

## WHY WAS GOD SO HARD ON ANANIAS AND SAPHIRA?



Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5) carried a leaven that could spread through the young church and destroy it.

### **The leaven of deceit.**

Today, it seems, we tolerate that leaven.

It saps our strength.  
It taints our testimony.

**Wherever the Holy Spirit moves among us, he demands integrity.**

**When our integrity is compromised, our spirits dry up.**

***Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.***

*Psalm 51:6*

Once we take up our cross and start following Jesus,

We speak the truth.  
We live the truth.  
We walk in the light.



***Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.***

*Ephesians 4:15*

*Prayer: Lord, deliver us from this leaven of deceit that so endangered the young church that it had to be stopped in such a hard way. Sadly, today, the church's acceptance of deceit is growing a generation of scoffers. Make us alarmed at how dangerous it is when we begin to tolerate deceit, make excuses for it, use Scriptures to justify it, and willingly blind ourselves to it. Turn us from this path before our integrity is so completely undermined that this world rejects you because of our glaring hypocrisy. Bring our integrity back. Help us to speak the truth in love to each other.... So in every way we do continue growing closer to you, becoming so much like you that others will seek to embrace you instead of reject you. Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber from a recording made in 2016. [Link to recorded version of message](#)

Featured Artist: Both pieces are unknown artists.

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THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN