



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 5
- Matthew 12:31-32
- Romans 6, 8
- Proverbs 1, 8

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Disruptive Phenomenon
- Tsunami Approaching
- Immutable Momentum
- Sage Advice

It's completely disruptive; but, not rude or inappropriate. It's innovation that simply attracts an under-serviced market. And, unfortunately for those who are used to dominating the field, it quickly supplants its incumbent competitors. It operates in such a way that significantly alters how consumers view the product they have come to expect and opens their eyes to something far better. Suddenly, it sweeps away the current entrenched systems and replaces them, because its attributes are recognizably superior.

Yes, "suddenly" also seems to be a character trait of disruption. It suddenly comes on like a five-hundred-mile-per-hour tsunami! And it seems to be energized by the same types of forces: earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, or other massive catastrophic disturbances. And just like a tsunami, it arrives with an

overwhelming force that both crashes into objects and then consumes their broken debris as it is sucked back into the ocean.

And both the existing system and the new system share a set of characteristics which guarantee that an immutable force will impact an immovable object. But, in practice, the seemingly immovable object will turn out to be quite vulnerable in the end—it's just that the collision is so astronomical, so mammoth, so colossal that it takes some time to let the smoke, dust and debris settle. Then you can evaluate the devastation. Inevitably, the once entrenched, long-established, deep-rooted system will have given way to the new superior force.

The only variable that remains are the people caught in the waves. There are really only two sides here. One is the side of profound wisdom, erudite judicious perception. The other side is foolish obstinance—self-serving, power-hungry pride. The sage advice is this: If the immutable force is authentic, you can't stop it anyway, and if you try you will find yourself in a fight against God, and unless you think fighting God is a good idea—you should reconsider your position. However, if this whole disruption is a manmade farce, it will soon dissipate and fade into oblivion on its own, like a ripple in a lake caused by a small stone. So, take a step back and take a deep breath. Trust me, you don't want to be on the wrong side of history here.

PROPHETIC SEED:

“...Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**” Acts 5:4 NKJV

“So **great fear came upon all the church** and upon all who heard these things.” Acts 5:11 NKJV

“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.**” Acts 5:15 NKJV

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

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for **if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.**” Acts 5:38-39 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week in [A Profound Challenge](#) the miracles began, and so did the persecution. They had a short period of peace after Pentecost, but then the past words of their savior rang true. “*They*

hate Me and they will hate you; they will persecute Me and they will persecute you!” Peter and John were arrested for preaching the resurrection. (See [The Great Conspiracy](#) for a full exposé on the conspiracy to cover-up the resurrection.) But, not before Peter again stood up and explained to the masses what they were experiencing. *“Don’t be stunned at the miracles you are seeing as if we are the ones performing them. This is the power of God at work and all you are witnessing is a fulfillment of prophecy.”*

And in the midst of miracles and ancient prophecies coming to life, the religious leaders did what we have all come to expect—they rejected the truth, and denied Christ. They arrested Peter and John, but not before five thousand people came to the faith. They were brought to trial in front of yet another corrupt court.

Remember, *“A servant is not greater than his master; what they do to Me they will do to you,”* Y’shua had taught them. (See [Final Footsteps](#) for a full exposé on these corrupt courts).

Peter gave a stellar defense and glorified the name of Y’shua, but still these corrupt religious hypocrites ordered them to depart and to no longer spread the name of Y’shua, nor teach His teachings. But, Peter and John made it perfectly clear that they had zero intention to comply with such a ruling; they would indeed keep preaching the resurrection! The court could do nothing more to them and they were released. The rulers, elders, scribes, and high

priest were, in a sense, handcuffed because of the masses of people who praised God for what they had witnessed were standing by, watching for what they would do.

Of course, Peter and John continued in their ministry, testifying even to the persecution, which added to the inspiration and unity of the Church. They prayed for even more boldness and more miracles and it was so. And the Holy Spirit poured out on many! They continued in unity and God's grace (power) was over everything they touched and the miracles abounded. Their entire focus was to preach the resurrection in Y'shua's name. The people were all in for the ministry and, willingly, of their own volition, brought their possessions to the disciples, who became stewards of distribution, as they provided for everyone who had needs.

This week we begin with that very topic, the personal volition to sell a possession in order to bring the proceeds to the apostles, so they could steward distribution. Unfortunately, for one particular couple, they are less than completely honest in their giving. This is so tragic, as they were not forced nor compelled to give anything—they chose to do so of their own volition, and they chose to be dishonest for no reason! This leads to one of the most shocking events in the New Testament. They both dropped dead where they stood the moment the lie was exposed. The verdict, obviously handed down by God, was that they had not lied to man, but to the

Holy Spirit. That clearly falls into the category of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, which according to Y'shua Himself is an unforgivable sin that leads to death. The outcome was that all those who witnessed the tragedy, as well as all those who heard about it, gained greater reverence for God.

The miracles through the work of the apostles continued and they went back up onto the Temple Mount. The specific apostles are not named here, but we might consider it is again Peter and John (and at least one other as the account unfolds) since they already had the experience and the narrative records that, "none of the rest dared join them." The people listening and watching the miracles esteemed the "preachers" highly, and the witness brought more and more people into the church. And, the miracles were not limited to the temple area; the sick were brought out into the streets and even the "shadow" of Peter passing by healed the multitudes.

And here we go again. The religious elite are not happy that these rebels who have disobeyed their last "order" are getting all the attention again! So, they arrest the apostles (we have to assume it is Peter and John again). However, this time an angel comes overnight and opens the prison doors and frees them. The angel instructs them to go back to the temple the next morning to preach again, and so they did! That morning the high priest sends for them to stand trial, but of course the officers find the prison empty, even

though the guards are standing watch as if nothing happened! This certainly paints an uncertain future for the religious leaders as yet another “unexplainable event” has occurred.

Then at their height of “confusion,” it is brought to their attention that their missing prisoners are preaching in the temple again. The apostles are again taken into custody. It is a peaceful arrest, as the captain feared the throngs of people who supported them. They are brought before the council and reminded that they were commanded to stop teaching in the name of Y’shua. They are reprimanded for spreading the doctrine of Christ and accused of hoping that the religious leaders would be blamed for the crucifixion. Peter and the others offer these religious hypocrites the same rebuttal they had in their last trial. *“We will obey God and NOT you! He is the one who raised Y’shua from the grave, the one you murdered. We are the witnesses and so is the Holy Spirit who God gives as a gift to those who obey him.”*

The religious elite are furious and want to put an end to this constant threat of exposing their profitable religious system. *“Let’s just kill these guys.”* Fortunately, a highly regarded sober minded teacher of the Torah, Gamaliel, asks this court to put the apostles outside while he presents his thoughts on the matter. His take is that they have seen many movements, like this, rise and fall in the past, and that the movements always naturally disperse shortly after the

ring leader is dead. He suggests they stand back and let this thing implode on its own; it certainly will if it is just empowered by men. Gamaliel's rationale is that if God is behind it they can't stop it anyway, unless they think fighting against the very God they claim to worship is a good idea. The reasoning seemed sound to the court and they decide to release the apostles, but not before they are beaten and again ordered to stop spreading Y'shua's name. Y'shua's ambassadors are set free and rejoice for the honor to suffer for His name. No, they don't stop; they go right back to preaching in the temple every day and spreading the message of Christ to every house in the city!

Acts 5

Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-4)

1. Ananias and Sapphira sell a personal possession.
 - (a) They both knew what it sold for.
 - (b) They brought the money to the apostles like others were doing in order to provide for the needy, but in their case they only brought a portion of the proceeds.
 - (c) Peter IMMEDIATELY knows [from the Holy Spirit] that Ananias has kept back some money for himself and is questioned about it!

- (d) Here's the thing. Ananias had complete control of both the possession and, afterwards, the money he received for it.
- 2. His mistake was that he represented his giving, as if he was offering the whole amount of the sale to take care of the needy, as believers had begun doing since Pentecost.
- 3. Remember, the offering was completely voluntary, so he could have given anything he liked, as long as he was not deceptive about it.

