

The lying spirit

1. Last week...we studied the first recorded prayer...by the first church...after the first recorded miracle...
 - a. Which was created the first recorded persecution of the church
 - b. Then the Holy Spirit answers their prayer...with the second recorded miracle...by the shaking of the church...and the spiritual gift of boldness
 - c. The Lord has been adding to His church...at Pentecost...3000...then again adding 2000 at the lame man's healing...and continued to add daily
 - d. Something to consider is...Satan don't like people being added to the church...He has tried persecution...which didn't work well
 - e. Because they only asked for more of what caused the people to come and know Jesus...and for what caused the persecution
 - f. So now Satan is going to attempt a new strategy...to attack the church...only this time...with the people...from within the church
 - g. This is an effective strategy...because it works really well...even today
 - h. How often I hear the reason people leave the church...or don't want to even visit a church...is because of the hypocrites in the church
2. Slide... The definition of a hypocrite...A hypocrite is when a person puts on a false appearance of virtue, but acts contrary to their beliefs
 - a. I am going to say something...that I will back up with scripture...God doesn't want hypocrisy...to be part of His church

- b. We are going to look at a lying spirit...that puts on a false appearance...like the real Holy Spirit's work in Barnabas
 - c. The Holy Spirit's job at salvation...is to point out who Jesus is...and convict people of unrepentant sin...then indwell the new believer
 - d. God doesn't want his church to have a lying spirit indwelling His people...telling them...lying is ok...sinning is ok
 - e. Now listen to this closely...because I got you thinking...so listen
 - f. There are many churches...that HAVE hypocrites in them and even in charge of them...**But they don't belong to Christ**
 - g. Again...I am going to back this up with a Revelation scripture at the end
 - h. We left off last week...with the apostles giving a man named Joe...the nick name of Barnabas... which means the...son of encouragement
 - i. This next section...starts with the word But
3. Acts 5:1 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.
- a. The word but...means there is a contrast...the contrast is comparing the act of Holy Spirit...to the work of the false Holy Spirit...or lying spirit
 - b. The Holy Spirit was working in Barnabas's heart...by giving all the proceeds of the sale of the land...to the apostles
 - c. Contrasting to the work of the Holy Spirit...is a false...counterfeit...imitation spirit...that looks like the Holy Spirit...but is based on a lie

- d. This counterfeit...contrasting spirit...was the source of Ananias and Sapphira lie...that was trying to look like the work of God
- e. They could have sold the land...and kept all of the money...and they would have been fine...
- f. But instead of being honest...they offered some of the money...and they lied in order to put look righteous...
- g. But their actions were of Satan...the father of lies
- h. Remember what the definition of a Hypocrite is
- i. When a person puts on a false appearance of virtue...but acts contrary to their beliefs...or what the Bible teaches
- j. Check this out...Joseph's name means in Hebrew...He will add
- k. Then the apostles change his name to Barnabas...which means the son of encouragement
- l. When the Holy Spirit adds true believers to the fellowship...it is an encouragement
- m. Ananias's name means in Hebrew...God is gracious...which is true...God is full of grace according to John 1:14
- n. In verses three and four Peter was able to discern...how an unclean spirit...Satan...is trying to create a lie...disguised as the working of the Holy Spirit
- o. I will say that again...in a different way...Satan is creating a lie...which is opposite of the working of the Holy Spirit...the Holy Spirit is holy
- p. This lie...is spoken by a man named...God is gracious...They look like they may be the same spirit...but they are not the same...one is true...one is a lie

- q. We see this spirit working big time today in the false gospel...that says God is gracious...which He is...He is full of grace...according to John 1:14
 - r. But the grace of God comes...through true repentance...and the true work of the Holy Spirit of the conviction of sin
 - s. Because Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit...he can see the difference
4. Acts 5:3-6, 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" 5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.
5. Slide...The spirit at work is Satan, not the Holy Spirit
- a. Many people think this is a harsh judgement by God...but this kind of judgement for false faith...is consistent throughout scripture
 - b. There are several hundred scriptures...that teach how God feels about liars
 - c. Hosea writes...My people are dying...because they don't know Me...instead they worship false gods...lying gods
 - d. What I want to do next...is to show us some insight to exactly how Jesus feels about deceitfulness...lying...hypocrites
6. Matt 23:1-33, 1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. 3 So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their

example. For they don't practice what they teach. 4 They crush people with impossible religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

7. 5 "Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. 6 And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. 7 They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi.'
8. 8 "Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. 9 And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. 10 And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. 11 The greatest among you must be a servant. 12 But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
9. 13 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces. You won't go in yourselves, and you don't let others enter either.
10. 15 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!
11. 16 "Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear 'by God's Temple,' but that it is binding to swear 'by the gold in the Temple.' 17 Blind fools! Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? 18 And you say that to swear 'by the altar' is not binding,

but to swear 'by the gifts on the altar' is binding. 19 How blind! For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20 When you swear 'by the altar,' you are swearing by it and by everything on it. 21 And when you swear 'by the Temple,' you are swearing by it and by God, who lives in it. 22 And when you swear 'by heaven,' you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne.

12. 23 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees.

Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. 24 Blind guides! You strain your water so you won't accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!

13. 25 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees.

Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! 26 You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.

14. 27 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees.

Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. 28 Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

15. 29 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees.

Hypocrites! For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed. 30 Then you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would never have joined them in killing the prophets.'

16. 31 "But in saying that, you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Go ahead and finish what your ancestors started. 33 Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?

