



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

HOW ARE OUR SHADOWS DOING? THE HEALING AND DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF THE APOSTLE PETER.

There are a few reasons why this title and topic have become interesting to me. I hope to share one or two reasons why shortly.

Most Christians know the story of the Apostle Peter, how he and his brother Andrew were fishermen



and actually the first people to be called by Jesus down by the lake of Galilee.

Peter was made the 'main' leader of the 12 disciples, along with James and John.

Jesus had high hopes for him and said he would be called Cephas, meaning the 'Stone' or 'Rock.'

The 12 disciples stayed by Jesus' side throughout 3 and a half years, with the final exception of Judas the Iscariot, finally betraying his master.

We should all know that Peter was bombastic, prone to outbursts of emotion, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, had a deep feeling of loyalty to Christ.

After denying he ever even knew Jesus, just as the Lord had told him he would; he experienced



incredible grief and guilt.



Fortunately for him, Jesus still called him to be his key disciple after his resurrection. The Lord told him to feed Jesus' sheep.

Here are a couple of verses before we move on to the main topic;

John 21:17

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Later Peter and the disciples were filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. (Acts chapter 2) Jesus had already left to sit at the right Hand of the Father. The eleven disciples had seen him leave them. **Acts 1:11.**

The healing power of Peter

So the disciples and also later with them other new 'elders' and righteous men began to do serious miracles. This was through the power of the Holy Spirit and not of themselves. But they had had to qualify to even come this far, for the Spirit is not given just to anyone! It resides and grows stronger among those who are most dedicated and walk with Jesus in a close way. Let's make that our goal.

It is recorded that in Jerusalem, Peter had so much of this Holy Spirit in him that even his shadow could heal people.

ACTS 5: 15 to such an extent that they even carried their sick out into the streets and put them on cots and sleeping pads, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on one of them [with healing power].

Peter was also really the first 'Preacher'. We see that 5,000 people turned to Christ through his first sermon and 3,000 more a short time later. Again, this is simply both the Holy Spirit working through a dedicated vessel as well as wooing the listening crowds. This is part of Peter's healing power. In the second sermon Peter had just healed, through claiming the Name of Jesus, the lame man at the gate

of the temple which gathered a crowd. ([Acts 3](#))

The destructive power of Peter.

There has always been this fascinating story in Acts chapter 5 which chapter we once dedicated a whole WCF article to. [Chapter 5 of Acts](#) begins with this passage:

Lying to the Holy Spirit

5 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 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.



3 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? 4 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."

5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

She said, "Yes, for so much."

9 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." 10 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. 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Peter, in his time with Christ, was remarkably spiritual both positively and also in error, for example he was the only disciple who answered Jesus' question 'but whom do you say that I am?'

He also told Jesus off for being willing to be crucified. So he could go either way in his thinking. But once he was filled with the Holy Spirit and knew and understood the Scriptures, he was absolutely bold as a lion and filled with the gifts of the Spirit. Here the gift he had with Ananias and then his wife Sapphira was 'Discernment'.

When people's lives sin against the Lord and they try to cover up or conceal those sins, their (our) hearts become nervous and anxious like this verse explains:

[Proverbs 19:3](#) The foolishness of man subverts his way [ruins his affairs]; then his heart is resentful and frets against the Lord.

So Peter knew that Ananias was lying. Ananias lied to Peter's face. The strongest and most anointed man of God on the planet, and Ananias lied to his face. His heart was obviously in a very nervous condition, and after 'hearing the words' he collapsed and died immediately. His wife suffered the same fate, after telling Peter the same lie!

Have you ever lied to the face of a man of God? Have a think about it. Try to remember.

One time when I was a young Christian, my local Pastor in Canada wanted to visit me and address some 'issues' I was having that were not right in the Lord's eyes. I was terrified of the prospect of his visit, that I literally fled out of the

back door as my wife was letting him in the front door! Well, this profited me nothing as eventually I had to meet him and face some correction, which was delivered to me in love and kindness also, and which I received, I didn't die, thank God, otherwise I wouldn't have lived to be writing this today!

But things didn't go well for Ananias and Sapphira. They both died for the lie! And it wasn't surprising that 'great fear came on all the church' and everyone else in Jerusalem and beyond who heard about it.

Peter had the ability to know they were not lying to man but unto God. Ananias was killed by the message of God through Peter's mouth and the already nervous condition of his heart, and the same with his wife. Destructive power.

Gosh, what can we learn from this? **Please send us your thoughts and anything the Lord shows you.**

People today, at least where I live in England, I have found repeatedly, seem to hate any form of correction or it being suggested to them, that they may be doing or have done something wrong. They call it 'harassment' because the truth harasses them. They don't fall down and die, like maybe some of them should(!) but neither does my shadow or me passing by them heal them either!

Be a man or woman of the Lord. Don't lie. If you do lie, try your best to confess it to the Lord or to the person you lied to if available, and as soon as possible.

Ask the Lord why you can't also speak the truth to those who need to hear it, when they are right in front of you telling you the opposite of what you know to be true. Of course we don't need and shouldn't shout at them, unless we are absolutely sure it is God shouting, and not ourselves.

I wonder to myself, how is my own shadow doing? Can my shadow

be filled with so much power, that truly hungry and eager people will receive Jesus and be healed? Well, actually I do believe that is very possible, with the 'right people' (**Matthew 5:6**) and also if I do my best to grow in Christ and seek Him more and expect miracles for His Glory.

2 Timothy 2: 4 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

So, God bless Peter, he was right in every way here in this chapter. He had Healing power, and also destructive power by the Spirit of Discernment. Let's pray to follow his example.

Lying will kill us all eventually.

Maybe not immediately like Ananias and Sapphira, but it will destroy our spiritual life quite quickly.

Let's aim to be like Peter, amen?

Until next week and I leave you with these amazing verses;

God bless you,

Jerry for the WCF Team.

Revelation 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

John 8:44b When he (the devil)

speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

1 John 2: 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

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