The Consequence for Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:5-11)

- 4. Ananias dies!
 - (a) He chose not to come clean and he dropped dead on the spot.
 - (b) Everyone who heard what happened had a holy fear of God, and a few young men, who were there watching, took his body and buried it.
- 5. Sapphira dies!
 - (a) Three hours later Sapphira comes in...
 - (b) Peter asks her if the amount her husband donated was the full amount of the sale.
 - (c) When she affirmed it was, Peter knew she had conspired to lie with her husband.
 - (d) You cannot test the Holy Spirit and get away with it.

- (e) As the men who buried her husband approach the door, Peter tells her that the men who buried her now dead husband, who died for lying to the Holy Spirit and God, are here to bury her as well, essentially for conspiring with her husband!
- (f) And before she can wrap her mind around what Peter is saying, before she can grieve the thought, for even a moment that Ananias was dead, she also drops dead!
- (g) She was buried, by the same men, next to her husband.
- (h) This incident raises the expectations for holiness and reverence among God's people.

God's Power on Full Display in the Church (Acts 5:12-16)

6. Signs and Wonders

- (a) Many people were healed through, NOT BY, the apostles.
- (b) Unity continued among believers.
- (c) And although there was much support from the people, no other apostles wanted to join those unnamed apostles, who went up on the Temple Mount to preach.
- (d) Whoever they are, they are highly regarded by the people watching and more and more people are converted. (A bit later we see Peter is named as one of the apostles present.)
- (e) They have such confidence that the apostles represent Y'shua, and that Y'shua can heal them, that they bring people out

into the streets just so the shadow of Peter passing by would heal them.

- (f) Their reputation grows such that people from many cities near Jerusalem bring their sick, spiritual afflicted, and those oppressed by demonic spirits, in hope of a miracle.
- (g) No one is disappointed!

Imprisoned Apostles Supernaturally Freed (Acts 5:17-21)

7. The Apostles are Arrested and Jailed Again!

- (a) The religious elite are furious because their past ruling that Peter and John should stop preaching in Y'shua's name, has been completely ignored.
- (b) The apostles are arrested again and placed in a public jail.
- (c) But, that night an angel opens the prison doors and gives them this bold instruction, *"Go, stand in the temple and preach the words of life."*
- (d) So, that is precisely what they did the next morning.
- (e) Then the high priest sends his officers to bring them before him to stand trial.

Corrupt Courts: On Trial Again (Acts 5:22-32)

8. The Prison is Empty

- (a) The officers find the prison empty and report back to the high priest.

- (b) Even the guards were unaware that the prisoners were missing that morning, until they opened the prison door.
- (c) The religious elite begin to have doubts about how this whole conflict with Y'shua's disciples would get resolved.
- (d) Then, the report comes in that the prisoners are back up on the Temple Mount preaching!
- (e) The captain and his officers go to apprehend them again, and they do so without violence because they recognize there is a growing number of people who follow Y'shua, and they literally fear for their lives.
- (f) The apostles are brought before the court again.
- (g) They are reprimanded and reminded of the past ruling...
 - 1) *"Didn't we strictly forbid you from teaching in Y'shua's name?"*
 - 2) *"But, instead you have done the exact opposite and have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine."*
 - 3) *"And, we are certain you are trying to get the people to believe that we were responsible for Y'shua's crucifixion."*
- (h) Peter and the other unnamed apostles essentially reiterate what they said at their first trial. (Here Peter is named as one of the apostles present.) And add a bit more

- 1) *“We obey God, not you! And the God you come to the temple to worship is the one who resurrected Y’shua; He’s the one you murdered.”*
- 2) *“But God raised Him up in Honor to be our Lord and Savior—and to make forgiveness available only through Him.”*
- 3) *“Both we and the Holy Spirit are His witnesses of this.”*
- 4) *“And the Holy Spirit is available for all those who believe Y’shua is the Messiah and by extension obey the Father.”*

Someone Needs to Think Rationally (Acts 5:33-42)

9. Gamaliel Weighs in on the Matter:

- (a) The apostles refuse to comply yet again, and *“Peter’s sentiments”* simply drive the religious hypocrites to the brink!
 - 1) *“We obey Yahweh, the God you come to the temple to worship, not you! And you murdered Y’shua, and He’s the only one who makes forgiveness available.”*
- (b) The religious leaders conclude that there is only one way to stop these followers of Y’shua—KILL THEM!
- (c) They start plotting murder, and if it was not for Gamaliel, a renowned teacher of the law, they would have all likely been slain at that time.
- (d) Gamaliel asks for the apostles to be put outside the court, so he could make a recommendation.

- (e) He warns the Jewish leadership to be careful with their plans and to take a moment and consider history.
- (f) He reminds them of Theudas and Judas of Galilee, both who had many followers, both whose influence faded shortly after their deaths.
- (g) He recommends to the high priest and company that they take a step back and watch for a bit.
- (h) His reasoning is this; if this whole Y'shua movement is manmade, it will soon fade into oblivion on its own.
- (i) However, if it's authentic, then you can't stop it anyway and you just might find yourself in a fight against God Himself, unless you think fighting against God is a good idea.
- (j) They all realize Gamaliel is right (at least for now) and they decide to release them, but not before a beating and repeat orders to stop preaching in the name of Y'shua.
- (k) The apostles go away happy and honored that they were chosen to suffer for the Lord!
- (l) They went right back to business preaching everyday in the temple that "Y'shua is the Messiah" and spoke the same in every house!

DISRUPTIVE PHENOMENON

1. The Sin that Leads to Death

A. Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-4)

(1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

(a) Premeditated Deception: Ananias and Sapphira, in control of their own resources, lie about their giving!

1. “But a certain man named **Ananias**, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part** and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? **While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”**” Acts 5:1-4 NKJV**

(b) Ananias and Sapphira sold a personal possession.

1. They both knew what it sold for.
2. They brought the money to the apostles like others were doing in order to provide for the needy, but in their case they only brought a portion of the proceeds.

3. Peter IMMEDIATELY knows [from the Holy Spirit] that Ananias has kept back some money for himself and is questioned about it!
4. Here's the problem for Ananias. He had complete control of both the possession and, afterwards, the money he received for it.
5. His mistake was that he represented his giving as if he was offering the whole amount of the sale to take care of the needy, as believers had been doing in Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37.
 - a) *"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and **divided them among all, as anyone had need.**" Acts 2:44-45 NKJV*
 - b) *"Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, **and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,**" Acts 4:34 NKJV*
6. Remember, the offering was completely voluntary, so he could have given anything he liked, as long as he was not deceptive about it.
 - a) In other words, Ananias clearly represented that He was giving 100% of the sale, likely to appear to

be quite generous, like the others, when instead he was keeping some for himself.

- b) I believe he could have held back a portion, at his own discretion, as long as he was forthright (because it was optional to give—not mandatory).
- c) It was the premeditated deception that was the problem, his heart condition, that would cause him to lie to the Holy Spirit/God!

B. The Consequence for Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:5-11)

(1) A Permanent Penalty

- (a) Ananias and Sapphira died because they blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

1. **“Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last.** So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, **“Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?”** She said, **“Yes, for so much.”** Then Peter said to her, **“How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are

at the door, and they will carry you out.” **Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.** And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. **So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”** Acts 5:5-11 NKJV

(b) Ananias dies!

1. He chose not to come clean and he dropped dead on the spot.
2. Everyone who heard what happened had a holy fear of God.
3. A few of young men present took his body and buried it.

(c) Sapphira dies!

1. Three hours later Sapphira comes in...
2. Peter asks her if the amount her husband donated was the full amount of the sale.
3. You cannot test the Holy Spirit and get away with it—but she tries.
4. Once she affirmed that they had given all, Peter knew she had conspired to lie with her husband (and for that she would soon lay dead with her husband!).