- a. Do you think Jesus wants...the false gospel...lying spirits...false teachers...added to His work...by cheapening grace
- b. No Jesus wants true believers who are honest about their faith...which will cause true change in their life...or true repentance
- c. After hearing what Jesus said...Do you think He wants His church to be full of hypocrites...teaching other to be hypocrites
- d. What did Jesus say to the woman who was caught in adultery...go and sin...no more...why...hello
- e. Jesus said all these things in Matthew 23...as a warning to not be like these kind of people...don't be hypocrites
- f. To show us...that God is serious about this...realize...the 3rd miracle recorded in the book of Acts...is killing Ananias...
- g. And the 4th miracle...recorded for us...in the first church...is to kill Sapphira...Ananias's wife...in case you missed it the first time

17. Acts 5:7-10, 7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price." 9 And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too." 10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

18. Slide...Peter reveals the spirit at work as the reason for God's judgement

- a. Saphira name is an Aramaic name that means beautiful...salvation is beautiful...but not salvation based on lies
- b. We ask...why did this happen...why these miracles of God's judgement recorded for us in our Bible
- c. It is a warning...showing us...that God will not except us...without the true work of the Holy Spirit
- d. Only 5 of the virgins have the oil needed to receive salvation...the other 5 don't...all ten are virgins...but only 5 get in
- e. The others run to get oil...and then tried to get in...but it is too late...and Jesus says believe Me...I don't know you...
- f. The oil of course is...the Holy Spirit
- g. Paul backs up what I just said...about false faith...w/o the Holy Spirit

19. 1 Cor 10:1-5, 1 I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that

moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. 2 In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. 3 All of them ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

- a. God killed off the children of Israel that didn't believe His promises in faith...after witnessing all God did for them

20. 1 Cor 10:6-8, 6 These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, 7 or worship idols as some of them did. As the Scriptures say, "The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry." 8 And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day.

- a. Relook at verse 6...these things happened as a warning...for who...for us... so that we would not desire...or crave the evil things of the world

21. 1 Cor 10:9-11, 9 Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. 10 And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. 11 These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

- a. Paul just said...these old testament examples...are to warn the people who are living in the end of the age...that is us

22. 1 Cor 10:12-13, 12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand.

When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

- a. Paul is warning us...to not live like hypocrites...God killed hypocritical people in the past...God judged Ananias...and God will judge us
- b. Here is what this warning...is all about...because Acts 5 tells us the result of the 3rd and 4th miracle of the first church (keep finger in 1 Cor)

23. Acts 5:11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

24. Slide... Why are there these warnings in the Bible? To learn to fear the Lord

- a. You may be thinking...that can't be right...I was thought that God is gracious...and He loves me just as I am...God forgives all sin
- b. All of that is true...but there needs to be a fear of the Lord...and needs to be a true working of the Holy Spirit...who is changing our hearts
- c. You may want to argue...that this only happened one time in the new testament...only at the first church in Jerusalem
- d. But Paul records the Lord either killing people...or letting them die...at the Corinthian church for taking the communion in an un worthy manor

25. 1 Cor 11:27-30, So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. 29 For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you

are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

- a. People are sick...and some have died...because they take communion in an unworthy manor
- b. Paul's letter also contains this warning...to the unrepenting Christians...who base their salvation...because they are members of the Corinthian church
- c. What Paul says...about unchecked sinful behavior in the church...may shock us

26. 1 Cor 5:1-5, 1 I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother. 2 You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

27. 3 Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man 4 in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus. 5 Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns.

- a. Look at verse 5...Paul recommends handing this man over to Satan...in order to destroy his sinful nature...why

- b. To show this man...that he is living an unrepentant life...with a false hope...so that he has a chance to get right with God...and be saved
- c. Does this mean he wasn't saved before...according to Paul...no he wasn't
- d. Listen...I don't want to define lines of what Salvation is here...only show you what Paul...or the word of God is saying

28. 1 Cor 5:6-8, 6 Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. 8 So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth.

- a. I love verse 8...Paul is saying lets celebrate salvation...live a saved life...in an honorable manor...not of wickedness...but of sincerity and truth
- b. The old man must die...so the new man can be born...you must be born again...as a new creation
- c. John 3:3 says...Jesus speaking...I tell you the truth...unless you are born again...you cannot see the Kingdom of God."
- d. I don't want to take anything away from the good news of the gospel...I only want you to hear the truth about sin in our life
- e. I want us to know the true working of the Holy Spirit...reveals our sin to us

- f. If you don't feel bad for your sinful behavior...look out...you may be believing a lie...or a false spirit
- g. God only disciplines those He loves...or those who belong to Him
- h. We don't want to be a people like the church of Laodicea

29. Rev 3:14-19, 14 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation: 15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17 You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 18 So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. 19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

- a. What is Jesus's advice to the luke warm church of Laodicea ...turn from your indifference
- b. Meaning repent...or turn...because you are believing a gospel that is different than the gospel of the Bible
- c. Notice Jesus isn't in the church...He is outside...knocking...hoping the people inside...with the false hope...will hear the truth
- d. The good news is...there is still time to change...and Jesus is asking them to change

30. Reve 3:20-21, 20 "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. 21

Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

- a. Listen closely...there is victory for those who answer the call...or the knock at the door
- b. Realize Jesus is talking to who...a church...who thought they were safe...but Jesus didn't know them
- c. Still...anyone who is willing to answer the door...and stop being luke warm...will be victorious and become friends with the Lord...our Savior Jesus