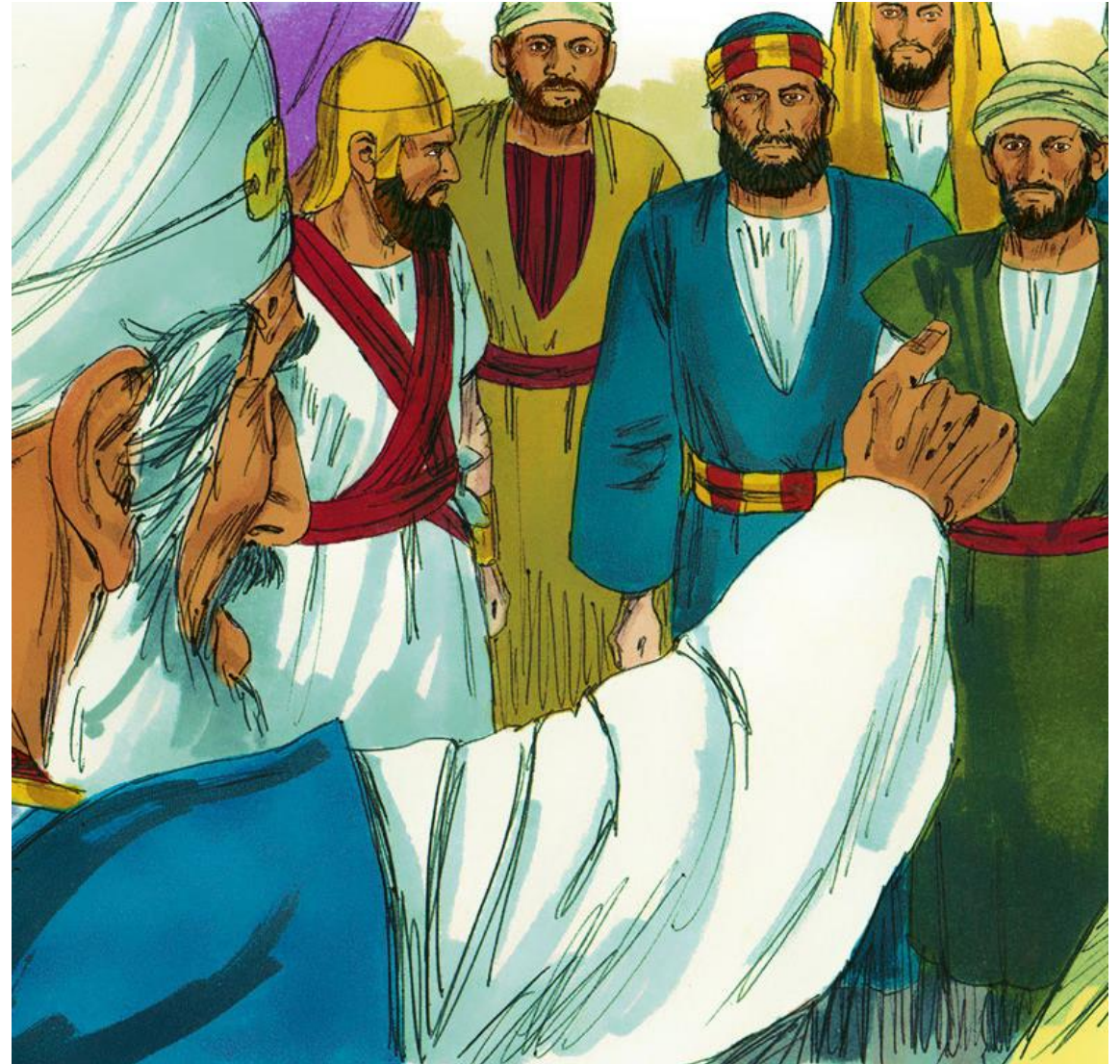
- The signs and wonders performed by the apostles validated their message and attracted many to the faith.
- This shows that miracles can be a powerful tool in evangelism and the spread of the Gospel.
- The Supernatural is integral to the nature and complexion of the Church.
- May we press into this level of Grace that is available to the Church today.





# UP and DOWN!

- *17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees),*
- *and they were filled with indignation,*
- *18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.*
- *19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,*
- *20 “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”*  
*Acts 5:17-20*





# Resistance...

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- A careful read of the chapters of Acts reveal a trend:
- As the work of the Church and Kingdom progresses, the enemy raises to resist the move of God.
- The aim of the enemy is to 'bind' the vessels God uses.
- The aim of Heaven is to 'release' these vessels to freely act to spread the Joy of the Lord and the Good News of the Gospel



# ANGELS...

- This is the second time we see Angels involved with the Church.
- This trend continues throughout the Book of Acts showing the vital role of Angels in the work of the Church.
- Note that the Angel opens the prison doors (plural) and the guards do not see anything.
- The supernatural element of this account is tremendous!!
- OH LORD!! Visit us again in this age with your power and presence and Holy Angels!!