5. As the men who buried her husband approach the door, Peter informs her of the bad news.
 - a) *“The men coming are those who buried your now dead husband. He died for lying to the Holy Spirit and God. And now they are here to bury you, essentially for conspiring with him!”*
6. And before she can wrap her mind around what Peter is saying, before she can grieve the thought, for even a moment that Ananias was dead, she also drops dead!
7. She was buried, by the same men, next to her husband. She lied with her husband and now she lays with her husband!
8. This incident raises the expectations for holiness and reverence among God’s people.
9. Does it for you?

C. Before there was AI there was TI!

(1) True Intelligence (TI)

- (a) The intelligence available to those who have access to the Holy Spirit!

1. *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;***

for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.** He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that **He will take of Mine and declare it to you.**" John 16:12-15 NKJV

2. "For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV

3. "as **His divine power has given to us** all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:3-4 NKJV

a) The mind animated by the Holy Spirit is the mind of God! This is **TTrue Intelligence (TI).**

(2) Artificial Intelligence (AI)

(a) Any form of intelligence that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

1. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that **exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” II Corinthians 10:4-6
NKJV

- a) The mind that thinks it is above God is animated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- b) This is the the exact mindset of the religious elite who would do anything to interrupt the work of Christ through His church!
- c) But the work of the Holy Spirit was set on a collision course with the religious spirit.
- d) In a sense, the religious spirit was the current acceptable religious technology of the day, and the Holy Spirit came in as disruptive technology!

(3) Disruptive Technology (AKA Disruptive Innovation)

- (a) An innovation that significantly alters the way we operate.

1. “For **sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace**. What then? Shall

we sin because we are not under law but under grace? **Certainly not!** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves **slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?** But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."** Romans 6:14-18 NKJV

2. "...For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so **now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God,** you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:19-23 NKJV

- a) Sin no longer rules you because you are now empowered by God.
 - b) You are no longer a slave to sin, but you must present yourself as slaves to righteousness and holiness.
 - c) You have been freed from the bondage of sin and freed to become slaves of God.
- (b) Sweeps away the systems or habits it replaces because it has attributes that are recognizably superior.
1. “But now He has obtained **a more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of **a better covenant, which was *established [nomotheteó] on better promises.**” Hebrews 8:6 NKJV
 2. “For **there is one God and one Mediator between God and men**, the Man Christ Jesus,” I Timothy 2:5 NKJV
 3. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** For the law of **the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**” Romans 8:1-2 NKJV
- a) The Old Covenant (the law of sin and death) has a promise—You sin, you die.

- b) The New Convent (the law of the Spirit) has a promise—You sin, you have a mediator to get between you and death.
 - c) The Old you: walks according to the flesh.
 - d) The New you: walks according to the Spirit.
 - e) Both Covenants: based on law [nomotheteó] (to ordain by law; give the sanction of law to; enact, base legally, regulate, direct, by law.
- (c) The new model attracts an under-serviced market and grows until it supplants its incumbent competitors.
1. “Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed** away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
 2. “But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, **but the Spirit is life** because of righteousness. **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**” Romans 8:9-11 NKJV

- a) Old things have passed away. The new you is animated by the Holy Spirit!
- b) Old things are empowered by the flesh; but because the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you are now empowered by the One who raised Christ from the grave—that is **Disruptive Technology!**

D. Understanding what happened to Ananias and Sapphira

(1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and the Sin that Leads to Death

(a) Review: Lying to and Testing the Holy Spirit

- 1. “But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?” Acts 5:3 NKJV
- 2. “Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**” Acts 5:4b NKJV
- 3. “Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together **to test the Spirit** of the Lord? ” Acts 5:9a NKJV

E. The Foundation: The step-by-step path to the sin that leads to death as witnessed through Pharaoh in the time of Moses.

(1) Pharaoh’s Decent into Darkness

- (a) It starts off with Moses’ first encounter with Pharaoh...

1. “And Pharaoh said, “**Who is the LORD**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? **I do not know the LORD**, nor will I let Israel go.”” Exodus 5:2 NKJV
 - a) Pharaoh does not know Yahweh: “I don’t know your God!”
 - b) It is not possible to commit the “sin the leads to death” if you don’t first “know Yahweh.”
 - c) Stay tuned...
- (b) By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!
 1. “**Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Entreat the LORD** that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD.” ... And he said, “**Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.**” Exodus 8:8-10 NKJV
- (c) Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice
 1. “Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “**This is the finger of God.**” But Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and

he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said."

Exodus 8:19 NKJV

(d) The fourth Plague—Flies: He is the Lord, but He's your Lord. Pharaoh knows that Yahweh is God, but He will not accept him as his God.

1. "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, **"Go, sacrifice to your God in the land."**... So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may **sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness;** only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."" Exodus 8:25, 28 NKJV

(e) The home stretch to the point of no return—after the seventh plague of Fiery Hail: "I'm a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me." Can you see here that Pharaoh has now confessed that He needs Yahweh as his God?

1. "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, **"I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the LORD,** that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."" Exodus 9:27-28 NKJV

(f) Pharaoh is right on the edge by the eighth plague—Locusts: Look closely at his final decent into total

darkness. Yahweh asks him how long he plans on refusing to humble himself?

1. "So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, **"Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me."**

Exodus 10:3 NKJV

- (g) Pharaoh even receives a final warning from within his own camp: Don't you see?

1. "Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? **Let the men go**, that they may serve the LORD their God. **Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?"**" Exodus 10:7 NKJV

- (h) Pharaoh's FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick? "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Please forgive my sin."

1. "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, **"I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only."**

Exodus 10:16-17 NKJV

- a) It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from *"Who is Yahweh? I do not know Yahweh."* in Exodus 5:2 to *"I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death."*
 - b) In order to reach "THE POINT OF NO RETURN", to commit the unpardonable sin, the sin that leads to death, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away!**
- (i) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh) in the ninth plague. He can no longer repent as a response to God's chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.
1. "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be **darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.**"... Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! **For in the day you see my face you shall die!**"
Exodus 10:21, 28 NKJV
 2. "So Moses said, "**You have spoken well.** I will never see your face again."
Exodus 10:29 NKJV

(j) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh will not, CANNOT, turn back!

1. “But the LORD said to Moses, “**Pharaoh will not heed you**, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”” Exodus 11:9 NKJV

(k) Death has come

1. “And it came to pass at midnight that **the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne** to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for **there was not a house where there was not one dead.**” Exodus 12:29-30 NKJV

(2) The Roots: **acknowledging Yahweh and then turn away!**

(a) Here’s the turn—You, ON PURPOSE, choose to STILL go after false gods, after knowing the TRUE God, and believe it is OK and that Yahweh will STILL BLESS YOU...

1. “And so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, **‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the**

dictates of my heart'— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:19
NKJV

(b) Do you think you can do what you want and get away with it, turn and serve other gods after you claim to serve Yahweh? If you do so, you are sadly mistaken. Do that and Yahweh will **never be willing to forgive you!**

1. "The LORD **would not spare him**; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, **and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him**, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20
NKJV

2. **NIV says it more clearly—"The Lord will never be willing to forgive them..."** Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV

(c) Serving other gods and insisting that Yahweh will be okay with it!

1. "All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?' Then people would say: '**Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD** God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; **for they went and**

served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them.” Deuteronomy 29:24-26 NKJV

- a) The hearts of a rebellious people have gone too far—even for Yahweh.
- b) The sin looks like this; *“I can do whatever I want, even go after other gods, and even be warned that I am about to cross the point of no return, and still act as if Yahweh will bless me anyway.”*
- c) There is a sin that Yahweh Himself considers unforgivable. And Y’shua, John and Paul all expose this sin in the New Testament—it is called Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

F. The Warning

(1) The Decent into Sin...

(a) ...The Sin that leads to death!

- 1. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life** for those who commit

sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.**

All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.” I John 5:14-17 NKJV

- a) First just contemplate what John is saying. There is a sin about which we are advised not to pray.
- b) It’s a sin that leads to inevitable death because it can’t ever be resolved.
- c) Y’shua calls it...

