

**The Acts of the Apostles I**  
***The Power of the Apostles***  
**Acts 5:1-42**

I. POWER TO RETAIN SINS (Acts 5:1-11)

A. The Corruption of a Greedy Couple (Acts 5:1-2)

i. Their covetousness (Acts 5:1-2)

1. The sin of idolatry (Ephesians 5:3-5; Colossians 3:5)
2. The tenth commandment (Exodus 20:17)
3. The love of money (1 Timothy 6:10)
4. Abhorred by God (Psalm 10:3; Luke 16:13-15)
5. Opposite of contentment (Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:5-10)
6. Leads to hypocrisy (Ezekiel 33:31)

**Ezekiel 33:31** And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee *as my people*, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for **with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.**

7. Leads to lying (2 Peter 2:3)

ii. Their hypocrisy (Acts 5:2; Romans 12:9)

iii. Their dishonesty (Acts 5:2; Romans 12:17)

B. Their Condemnation by the Apostle Peter (Acts 5:3-4)

i. They lied to the Holy Ghost (Acts 5:3; Isaiah 63:10)

1. Note: The Holy Ghost can be:

- a) Lied to (Acts 5:3)
- b) Tempted (Acts 5:9)
- c) Grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
- d) Quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
- e) Rebelled against (Isaiah 63:10)
- f) Resisted (Acts 7:51)

ii. They sinned against God (Acts 5:4; Psalm 51:4)

iii. Note: The Holy Ghost and God are one and the same. (Acts 5:3, 4)

1. They lied to the Holy Ghost (Acts 5:3)
2. They lied to God (Acts 5:4)

- C. The Carrying Away of the Lying Saints (Acts 5:5-10)
  - i. The death and burial of Ananias (Acts 5:5-6)
  - ii. The death and burial of Sapphira (Acts 5:7-10)

Note: The power of the apostles to remit or retain sins (John 20:19-23) is seen in the book of Acts. The sins of Ananias and Sapphira were retained. The sins of Simon were remitted (Acts 8:18-24).

- D. Great Fear Upon the Infant Church (Acts 5:11)

## II. POWER TO HEAL (Acts 5:12-16)

- A. The Blessings of the Church (Acts 5:12-14)
  - i. Miracles (Acts 5:12; Acts 4:30; Acts 14:3; Acts 19:11)
  - ii. Magnification (Acts 5:13)
  - iii. Multiplication (Acts 5:14; Acts 2:47)
- B. The Healing of the Sick (Acts 5:15-16)
  - i. Brought into the streets (Acts 5:15)
  - ii. Brought out of the cities (Acts 5:16)
  - iii. Healed every one (Acts 5:16; Matthew 9:35; Luke 6:17-19)
  - iv. Present day healing –(Apostolic power replaced by word and prayer)
    - 1. Trophimus was left sick (2 Timothy 4:20)
    - 2. Mercy on Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30)
    - 3. The process today:
      - a. Prayer (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
      - b. Physician (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11)
      - c. Prescription (1 Timothy 5:23)
      - d. Power of God (Philippians 2:25-30)

## III. POWER TO ESCAPE SENTENCING (Acts 5:17-24)

- A. The Sect of the Sadducees (Acts 5:17-18)
  - i. Filled with indignation (Acts 5:17; Acts 4:1-2)
    - 1. Defined: “*indignation*” –
      - a. From Scripture:

- i. Associated with violence (Jeremiah 50:25)
      - ii. Associated with anger (Esther 5:9; Psalm 69:24; Isaiah 30:27, 30; Lamentations 2:6)
      - iii. Associated with a pouring action (Ezekiel 21:31)
    - b. From history:
      - i. *“Indignation” – “from Old French ‘fury, rage; disrespect, ’ ‘noun of action....regard as unworthy, be angry or displeased at.” – from: [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com)*
  - 2. At what was preached
    - ii. Laid hands on the apostles (Acts 5:18)
- B. The Angel of the Lord (Acts 5:19-20)
- i. Granted freedom (Acts 5:19; Acts 12:7)
  - ii. Gave commands (Acts 5:20)
    - 1. Go
    - 2. Stand
    - 3. Speak
  - iii. Revealing His (God’s) will (Acts 5:20) – (Knowing God’s will)
    - 1. Word (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16)
    - 2. Prayer (Jeremiah 10:23, 24; Colossians 1:9)

**Jeremiah 10:23** O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* **not** in man that walketh **to direct his steps**. **24** O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

- 3. Obedience (Romans 12:1, 2; Proverbs 3:5, 6)

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not** unto thine **own understanding**. **6** In **all thy ways acknowledge him**, and **he shall direct thy paths**.

- C. The Council of the Jews (Acts 5:21-24)
  - i. Sent for the apostles (Acts 5:21)
  - ii. Found not the apostles (Acts 5:22-23)
  - iii. Feared the outcome (Acts 5:24; Acts 4:15-17; John 11:47-48)

## IV. POWER TO PROCLAIM THE SAVIOUR (Acts 5:25-32)

- A. Brought Before the Council (Acts 5:25-28)
  - i. Found in the temple (Acts 5:25, 20)
  - ii. Brought without violence (Acts 5:26; Acts 4:21; Luke 20:19)
  - iii. Questioned concerning their doctrine (Acts 5:27-28; 1 Peter 3:15)
    - 1. Its illegality (Acts 4:18)
    - 2. Its saturation (Acts 17:8) – “they have turned the world upside down”
    - 3. Its incrimination (Acts 5:33; Acts 7:54; Romans 3:19)

**Acts 7:54** When they heard these things, they were **cut to the heart**, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

**Romans 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it **saith to them who are under the law**: that **every mouth** may be **stopped**, and **all the world** may **become guilty before God**.

- B. Answered to the Charges (Acts 5:29-32)
  - i. The obedience of the apostles (Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19-20)
  - ii. The guilt of the Jews (Acts 5:30)
  - iii. The offer of forgiveness (Acts 5:31)
  - iv. The call to witness (Acts 5:32; Acts 1:8)

## V. POWER TO SUFFER SHAME (Acts 5:33-42)

- A. The Reaction of the Council (Acts 5:33)
  - i. Conviction
  - ii. Condemnation
- B. The Advice of the Doctor (Acts 5:34-39) –quite probable that this is the same Gamaliel that taught Saul (Paul) (Acts 22:3)
  - i. Caution (Acts 5:34-35)
  - ii. Consideration (Acts 5:36-37)
  - iii. Constraint (Acts 5:38-39)

## C. The Faith of the Apostles (Acts 5:40-42)

- i. Receiving (Acts 5:40; 2 Timothy 3:12)
  1. A beating
  2. A warning
  
- ii. Rejoicing (Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 2:20-21; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
  1. That they were counted worthy
  2. That they could suffer shame
  3. Suffering for the cause of Christ:
    - a. The godly shall suffer (2 Timothy 3:12)
    - b. Appointed to suffer (1 Thessalonians 3:3, 4)
    - c. Called to suffer (1 Peter 2:20, 21)

**1 Peter 2:20** For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. **21** For even hereunto were ye called: because **Christ** also **suffered for us**, leaving us an example, that ye should **follow his steps**:

- d. To glory in suffering (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10)

**2 Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take **pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses** for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**

- e. To reign because of suffering (Romans 8:17; 2 Timothy 2:12)

**Romans 8:17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that **we suffer** with *him*, that we may be also **glorified together.**

**2 Timothy 2:12** If we **suffer**, we shall **also reign with him**: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

- iii. Reaching (Acts 5:42)
  1. To every house (Acts 20:20)
  2. Without ceasing (Acts 20:31)