# We Must Obey GOD!!

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- When the religious leaders confront the apostles, Peter boldly declares,
- "We must obey God rather than human beings!" (Acts 5:29).
- The apostles' response to the authorities highlights the principle that
- obedience to God must take precedence over obedience to human authorities, especially when the two are in conflict.





# Obey God...

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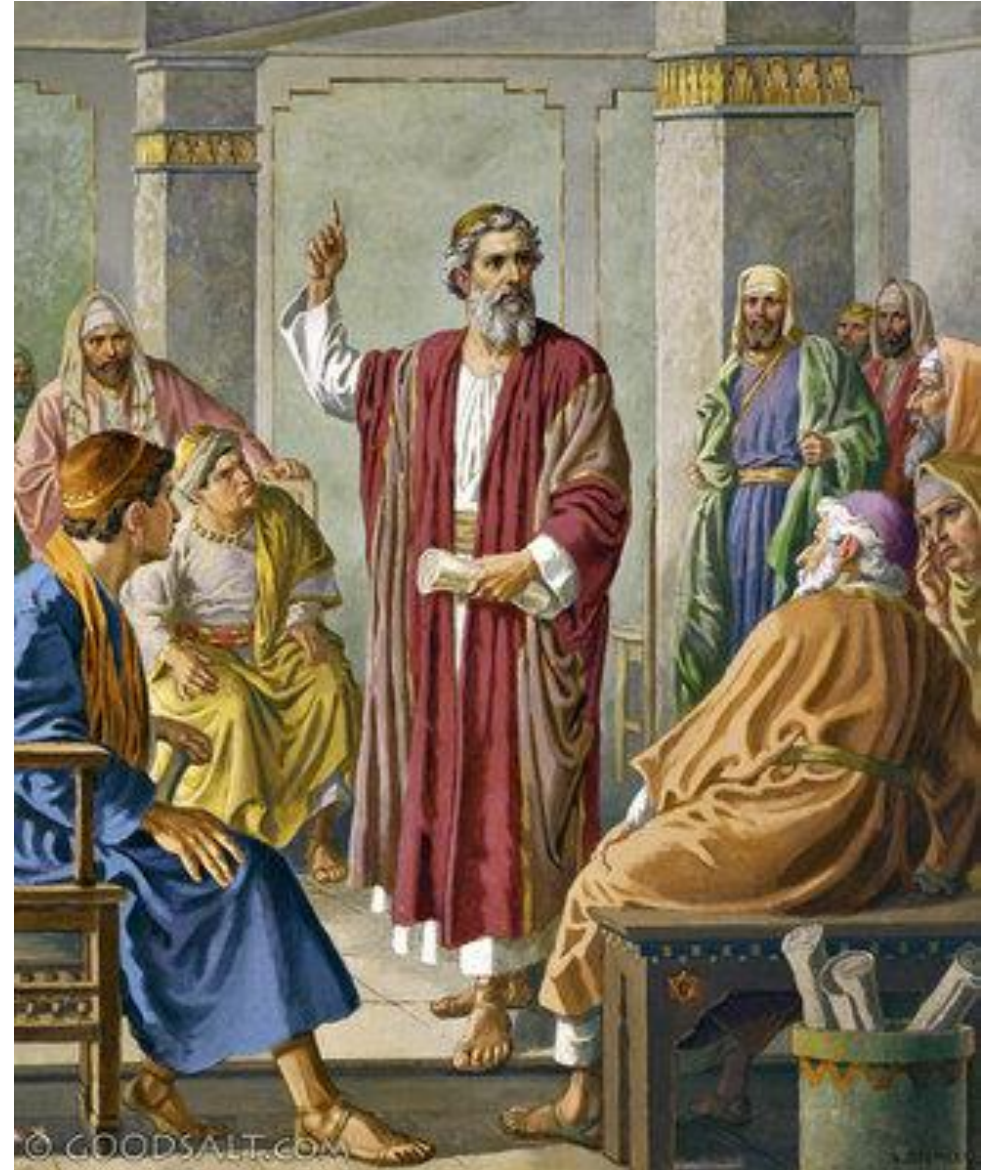
- Despite repeated threats, the apostles continue to preach the Gospel with courage and conviction.
- This challenges believers to be bold in their witness, even in the face of opposition.
- The angelic release from prison underscores God's sovereignty and His ability to protect and deliver His servants.
- It reassures believers that God is in control, even when circumstances seem dire.