(b) Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

1. “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men**. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**” Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV

- a) **Context:** Attributing Yahweh’s qualities to another “god,” just like we read in Deuteronomy 29:19-26.
- b) This is what the religious hypocrites did just prior to Y’shua introducing “*blasphemy against the Spirit.*”

2. “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, **“This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”** But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.** Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

Matthew 12:22-30 NKJV

- a) Attributing Yahweh’s qualities to Satan!

b) Bad things happen when you do that, permanent bad things... *"whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."*

c) Another way of phrasing it...

(c) Insulting the Spirit of Grace

1. "For if we **sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of *two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment,** do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace?** For we know Him who said, **"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**" Hebrews 10:26-31

a) Insult the Holy Spirit willfully...

- b) Oh how much worse punishment of God's vengeance!
- c) *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*
- d) *"...There is sin **leading to death**. I do **not** say that he should **pray** about that."* 1 John 5:16b

G. The Theological Explanation of "Pharaoh's decent into darkness."

(1) No one says it better than Paul!

- (a) Romans Decent into Total Darkness: No excuses—punishment is coming—you have met all the legal requirements to commit "the sin that leads to death."

1. **"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts, and their foolish****

hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,** to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind,** to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, **haters of God,**

violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death**, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Romans 1:18-32 NKJV

- a) Note: keep Pharaoh in mind!
- b) They knew God.
- c) They entertained futile thoughts.
- d) Their foolish hearts become **dark**
- e) They are given over to lusts and vile passions.
- f) Why? Because **they knew God but don't retain God** in their knowledge (like we just saw with Pharaoh.)
- g) God then gives them over to a debased mind.
- h) They become dreadful as they practice all sorts of sin—They HATE GOD!
- i) And in the END, the righteous judgment of God is that those who practice such things are put to death.
- j) “...*There is sin **leading to death**. I do **not** say that he should **pray** about that.*” I John 5:16b

(b) The root of the sin that leads to death is a seared Conscience:

1. “Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared** with a hot iron,” I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV
2. “To the pure all things are pure, **but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure;** but even their mind and **conscience are defiled.**” Titus 1:15 NKJV
 - a) The darkness over Pharaoh/Egypt was the symbolic manifestation of a seared conscience!

(2) Resources

- (a) These are excellent resources to expand your understanding of the difficult to comprehend subject matter of “The Unforgivable Sin.”
 1. [Understanding the Sin that Lead to Death](#)
 2. [Darkness You Can Feel](#) (Exodus 10-13) 01/22/21
 3. [The Sin that Leads to Death](#) (Exodus 13-17) 01/29/21
 4. [Inexcusable](#) (Deuteronomy 31) 09/10/21
 5. [The Sin that Leads to Death](#) (I John 5:14-21) 09/25/21

TSUNAMI APPROACHING

2. Healing Shadows

A. God's Power on Full Display in the Church (Acts 5:12-16)

(1) Signs and Wonders & Esteemed Disciples

(a) They brought the sick out into the streets...

1. "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.** Yet **none of the rest dared join them**, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, **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.** 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 NKJV

(b) Fully Operational: the Miracles Kept on Coming

1. As did the man crippled from birth in Acts 3:1-10, many others were healed through, NOT BY, the apostles.
2. Unity continued to manifest among believers.

3. And although there was so much support from the people, none of the other apostles wanted to join them on the Temple Mount.
4. It is likely that it is Peter and John who are up there preaching, and maybe one or two more apostles, although they are not mentioned by name.
5. We do see Peter named in Acts 5:15 regarding miracles, and again he appears in court after the arrest in Acts 5:29. So, we know he is one of them. And there is more than one other apostle with him at trial, but they all go unnamed; *“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29*
6. Whoever they are, they are highly regarded by the people watching and more and more people are being converted.
7. The people have such confidence that the apostles represent Y’shua, and that Y’shua can heal them, that they bring sick people into the streets just so the shadow of Peter passing by would heal them.
8. Their reputation grows such that people from many cities near Jerusalem bring their sick, spiritual afflicted, and those oppressed by demonic spirits to

see Y'shua's disciples, in hope of a miracle healing.

No one is disappointed!

B. Characteristics of Power...

(1) Tsunami (of the Spirit)

(a) Tsunami ...a long high sea wave caused by an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or other **massive disturbance!**

1. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; **but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**" John 16:7-8 NKJV

2. "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up**, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Acts 1:9 NKJV

a) The Spirit will convict the world of sin!

b) That is a Tsunami!

(b) Tsunami ...an arrival or occurrence **of something in overwhelming** quantities or amounts.

1. "But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be witnesses to

Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 NKJV

2. “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:2-4 NKJV

3. “and **what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV

- a) The Spirit brings resurrection power, the power to resurrect the dead and do countless miracles!
- b) *“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.”* I Corinthians 4:20 NKJV
- c) That is a Tsunami!
- d) See [May I Borrow Your Handkerchief?](#) (3/3/23) for other examples of extraordinary miracles.

IMMUTABLE MOMENTUM

3. Unfazed & Entrenched: Been There Done That...

A. Imprisoned Apostles Supernaturally Freed (Acts 5:17-21)

(1) Common Prison Uncommon Release

(a) Nothing will stop the Words of Life!

1. “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**, and laid their hands on the apostles and **put them in the common prison**. But at night **an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors** and brought them out, and said, “**Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.**” And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But **the high priest** and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and **sent to the prison to have them brought.**” Acts 5:17-21 NKJV

(b) Arrested and Jailed Again!

1. The religious elite are furious because their last ruling in Acts 4:16-18, which commanded that Peter and John should stop preaching in Y’shua’s name, has been completely ignored.

2. Peter was adamant that they would never follow the decrees of man if those decrees violated the commands of God. And he was clear with the ruling hypocrites that they considered the orders to stop preaching in Y'shua's name a man-made rule that was in direct violation of God!
3. To the apostles credit, they declared openly that they would not comply with that ruling nor the threats, and they haven't!
4. The apostles are arrested again and placed in a public jail. This is the second time, as we just read about their previous arrest in Acts 4:1-3.
5. But, that night an angel opens the prison doors and gives them this bold instruction, "Go, stand in the temple and preach the words of life."
6. So, that is precisely what they did the next morning.
7. Then, the high priest sends for them to be brought before him to stand trial.

B. Characteristics of a tenacious spirit to obey God...

(2) Immutable

- (a) Unchangeable, fixed, set, rigid, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, permanent, established, unshakeable, irremovable, indelible, ineradicable; unchanging, static,

constant, lasting, abiding, enduring, persistent, perpetual. ANTONYMS variable

1. “For I am persuaded that **neither** death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” Romans 8:38-39 NKJV
2. “But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. **For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**”” Acts 4:19-20 NKJV
3. “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **“We ought to obey God rather than men.”** Acts 5:29 NKJV
4. “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.** However, when the disciples gathered around him, **he rose up and went into the city.** And **the next day he departed** with Barnabas to Derbe. And **when they had preached the gospel to that city**

and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,” Acts 14:19-21 NKJV

- a) Nothing can separate us from God!
- b) We have no choice but to obey God!
- c) Even if they want to kill us, nothing will stop us!

(3) Unfazed (be not dismayed)

(a) Not dismayed or disconcerted; undaunted

- 1. “I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand **I shall not be moved.**” Psalms 16:8 NKJV
- 2. “He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; **I shall not be moved.**” Psalms 62:6 NKJV
- 3. **[Context: Paul about false teachers]** “Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—**I am more:** in **labors** more abundant, in **stripes** above measure, in **prisons** more frequently, in **deaths** often. From the Jews **five times** I received forty **stripes** minus one. **Three times** I was **beaten** with rods; **once I was stoned** [Acts 14:19-21]; **three times** I was **shipwrecked**; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in **perils** of waters, in perils of **robbers**, in perils of my

own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in **weariness** and toil, in sleeplessness often, in **hunger** and **thirst**, in fastings often, in cold and **nakedness**— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. **Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?** If I must boast, **I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.** The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was **let down in a basket** through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.” II Corinthians 11:22-33 NKJV

- a) Paul worked harder, was beaten more, had his life threatened frequently, was literally shipwrecked often, faced untold perils from everyone everywhere; lacked food, clothing and shelter; plus other things (Other things? What more could there

possibly be?), and though it all he was unfazed, undaunted, and unmoved!

