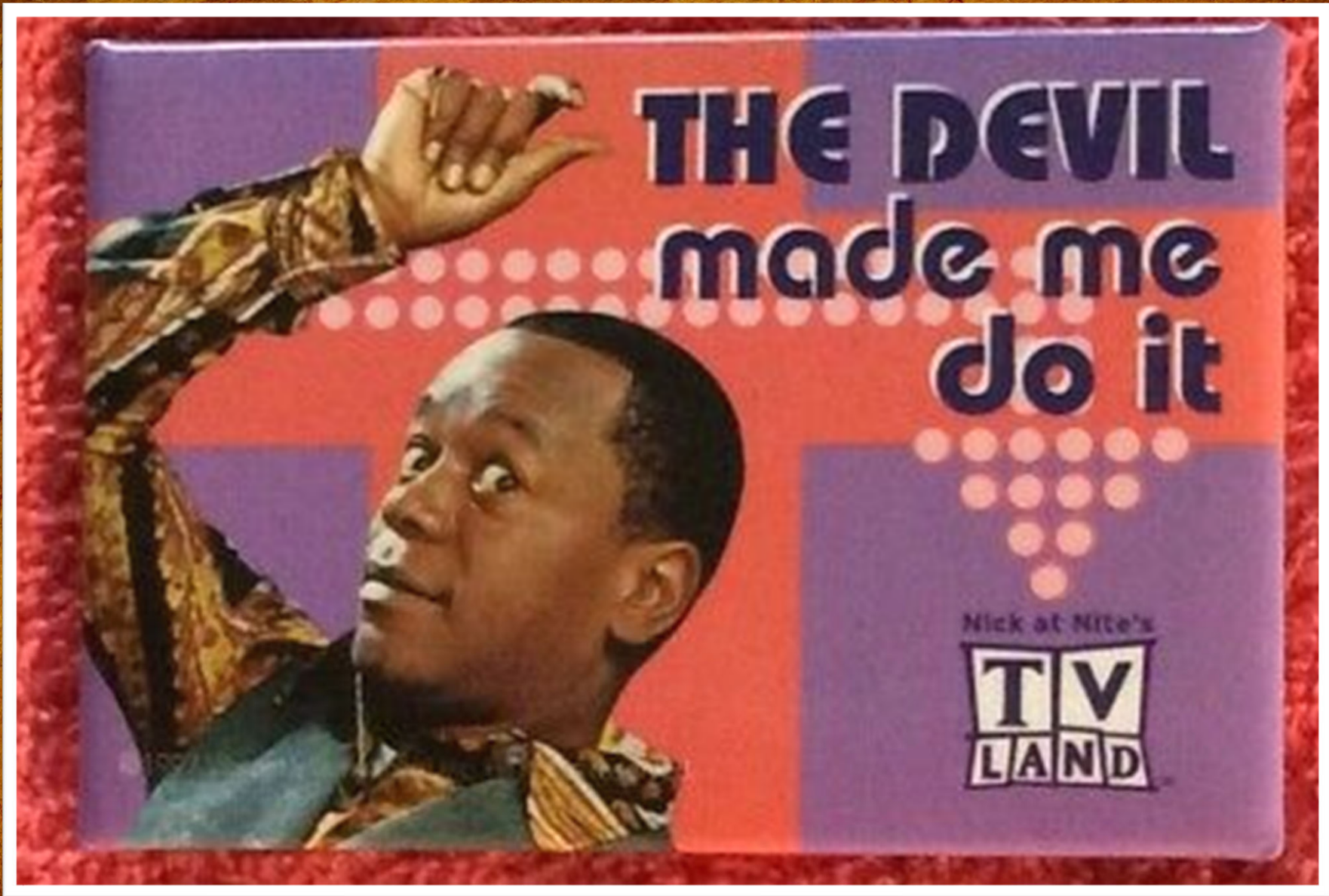




INPOWERED ***DISCIPLES***HIP

An Inductive Study of Acts

Authentic Discipleship *E*
Acts 4:32-5:11



Acts 1:8

“But you will receive **POWER**
when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you
will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

INPOWERED
DISCIPLESHIP
An Inductive Study of Acts



AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 4:32-37

³²Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. ³³With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. ³⁴For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, ³⁵and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), ³⁷sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY

Acts 4:32

³²Now the entire group of those who believed were of **one heart and mind**, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead **they held everything in common**.