# Gamaliel

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- When the religious leaders consider killing the apostles, a respected Pharisee named Gamaliel advises them to leave the apostles alone,
- arguing that if their movement is of human origin, it will fail, but if it is from God, it cannot be stopped.
- The apostles are flogged and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus,
- but they leave rejoicing because they were counted worthy of suffering for the Name.

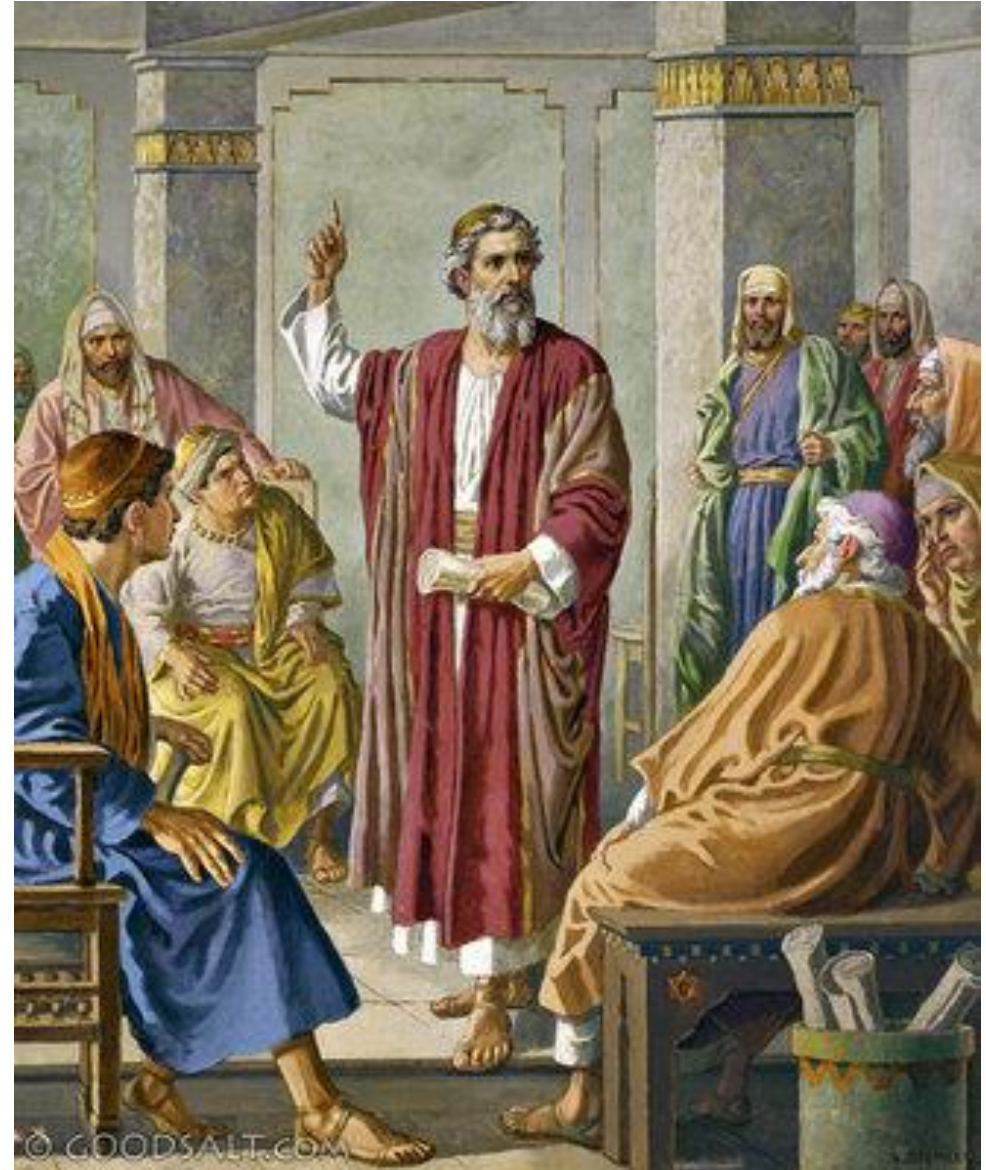




# Gamaliel...

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- Gamaliel's advice to the Sanhedrin reflects a pragmatic and discerning approach to opposition.
- His counsel to "wait and see" suggests that opposition to God's work is ultimately futile.
- It also shows that God has His 'agents' everywhere so that His work can progress.
- Gamaliel's intervention cannot be overestimated or diminished in anyway.....God used him!



# JOY!

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- The apostles' reaction to their flogging; rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ...
- teaches believers to view suffering for their faith as an honor and a cause for joy.
- Despite the persecution, the apostles continue to preach and teach daily in the temple courts and from house to house.
- This encourages believers to persevere in their ministry, regardless of the challenges they face.





*But Peter and  
the other apostles  
answered and  
said: We ought to  
obey God rather  
than men!  
Acts 5:29*

Memory Verse