- b) Could there be a better description of a man who would not be moved—who would stay the course NO MATTER WHAT?

(4) Entrenched

- (a) Ingrained, established, well established, confirmed, firm; deep-seated, deep-rooted, deep-set; unshakeable, irremovable, indelible, ineradicable, inexorable.

1. “Create in me a clean heart, O God, **And renew a steadfast spirit within me**. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**” Psalms 51:10-11 NKJV
2. “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was ***established** on better promises.” Hebrews 8:6 NKJV
3. “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through His Spirit who dwells in you.**” Romans 8:11 NKJV
4. “**I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NKJV

5. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live** in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 NKJV
- a) The Holy Spirit now dwells in you; it’s the better promise! Anything is possible as long as the life you live is through Christ in you!
 - b) *[nomotheteó]: to ordain by law; give the sanction of law to, enact, base legally, regulate, direct, by law

C. Corrupt Courts: On Trial Again (Acts 5:22-32)

(1) The Driving Force: Testimony of Witnesses

- (a) “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!”

- 1. “But when the officers came and **did not find them** in the prison, they returned and reported, saying, **“Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”** Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. So **one came and told**

them, saying, “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!” Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. And when they had brought them, **they set them before the council.** And the high priest asked them, saying, **“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?** And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **“We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.** Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And **we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”**” Acts 5:22-32 NKJV

(b) “Two” Witnesses

1. The officers find the prison empty and report back to the high priest.

2. The doors were closed that morning—even though the angel opened them overnight to release the apostles.
3. The guards were completely unaware that the prisoners were missing.
4. The religious elite begin to have doubts about how this whole conflict with Y'shua's disciples would get resolved.
5. Then, the report comes in that the prisoners are back up on the Temple Mount preaching!
6. The captain and his officers go to apprehend them, but they do so without violence because they recognize there is a growing number of people present who are now followers of Y'shua.
7. The guards literally fear for their lives.
8. The apostles are brought before the court again.
9. They are reprimanded and reminded of the ruling in Acts 4:5-22... *"Didn't we strictly forbid you from teaching in Y'shua's name?"*
10. But, instead you have done the exact opposite and have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.

11. We are certain you are trying to get the people to believe that we were responsible for Y'shua's crucifixion.
 12. Peter and the other unnamed apostles reiterate just what they said at their first trial.
 13. We obey God, not you! And the God you come to the temple to worship is the one who resurrected Y'shua; and He's the one you murdered.
 14. And God raised Him up in honor to be our Lord and Savior—and it is only through Him that forgiveness is available.
 15. Both we and the Holy Spirit are His witnesses.
 16. The Holy Spirit is available for all who believe Y'shua is the Messiah and by extension obey the Father.
- (c) Both we and the Holy Spirit are His witnesses!
1. ““One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**” Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJV
 - a) It is established, immutable, entrenched in our being! God raised Him up in honor to be our Lord and Savior—and it is only through Him that forgiveness is available.

SAGE ADVICE

4. If this is of God, you can't stop it!

A. Someone Needs to Think Rationally (Acts 5:33-42)

(1) Gamaliel Weighs in on the Matter

- (a) If this is of God, you can't stop it—unless you think fighting against God is a good idea

1. **“When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.** Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named **Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people**, and commanded them to **put the apostles outside** for a little while. And he said to them: **“Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men.** For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. **And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you**

cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.” And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and **beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.** And **daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**” Acts 5:33-42 NKJV**

(b) There is one way to stop the followers of Y’shua—KILL THEM!

1. The apostles refuse to comply yet again, and Peter’s response simply drives these religious hypocrites to the brink!
2. *“We obey Yahweh, the God you come to the temple to worship, not you! And you murdered Y’shua, the only one who makes forgiveness available.”*
3. They start plotting to kill them, and if it was not for Gamaliel, a renowned teacher of the law, who asked for the apostles to be put outside the court so he could make a recommendation in private, they would have all likely been slain.

- a) Note: Gamaliel was Paul's teacher for some part of his Torah studies: *"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city **at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law**, and was zealous toward God as you all are today."* Acts 22:3 NKJV
- b) And... it is likely Paul is present at this court (this council). See #9 below!
4. Gamaliel warns them to be careful with their plans and to take a moment and consider history.
 5. He names Theudas and Judas of Galilee, both who had many followers, both whose influence faded shortly after their deaths.
 6. He recommends to the high priest and company that they take a step back and watch for a bit.
 7. His reasoning: if this whole Y'shua-movement is manmade, it will soon fade into oblivion on its own.
 8. However, if it's authentic, then you can't stop it anyway and you just might find yourself in a fight against God Himself.
 9. They all realize Gamaliel is right (*at least for now) and they decide to release them, but not before a

beating and repeat orders to stop preaching in the name of Y'shua.

- a) *It is very likely Paul is part of this council! Why?
- b) Shortly after this event of Acts 5, Stephen is brought to this same council and lied about. And we find they have completely forgotten Gamaliel's advice:
- c) *"And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and **brought him to the council.**"* (Acts 6:12)
- d) *"And all who sat in **the council**, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel."* (Acts 6:15–last verse of chapter 15)
- e) *"Then the **high priest** said, "Are these things so?""* (Acts 7:1)
- f) *"and they cast him out of the city **and stoned him** [to death]. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named **Saul.**"* (Acts 7:58) ***Saul/Paul was there!**

10. The apostles go away happy and honored that they were chosen to suffer for the Lord!

11. They went right back to business preaching everyday in the temple that “Y’shua is the Messiah” and did the same in every house!

(2) The Advice of a Man of Wisdom

(a) Wisdom in Action

1. “As **messengers of death** is the king’s wrath, **But a wise man will appease it.**” Proverbs 16:14 NKJV

a) The religious leaders wanted to murder the apostles; Gamaliel pacified the situation.

2. “But **the wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is **sown in peace by those who make peace.**” James 3:17-18 NKJV

a) If the apostles were deceived, then this Y’shua-movement would naturally dissipate. If they were right, then you’d be fighting the wisdom from above!

3. “The **way of a fool** is right in his own eyes, But he who **heeds counsel is wise.**” Proverbs 12:15 NKJV

a) The religious leaders thought the right approach was to kill Y’shua’s men, but that was the way of fools; but they heeded the wise words of Gamaliel.

4. "There is a way that **seems right to a man**, But its end is **the way of death.**" Proverbs 14:12 NKJV
 - a) The religious leader's approach seemed right to them and it would have led to death.

B. Sage Characteristics

(1) The Sage Man

- (a) **Noun:** a profoundly wise man, especially one who features in ancient history or legend, learned man, man of letters, philosopher, scholar, thinker, savant, authority, expert, elder, teacher, mentor. **ANTONYMS** fool
 1. "**A wise man will hear and increase learning**, And a man of understanding will **attain wise counsel**," Proverbs 1:5 NKJV
 2. "**Do not be wise in your own eyes**; Fear the Lord and depart from evil." Proverbs 3:7 NKJV
 3. "**Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding**; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold." Proverbs 3:13-14 NKJV
 4. "**A wise man is strong**, Yes, a **man of knowledge** increases strength; For **by wise counsel** you will wage your own war, And in **a multitude of counselors** there is safety." Proverbs 24:5-6 NKJV

5. "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But **the lips of the wise will preserve them.**" Proverbs 14:3 NKJV
 6. "**The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way,** But the folly of fools is deceit." Proverbs 14:8 NKJV
 7. "**He who walks with wise men will be wise,** But the companion of fools will be destroyed." Proverbs 13:20 NKJV
 8. "**The fear of the Lord** is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is **humility.**" Proverbs 15:33 NKJV
 9. "**The wise in heart will be called prudent,** And sweetness of the lips **increases learning.**" Proverbs 16:21 NKJV
 10. "He who **gets wisdom** loves his own soul; He who **keeps understanding** will find good." Proverbs 19:8 NKJV
- (b) **The Sage Man Summary:** increases learning; attains wise counsel; not be wise in his own eyes; happy to find wisdom; gains understanding; man of knowledge and wise counsel; a multitude of counselors; lips that preserve his life; understand his own ways; walks with wise men; fears the Lord; humble; prudent; always learning; ever seeking wisdom and understanding.

(2) The Sage Way

- (a) **Adjective:** having, showing, or indicating profound wisdom; wise, learned, clever, intelligent, showing great knowledge, knowledgeable, sensible, intellectual, scholarly, sagacious, erudite; discerning, judicious, penetrating, perceptive, astute, shrewd, prudent, thoughtful, full of insight, insightful, philosophical, profound, deep. **ANTONYMS** foolish

1. “To **know wisdom and instruction**, To **perceive the words of understanding**, To **receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity**; To give **prudence to the simple**, To the young man **knowledge and discretion**—” Proverbs 1:2-4 NKJV
2. “**The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7 NKJV
3. “Happy is the man who **finds wisdom**, And the man who **gains understanding**; For her **proceeds** are better than the **profits** of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more **precious** than rubies, And all the things you may desire **cannot compare** with her.” Proverbs 3:13-15 NKJV

4. "For wisdom is **better than** rubies, And all the things one may desire **cannot be compared** with her. "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion." Proverbs 8:11-12 NKJV
 5. "My **fruit is better** than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver. I traverse **the way of righteousness**, In the midst of the **paths of justice**," Proverbs 8:19-20 NKJV
 6. ""The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. I have been **established from everlasting**, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth." Proverbs 8:22-23 NKJV (Read 8)
 7. "How much **better to get wisdom** than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." Proverbs 16:16 NKJV
 8. "My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; **So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect [future]**, And your **hope** will not be cut off." Proverbs 24:13-14 NKJV
- (b) **The Sage Way Summary:** (Read Proverbs 1 and 8) To know, receive and perceive instruction of wisdom leads to justice, judgment, and equity. Wisdom equals the fear

of the Lord and the profits and the proceeds are beyond anything that has the greatest monetary value. Nothing even comes close in comparison. It's like trying to put a value on righteousness and justice. Wisdom has been there from the beginning (like Christ) and is better to seek wisdom than anything else. It will nourish your soul and give you hope for a future.

Wisdom in Action

*“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.**”*

Romans 8:5 NKJV

Summary: DISRUPTIVE PHENOMENON

1. The Sin that Leads to Death

A. Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-4)

(1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

- (a) Premeditated Deception: Ananias and Sapphira, in control of their own resources, lie about their giving!
- (b) Ananias and Sapphira sold a personal possession.
 - 1. They both knew what it sold for.

2. They brought the money to the apostles like others were doing in order to provide for the needy, but in their case they only brought a portion of the proceeds.
3. Peter IMMEDIATELY knows [from the Holy Spirit] that Ananias has kept back some money for himself and is questioned about it!
4. Here's the problem for Ananias. He had complete control of both the possession and, afterwards, the money he received for it.
5. His mistake was that he represented his giving as if he was offering the whole amount of the sale to take care of the needy, as believers had been doing in Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37.
6. Remember, the offering was completely voluntary, so he could have given anything he liked, as long as he was not deceptive about it.
 - a) In other words, Ananias clearly represented that He was giving 100% of the sale, likely to appear to be quite generous, like the others, when instead he was keeping some for himself.

- b) I believe he could have held back a portion, at his own discretion, as long as he was forthright (because it was optional to give—not mandatory).
- c) It was the premeditated deception that was the problem, his heart condition, that would cause him to lie to the Holy Spirit/God!

B. The Consequence for Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:5-11)

(1) A Permanent Penalty

(a) Ananias and Sapphira died because they blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

(b) Ananias dies!

1. He chose not to come clean and he dropped dead on the spot.
2. Everyone who heard what happened had a holy fear of God.
3. A few of young men present took his body and buried it.

(c) Sapphira dies!

1. Three hours later Sapphira comes in...
2. Peter asks her if the amount her husband donated was the full amount of the sale.
3. You cannot test the Holy Spirit and get away with it—but she tries.

4. Once she affirmed that they had given all, Peter knew she had conspired to lie with her husband (and for that she would soon lay dead with her husband!).
5. As the men who buried her husband approach the door, Peter informs her of the bad news.
 - a) *“The men coming are those who buried your now dead husband. He died for lying to the Holy Spirit and God. And now they are here to bury you, essentially for conspiring with him!”*
6. And before she can wrap her mind around what Peter is saying, before she can grieve the thought, for even a moment that Ananias was dead, she also drops dead!
7. She was buried, by the same men, next to her husband. She lied with her husband and now she lays with her husband!
8. This incident raises the expectations for holiness and reverence among God’s people.
9. Does it for you?

C. Before there was AI there was TI!

- (1) True Intelligence (TI)

- (a) The intelligence available to those who have access to the Holy Spirit!
 - 1. The mind animated by the Holy Spirit is the mind of God! This is **TTrue Intelligence (TI).**
- (2) Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - (a) Any form of intelligence that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
 - 1. The mind that thinks it is above God is animated by **Artificial Intelligence (AI).**
 - a) This is the the exact mindset of the religious elite who would do anything to interrupt the work of Christ through His church!
 - b) But the work of the Holy Spirit was set on a collision course with the religious spirit.
 - c) In a sense, the religious spirit was the current acceptable religious technology of the day, and the Holy Spirit came in as disruptive technology!
- (3) Disruptive Technology (AKA Disruptive Innovation)
 - (a) An innovation that significantly alters the way we operate.
 - 1. Sin no longer rules you because you are now empowered by God.

2. You are no longer a slave to sin, but you must present yourself as slaves to righteousness and holiness.
 3. You have been freed from the bondage of sin and freed to become slaves of God.
- (b) Sweeps away the systems or habits it replaces because it has attributes that are recognizably superior.
1. The Old Covenant (the law of sin and death) has a promise—You sin, you die.
 2. The New Covenant (the law of the Spirit) has a promise—You sin, you have a mediator to get between you and death.
 3. The Old you: walks according to the flesh.
 4. The New you: walks according to the Spirit.
 5. Both Covenants: based on law [nomotheteó] (to ordain by law; give the sanction of law to; enact, base legally, regulate, direct, by law.
- (c) The new model attracts an under-serviced market and grows until it supplants its incumbent competitors.
1. Old things have passed away. The new you is animated by the Holy Spirit !
 2. Old things are empowered by the flesh; but because the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you are now

empowered by the One who raised Christ from the grave—that is **Disruptive Technology!**

D. Understanding what happened to Ananias and Sapphira

(1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and the Sin that Leads to Death

(a) Review: Lying to and Testing the Holy Spirit

1. You lied to the Holy Spirit...
2. You have not lied to men but to God...
3. You have agreed together to test the Spirit...

E. The Foundation: The step-by-step path to the sin that leads to death as witnessed through Pharaoh in the time of Moses.

(1) Pharaoh's Decent into Darkness

(a) It starts off with Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh...

1. Pharaoh does not know Yahweh: "I don't know your God!"
2. It is not possible to commit the "sin the leads to death" if you don't first "know Yahweh."
3. Stay tuned...

(b) By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!

(c) Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice

- (d) The fourth Plague—Flies: He is the Lord, but He's your Lord. Pharaoh knows that Yahweh is God, but He will not accept him as his God.
- (e) The home stretch to the point of no return—after the seventh plague of Fiery Hail: "I'm a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me." Can you see here that Pharaoh has now confessed that He needs Yahweh as his God?
- (f) Pharaoh is right on the edge by the eighth plague—Locusts: Look closely at his final decent into total darkness. Yahweh asks him how long he plans on refusing to humble himself?
- (g) Pharaoh even receives a final warning from within his own camp: Don't you see?
- (h) Pharaoh's FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick? "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Please forgive my sin."
 1. It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from *"Who is Yahweh? I do not know Yahweh."* in Exodus 5:2 to *"I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death."*
 2. In order to reach "THE POINT OF NO RETURN", to commit the unpardonable sin, the sin that leads to

death, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away!**

- (i) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh) in the ninth plague. He can no longer repent as a response to God's chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.
- (j) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh will not, **CANNOT**, turn back!
- (k) Death has come
- (2) The Roots: **acknowledging Yahweh and then turn away!**
 - (a) Here's the turn—You, **ON PURPOSE**, choose to **STILL** go after false gods, after knowing the **TRUE** God, and believe it is **OK** and that Yahweh will **STILL BLESS YOU...**
 - (b) Do you think you can do what you want and get away with it, turns and serve other gods after you claim to serve Yahweh? If you do so, you are sadly mistaken. Do that and Yahweh will **never be willing to forgive you!**
 - (c) Serving other gods and insisting that Yahweh will be okay with it!
 - 1. The hearts of a rebellious people have gone too far—even for Yahweh.

2. The sin looks like this; *“I can do whatever I want, even go after other gods, and even be warned that I am about to cross the point of no return, and still act as if Yahweh will bless me anyway.”*
3. There is a sin that Yahweh Himself considers unforgivable. And Y’shua, John and Paul all expose this sin in the New Testament—it is called Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

F. The Warning

(1) The Decent into Sin...

(a) ...The Sin that leads to death!

1. First just contemplate what John is saying. There is a sin about which we are advised not to pray.
2. It’s a sin that leads to inevitable death because it can’t ever be resolved.
3. Y’shua calls it...

(b) Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

1. **Context:** Attributing Yahweh’s qualities to another “god,” just like we read in Deuteronomy 29:19-26.
2. This is what the religious hypocrites did just prior to Y’shua introducing *“blasphemy against the Spirit.”*
 - a) Attributing Yahweh’s qualities to Satan!

b) Bad things happen when you do that, permanent bad things... *“whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”*

c) Another way of phrasing it...

(c) Insulting the Spirit of Grace

1. Insult the Holy Spirit willfully...
2. Oh how much worse punishment of God's vengeance!
3. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
4. “...There is sin **leading to death**. I do **not** say that he should **pray** about that.” 1 John 5:16b

G. The Theological Explanation of “Pharaoh’s decent into darkness.”

(1) No one says it better than Paul!

(a) Romans Decent into Total Darkness: No excuses—punishment is coming—you have met all the legal requirements to commit “the sin that leads to death.”

1. Note: keep Pharaoh in mind!
2. They knew God.
3. They entertained futile thoughts.
4. Their foolish hearts become **dark**.

5. They are given over to lusts and vile passions.
6. Why? Because **they knew God but don't retain God** in their knowledge (like we just saw with Pharaoh.)
7. God then gives them over to a debased mind.
8. They become dreadful as they practice all sorts of sin
—They HATE GOD!
9. And in the END, the righteous judgment of God is that those who practice such things are put to death
10. "...*There is sin **leading to death**. I do **not** say that he should **pray** about that.*"

(b) The root of the sin that leads to death is a seared Conscience:

1. The darkness over Pharaoh/Egypt was the symbolic manifestation of a seared conscience!

(2) Resources

(a) These are excellent resources to expand your understanding of the difficult to comprehend subject matter of "The Unforgivable Sin."

1. [Understanding the Sin that Lead to Death](#)
2. [Darkness You Can Feel](#) (Exodus 10-13) 01/22/21
3. [The Sin that Leads to Death](#) (Exodus 13-17) 01/29/21
4. [Inexcusable](#) (Deuteronomy 31) 09/10/21
5. [The Sin that Leads to Death](#) (I John 5:14-21) 09/25/21

Summary: TSUNAMI APPROACHING

2. Healing Shadows

A. God's Power on Full Display in the Church (Acts 5:12-16)

(1) Signs and Wonders & Esteemed Disciples

(a) They brought the sick out into the streets...

(b) Fully Operational: the Miracles Kept on Coming

1. As did the man crippled from birth in Acts 3:1-10, many others were healed through, NOT BY, the apostles.
2. Unity continued to manifest among believers.
3. And although there was so much support from the people, none of the other apostles wanted to join them on the Temple Mount.
4. It is likely that it is Peter and John who are up there preaching, and maybe one or two more apostles, although they are not mentioned by name.
5. We do see Peter named in Acts 5:15 regarding miracles, and again he appears in court after the arrest in Acts 5:29. So, we know he is one of them. And there is more than one other apostle with him at trial, but they all go unnamed; *"But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29*

6. Whoever they are, they are highly regarded by the people watching and more and more people are being converted.
7. The people have such confidence that the apostles represent Y'shua, and that Y'shua can heal them, that they bring sick people into the streets just so the shadow of Peter passing by would heal them.
8. Their reputation grows such that people from many cities near Jerusalem bring their sick, spiritual afflicted, and those oppressed by demonic spirits to see Y'shua's disciples, in hope of a miracle healing. No one is disappointed!

B. Characteristics of Power...

(1) Tsunami (of the Spirit)

- (a) Tsunami ...a long high sea wave caused by an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or other **massive disturbance!**
 1. The Spirit will convict the world of sin!
 2. That is a Tsunami!
- (b) Tsunami ...an arrival or occurrence **of something in overwhelming** quantities or amounts.
 1. The Spirit brings resurrection power, the power to resurrect the dead and do countless miracles!

2. *“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.”* I Corinthians 4:20 NKJV
3. That is a Tsunami!
4. See [May I Borrow Your Handkerchief?](#) (3/3/23) for other examples of extraordinary miracles.

Summary: IMMUTABLE MOMENTUM

3. Unfazed & Entrenched: Been There Done That...

A. Imprisoned Apostles Supernaturally Freed (Acts 5:17-21)

(1) Common Prison Uncommon Release

(a) Nothing will stop the Words of Life!

(b) Arrested and Jailed Again!

1. The religious elite are furious because their last ruling in Acts 4:16-18, which commanded that Peter and John should stop preaching in Y’shua’s name, has been completely ignored.
2. Peter was adamant that they would never follow the decrees of man if those decrees violated the commands of God. And he was clear with the ruling hypocrites that they considered the orders to stop preaching in Y’shua’s name a man-made rule that was in direct violation of God!

3. To the apostles credit, they declared openly that they would not comply with that ruling nor the threats, and they haven't!
4. The apostles are arrested again and placed in a public jail. This is the second time, as we just read about their previous arrest in Acts 4:1-3.
5. But, that night an angel opens the prison doors and gives them this bold instruction, "Go, stand in the temple and preach the words of life."
6. So, that is precisely what they did the next morning.
7. Then, the high priest sends for them to be brought before him to stand trial.

B. Characteristics of a tenacious spirit to obey God...

(2) Immutable

- (a) Unchangeable, fixed, set, rigid, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, permanent, established, unshakeable, irremovable, indelible, ineradicable; unchanging, static, constant, lasting, abiding, enduring, persistent, perpetual. ANTONYMS variable

1. Nothing can separate us from God!
2. We have no choice but to obey God!
3. Even if they want to kill us, nothing will stop us!

(3) Unfazed (be not dismayed)

(a) Not dismayed or disconcerted; undaunted

1. Paul worked harder, was beaten more, had his life threatened frequently, was literally shipwrecked often, faced untold perils from from everyone everywhere; lacked food, clothing and shelter; plus other things (Other things? What more could there possibly be?), and though it all he was unfazed, undaunted, and unmoved!
2. Could there be a better description of a man who would not be moved—who would stay the course
NO MATTER WHAT?

