

POINT #1: Ananias and Sapphira were not pressured by God or by man to give what belonged to them. They made a decision before God to give those specific proceeds to the Church.

PRINCIPLE #1: You must decide before the Lord without pressure from anyone what you will give in proceeds to the Church you belong to.

POINT #2: With Ananias and Sapphira, it was not an issue of setbacks in their lives leading them to give less than what was planned, it was an issue of selfishness and deceit. Ananias and Sapphira allowed themselves to be seduced by the devil in relation to money and giving.

PRINCIPLE #2: Whatever you set aside to give to the Lord in proceeds to the Church, make sure you do it unless there is something beyond your control that would keep you from doing it. Beware of Satan tempting you to hold back what you have set aside to give in proceeds to the Church for something selfish or something deceitful.

POINT #3: For Ananias and Sapphira the issue was not about the amount they choose to hold back. It was their freedom to choose to give or hold back whatever they decided. This was about their integrity before God not to man. They gave their word to God and chose not to keep it for selfish and deceitful reasons.

PRINCIPLE #3: To hold back from giving proceeds to the church you have already set aside to give for selfish or deceitful reasons is an offense to God. It is unlikely that the Church will ever know. (Ananias and Sapphira was a one-time event as a warning, not the norm). Do not let the flesh, the world, or the devil keep you from giving what you told the Lord you would give. What we withhold in proceeds from giving to the Kingdom agenda of God within the Church and why we withhold proceeds from giving to the Kingdom agenda of God within the Church is a reflection of what we are committed to as well as what we truly value.

POINT #4: Ananias and Sapphira presented the image of giving something they really did not give. Ananias and Sapphira lied. God does not like us to lie.

PRINCIPLE #4: Don't give to be seen. Be seen giving. In other words, make sure you are not caught up in image of giving, leading you to say one thing and give another. Make sure you have integrity when giving unto the Lord through the Church.

POINT #5: Ananias and Sapphira put God to the **test** by seeing how much they could get away with before God would judge them.

PRINCIPLE #5: Don't put God to the **test** with money you set aside to give to the church and then choose not to give it for selfish or deceitful reasons. We do not know how God will deal with us.

POINT #6: Ananias and Sapphira pretended to have a greater **devotion** to God than what was real in their lives.¹

PRINCIPLE #6: Examine yourself to see where you are demonstrating a **devotion** to God in public that you do not really have in private. Ask God to expose you with mercy in private so that it does not lead to being exposed with discipline in public.

Questions to Consider

1. Have you decided what you will set aside in proceeds to give to the Lord through the Church?
2. If you already have it in hand, is there anything keeping you from giving it to the Church?
3. In what ways have you been tempted by the flesh, the world, and the devil to hold back from giving a portion of proceeds you have dedicated to give to the Church?
4. Have you given in to that temptation to withhold proceeds? If so, what did you do with those proceeds?
5. What is God exposing to you about your heart towards God and your heart towards the Church you say you are committed to as you look at your giving patterns to the Church?
6. Are you demonstrating a devotion to God and the Church you say you are committed to that you really do not have? Please explain.
7. Are you demonstrating a devotion to God and the Church you say you are committed to that you really do have? Please explain.

¹ Robert B. Hughes and J. Carl Laney, [*Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*](#), The Tyndale Reference Library (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), 501.