

# HOW REVIVAL ACTS

Acts 5:1-11



**FIRED UP**

Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

## I. THE ORGANIZATION

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(1) Its Mystical Oneness, 4:32

(2) Its Ministerial Oneness, 4:33

(3) Its Material Oneness, 4:34-37

(a) A Spontaneous Expression of That Oneness, 4:34-35

- The “constituents” were born-again believers.
- Their “organization” was from God (not a man-made *utopia*).
- They had private ownership of property.
- They gave voluntarily of their goods.
- No government forced them to give of their own goods.
- The giving was an act of love.
- This was not a forced re-distribution of their wealth.

(b) A Specific Example of That Oneness, 4:36-37

## C. Treachery, 5:1-42

### 1. The Spiritual Atmosphere of the Church, 5:1-10

#### a. The Satan Inspired Deception, 5:1-2

##### (1) What the Culprits Decided, 5:1-2a

Acts 5:1 “But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it...*”

(2) What the Culprits Did, 5:2b – “...and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.”

## Compare Ananias with Barnabas:

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

- They both had a possession.
- They both sold it.
- They both brought the money.
- The both laid it at the apostles' feet.

b. The Spirit Inspired Detection, 5:3-10

(1) The First Exposure, 5:3-6

(a) The Source of the Wickedness, 5:3

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, **why** hath **Satan filled thine heart** to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

(b) The Substance of the Wickedness,  
5:4a

Acts 5:4 “Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power...”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life.



(c) The Seriousness of the  
Wickedness, 5:4b-6

i. The Seriousness Declared,  
5:4b –“...**why** hast thou  
conceived this thing in thine  
heart? **thou hast not lied unto  
men, but unto God.**”

Jer. 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and  
desperately wicked: who can know it?

Eph. 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,  
whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1 Thess. 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

## ii. The Seriousness

Demonstrated, 5:5-6

Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and **great fear came on all them that heard these things.**

6 And the young men arose, **wound him up**, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

1 Cor. 10:6 Now these things were **our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:** and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

“That about winds it up.”

(2) The Further Exposure, 5:7-10

(a) Sapphira’s False Confidence, 5:7-8

i. Her Dreadful Ignorance, 5:7

Acts 5:7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

ii. Her Dreadful Insistence, 5:8

Acts 5:8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

- The man of God does not always reveal what he is doing or why he is doing it!
- Peter gave Sapphira opportunity to tell the truth.

(b) Sapphira's Fearful Condemnation,  
5:9-10

i. The Nature of Her Sin, 5:9a

Acts 5:9 “Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord...”

Deut. 6:16 **Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted *him* in Massah.**

Mt. 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, **Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

ii. The Nature of Her Sentence,  
5:9b-11

Acts 5:9b "...behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

- The severity of judgment indicates the seriousness of the offense.

Rom. 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

- A believer that habitually lives in sin will encounter the chastening correction from God.

Heb. 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- If conviction, then chastening, does not correct a rebellious believer, then it may be time to “wrap it up.”

Rom. 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

1 Cor. 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Cor. 11:30 For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, **and many sleep.**

1 Jn. 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. **There is a sin unto death:** I do not say that he shall pray for it.

17 All unrighteousness is sin: and **there is a sin not unto death.**

Heb. 10:31 ***It is a fearful thing*** to fall into the hands of the living God.

1 Tim. 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.



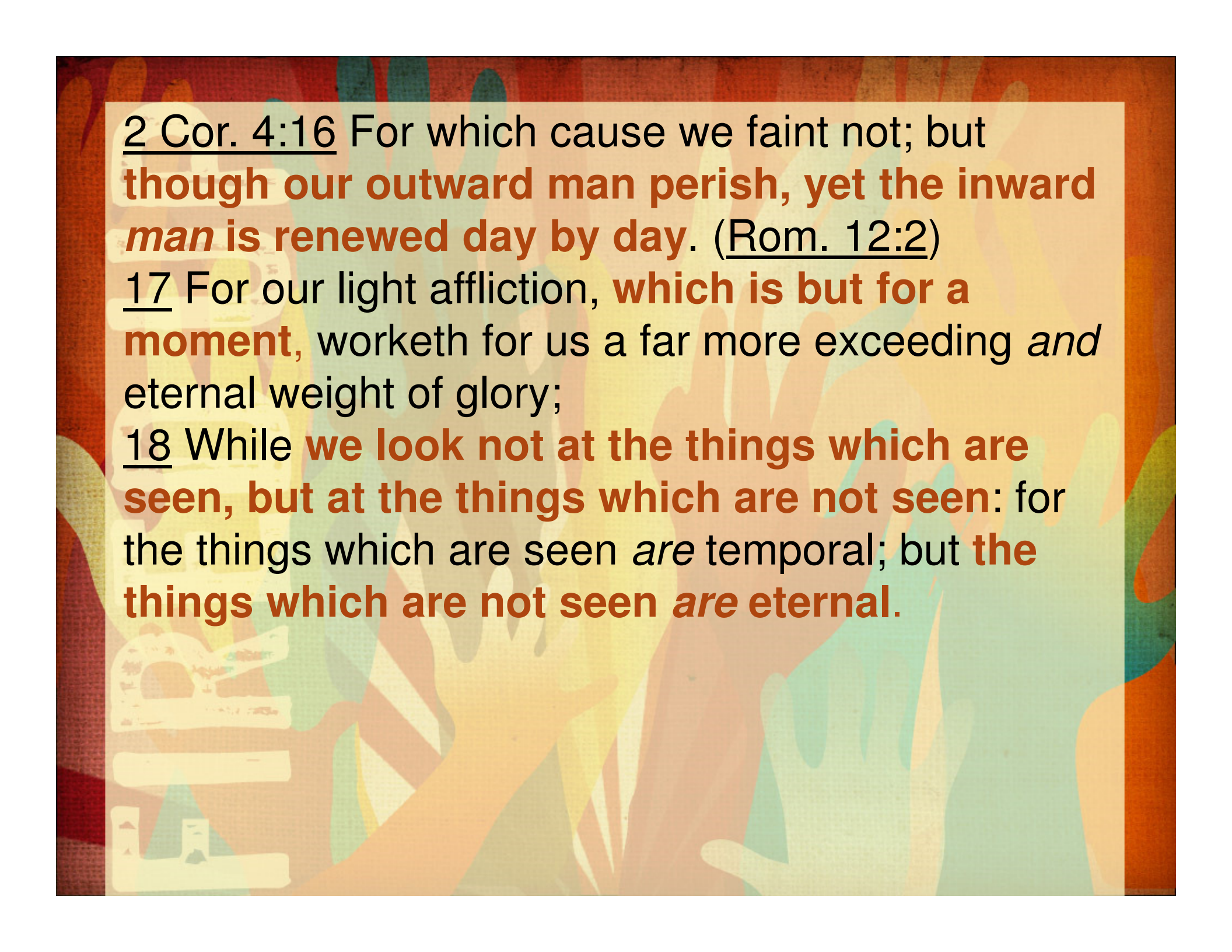
## Conclusion

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

1 Cor. 2:14 But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:** for they are foolishness unto him: **neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**



2 Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but **though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.** (Rom. 12:2)

17 For our light affliction, **which is but for a moment**, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

18 While **we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:** for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but **the things which are not seen are eternal.**