- The newly constituted church was united, both spiritually and materially.
- Each person voluntarily brought what he or she had in order to meet the needs of the group.
- Why would they do this?

The relocation of many disciples to Jerusalem created a great need.

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY

Acts 4:32

³⁴For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, ³⁵and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

- Many believers had voluntarily given a great portion of their wealth for the use of all.
- As a result, the needs of others were met by the generosity of the church.

**Christian Generosity,
NOT Christian Socialism.**

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY

Acts 4:32

³⁴For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold,³⁵ and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

- They were continually selling things because people had needs.
- In Greek, "brought" is an imperfect verb and "sold" is a present participle.
- In combination they suggest a gradual liquidation of assets, not the selling of everything all at once.
- Not everyone was able to participate because only the middle and upper class owned houses and land in the 1st century.

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY

Acts 4:32

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

- Luke briefly introduces us to Barnabas, one of his heroes and very likely a good friend.
- Barnabas, mentioned 23 times in the book of Acts, plays a prominent role in the spread of the Gospel.
- He sold property too and gave the entire proceeds to the church.

Barnabas was a constant companion of Paul, as was Luke for much of the missionary journeys.

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. ²However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

³"Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God." ⁵When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. ⁶The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him.

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

⁷About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸"Tell me," Peter asked her, "did you sell the land for this price?"

"Yes," she said, "for that price."

⁹Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree 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."

¹⁰Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. ²However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

- Not everyone acted with virtue in the new church.
- Unlike Barnabas, who gave all the money, Ananias and Sapphira only gave part of the money.

So, what wrong with keeping back part of the proceeds?

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. ²However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

- The verb for "kept back" is the same kind of verb used to describe Achan's act in holding the spoil in Jericho.
- It is a verb tied to financial fraud by historian Josephus and other ancient Greek texts.
- Sapphira was complicit in this intentional act of deceit.

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

³“Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴Wasn’t it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn’t it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God.”

- **Were Ananias and Sapphira true believers?**
- **The consensus opinion is yes, for several reasons:**
 1. They were included in the “entire group of those who believed” in Acts 4:32.
 2. They were involved with the Holy Spirit, indicating a personal relationship with Him.
 3. We know that Satan can influence believers (Matt. 16:21-23, Eph. 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8-9).
 4. Death can be a divine form of rebuke for a believer (1 Cor. 11:30-32; 1 John 5:16)

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

³“Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God.”

- Peter asks, “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie,” he doesn't say why has Satan possessed you?
- Peter's question might also be phrased, “How can you do this, how can you fall for Satan's tricks?”
- You let Satan trick you into lying to the Holy Spirit, and He is God.

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

⁵When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard.

¹⁰Instantly she dropped dead at his feet.

- God's judgment of their sin is instantaneous and direct.
- God moved quickly to removed the spiritual cancer from the body.
- God's actions were meant to impress upon the young church the seriousness of sin.

COUNTERFEIT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 5:1-11

¹¹Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.

It had the desired effect!

- No doubt much self-examination took place following God's judgment of Ananias and Sapphira.
- God's strong desire for a pure church, and His willingness to take drastic steps to achieve it, were obvious for all to see.

***IN*POWERED *D*ISCIPLISHIP**

- **Unity of heart and soul was very transparent in the life of the early church.**
- **Not only did the members declare the Word of God boldly and powerfully: they also made sure that each one in the community had access to everyday needs.**
- **Community life was both missional and caring for the early church; they genuinely cared about one another and the cause they each shared.**
- **Let us be like minded in sharing the gospel and in caring for one another today.**
- **Ask God to provide you with ample opportunities to do both this next week.**



INPOWERED ***DISCIPLESHIP***

An Inductive Study of Acts

Resilient Discipleship *E*
Acts 5:17-42