(4) Entrenched

- (a) Ingrained, established, well established, confirmed, firm; deep-seated, deep-rooted, deep-set; unshakeable, irremovable, indelible, ineradicable, inexorable.
 1. The Holy Spirit now dwells in you; it's the better promise! Anything is possible as long as the life you live is through Christ in you!
 2. *[nomotheteó]: to ordain by law; give the sanction of law to, enact, base legally, regulate, direct, by law

C. Corrupt Courts: On Trial Again (Acts 5:22-32)

(1) The Driving Force: Testimony of Witnesses

(a) “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!”

(b) “Two” Witnesses

1. The officers find the prison empty and report back to the high priest.
2. The doors were closed that morning—even though the angel opened them overnight to release the apostles.
3. The guards were completely unaware that the prisoners were missing.
4. The religious elite begin to have doubts about how this whole conflict with Y’shua’s disciples would get resolved.
5. Then, the report comes in that the prisoners are back up on the Temple Mount preaching!
6. The captain and his officers go to apprehend them, but they do so without violence because they recognize there is a growing number of people present who are now followers of Y’shua.
7. The guards literally fear for their lives.
8. The apostles are brought before the court again.

9. They are reprimanded and reminded of the ruling in Acts 4:5-22... *“Didn’t we strictly forbid you from teaching in Y’shua’s name?”*
 10. But, instead you have done the exact opposite and have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.
 11. We are certain you are trying to get the people to believe that we were responsible for Y’shua’s crucifixion.
 12. Peter and the other unnamed apostles reiterate just what they said at their first trial.
 13. We obey God, not you! And the God you come to the temple to worship is the one who resurrected Y’shua; and He’s the one you murdered.
 14. And God raised Him up in honor to be our Lord and Savior—and it is only through Him that forgiveness is available.
 15. Both we and the Holy Spirit are His witnesses.
 16. And the Holy Spirit is available for all those who believe Y’shua is the Messiah and by extension obey the Father.
- (c) Both we and the Holy Spirit are His witnesses!

1. being! God raised Him up in honor to be our Lord and Savior—and it is only through Him that forgiveness is available.

Summary: SAGE ADVICE

4. If this is of God, you can't stop it!

A. Someone Needs to Think Rationally (Acts 5:33-42)

- (1) Gamaliel Weighs in on the Matter
 - (a) If this is of God, you can't stop it—unless you think fighting against God is a good idea
 - (b) There is one way to stop these followers of Y'shua—KILL THEM!
 1. The apostles refuse to comply yet again, and Peter's response simply drives these religious hypocrites to the brink!
 2. *"We obey Yahweh, the God you come to the temple to worship, not you! And you murdered Y'shua, the only one who makes forgiveness available."*
 3. They start plotting to kill them, and if it was not for Gamaliel, a renowned teacher of the law, who asked for the apostles to be put outside the court so he could make a recommendation in private, they would have all likely been slain.

- a) Note: Gamaliel was Paul's teacher for some part of his Torah studies:
 - b) And... it is likely Paul is present at this court (this council). See #9 below!
4. Gamaliel warns them to be careful with their plans and to take a moment and consider history.
 5. He names Theudas and Judas of Galilee, both who had many followers, both whose influence faded shortly after their deaths.
 6. He recommends to the high priest and company that they take a step back and watch for a bit.
 7. His reasoning is this; if this whole Y'shua-movement is manmade, it will soon fade into oblivion on its own.
 8. However, if it's authentic, then you can't stop it anyway and you just might find yourself in a fight against God Himself.
 9. They all realize Gamaliel is right (*at least for now) and they decide to release them, but not before a beating and repeat orders to stop preaching in the name of Y'shua.
- a) *It is very likely Paul is part of this council! Why?

b) Shortly after this event of Acts 5, Stephen is brought to this same council and lied about. And we find they have completely forgotten Gamaliel's advice: *Saul/Paul was there!

10. The apostles go away happy and honored that they were chosen to suffer for the Lord!

11. They went right back to business preaching everyday in the temple that "Y'shua is the Messiah" and did the same in every house!

(2) The Advice of a Man of Wisdom

(a) Wisdom in Action

1. The religious leaders wanted to murder the apostles; Gamaliel pacified the situation.
2. If the apostles were deceived, then this Y'shua-movement would naturally dissipate. If they were right, then you'd be fighting the wisdom from above!
3. The religious leaders thought the right approach was to kill Y'shua's men, but that was the way of fools; but they heeded the wise words of Gamaliel.
4. The religious leader's approach seemed right to them and it would have led to death.

B. Sage Characteristics

(1) The Sage Man

(a) **Noun:** a profoundly wise man, especially one who features in ancient history or legend, learned man, man of letters, philosopher, scholar, thinker, savant, authority, expert, elder, teacher, mentor. **ANTONYMS** fool

1. **The Sage Man Summary:** increases learning; attains wise counsel; not be wise in his own eyes; happy to find wisdom; gains understanding; man of knowledge and wise counsel; a multitude of counselors; lips that preserve his life; understand his own ways; walks with wise men; fears the Lord; humble; prudent; always learning; ever seeking wisdom and understanding.

(2) The Sage Way

(a) **Adjective:** having, showing, or indicating profound wisdom; wise, learned, clever, intelligent, showing great knowledge, knowledgeable, sensible, intellectual, scholarly, sagacious, erudite; discerning, judicious, penetrating, perceptive, astute, shrewd, prudent, thoughtful, full of insight, insightful, philosophical, profound, deep. **ANTONYMS** foolish

1. **The Sage Way Summary:** (Read Proverbs 1 and 8) To know, receive and perceive instruction of wisdom leads to justice, judgment, and equity. Wisdom

equals the fear of the Lord and the profits and the proceeds are beyond anything that has the greatest monetary value. Nothing even comes close in comparison. It's like trying to put a value on righteousness and justice. Wisdom has been there from the beginning (like Christ) and is better to seek wisdom than anything else. It will nourish your soul and give you hope for a future.

Wisdom in Action

*“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.**”*

Romans 8:5 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. In Acts 5:1-11 we read one of the most bizarre and frightening accounts in the New Testament.**
 - A. Summarize the events in your own words.
 - B. What is the charge against Ananias and Sapphira?
- 2. Compare the events of Acts 5:1-11 to the following:**
 - A. Pharaoh's decent into darkness in Exodus 5-12.

- B. The warning in Deuteronomy 29:19-26.
- C. The sin that leads to death in I John 5:14-17.
- D. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in Matthew 12:22-32.
- E. Insulting the Spirit of Grace in Hebrews 10:26-31.

3. Use Romans 1:18-32 to explain the theological basis for...

- A. ...what happened to Ananias, Sapphira, and Pharaoh.
- B. The sin that leads to death
- C. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
- D. Insulting the Spirit

4. Unusual things happened in the presence of the apostles because of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Describe the most unusual thing recorded in Acts 5:12-16.
- B. How is the Holy Spirit in operation in John 16:7-8 and Ephesians 1:19-20?

5. In Acts 5:17-32 the apostles are again embroiled in controversy.

- A. Describe the circumstances in your own words.
- B. How do they respond to this court case and how is it similar to their trial in Acts 4?
- C. Describe desirable characters traits of Y'shua's disciples by drawing on these passages (Romans 8:11, 38-39; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; 14:19-21; Psalms 16:8; 51:10-11; 62:6; II

Corinthians 11:22-33; Hebrews 8:6; Philippians 4:13;
Galatians 2:20)

6. In Acts 5:33-42, Gamaliel, a wise teacher of the law, intervenes in the court case...

- A. What is his advice and why?
- B. What does the council do based on his advice.

7. How do we know that the council only considers Gamaliel's advice on a temporary basis based on Acts 6-7?

- A. Who was likely part of the council in Acts 5? (Hint: Acts 6:12-15; 7:1, 58; 22:3)