

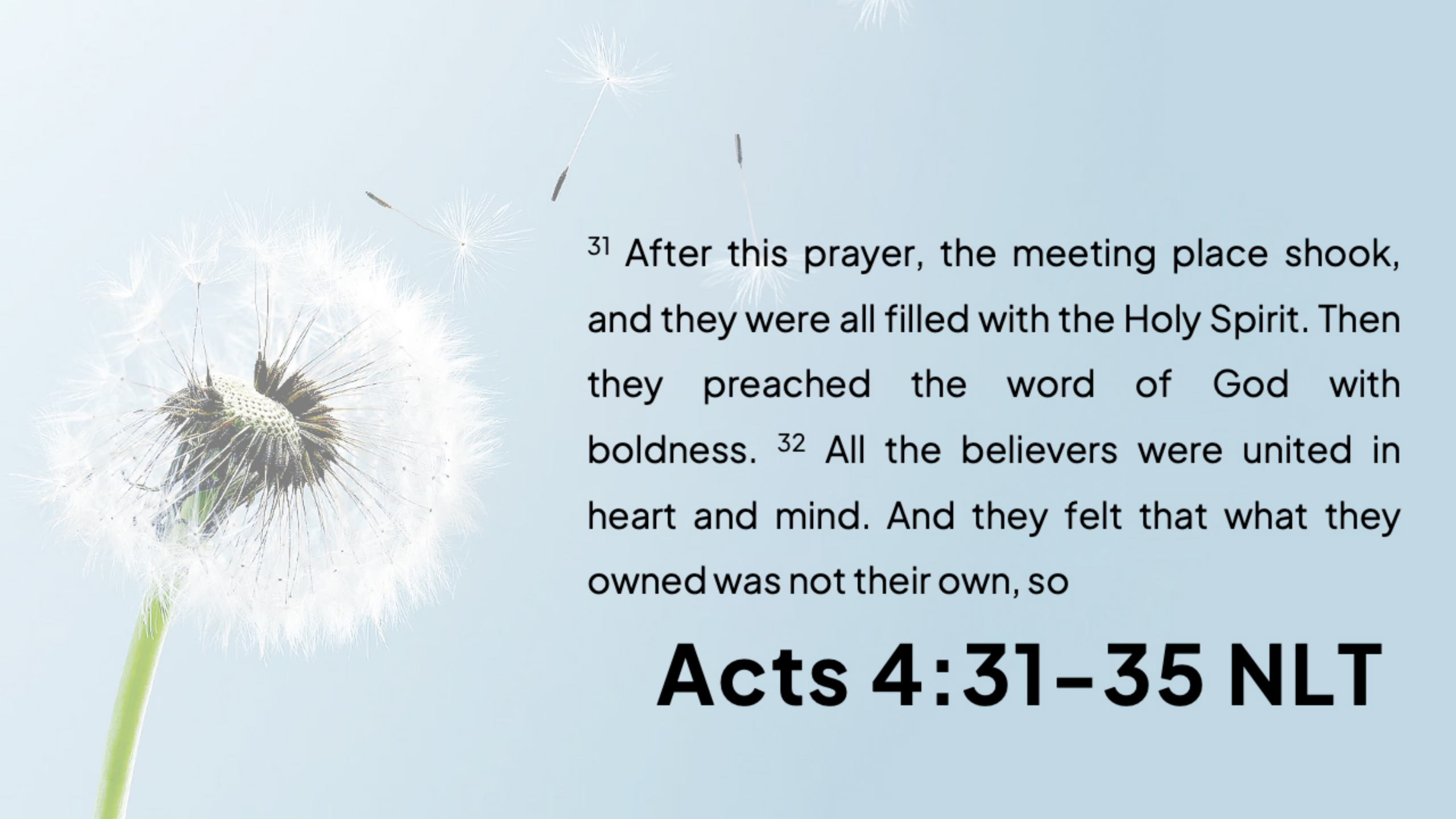


S E N T

part seven




How did the *Ecclesia* in Acts look in regards to **generosity**?



³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. ³² All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so

Acts 4:31-35 NLT



they shared everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

Acts 4:31-35 NLT



The gospel has loosened their grip on stuff and tightened their grip on each other.



⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Philippians 2:5-8 NLT



- 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,
- 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5–8 NLT



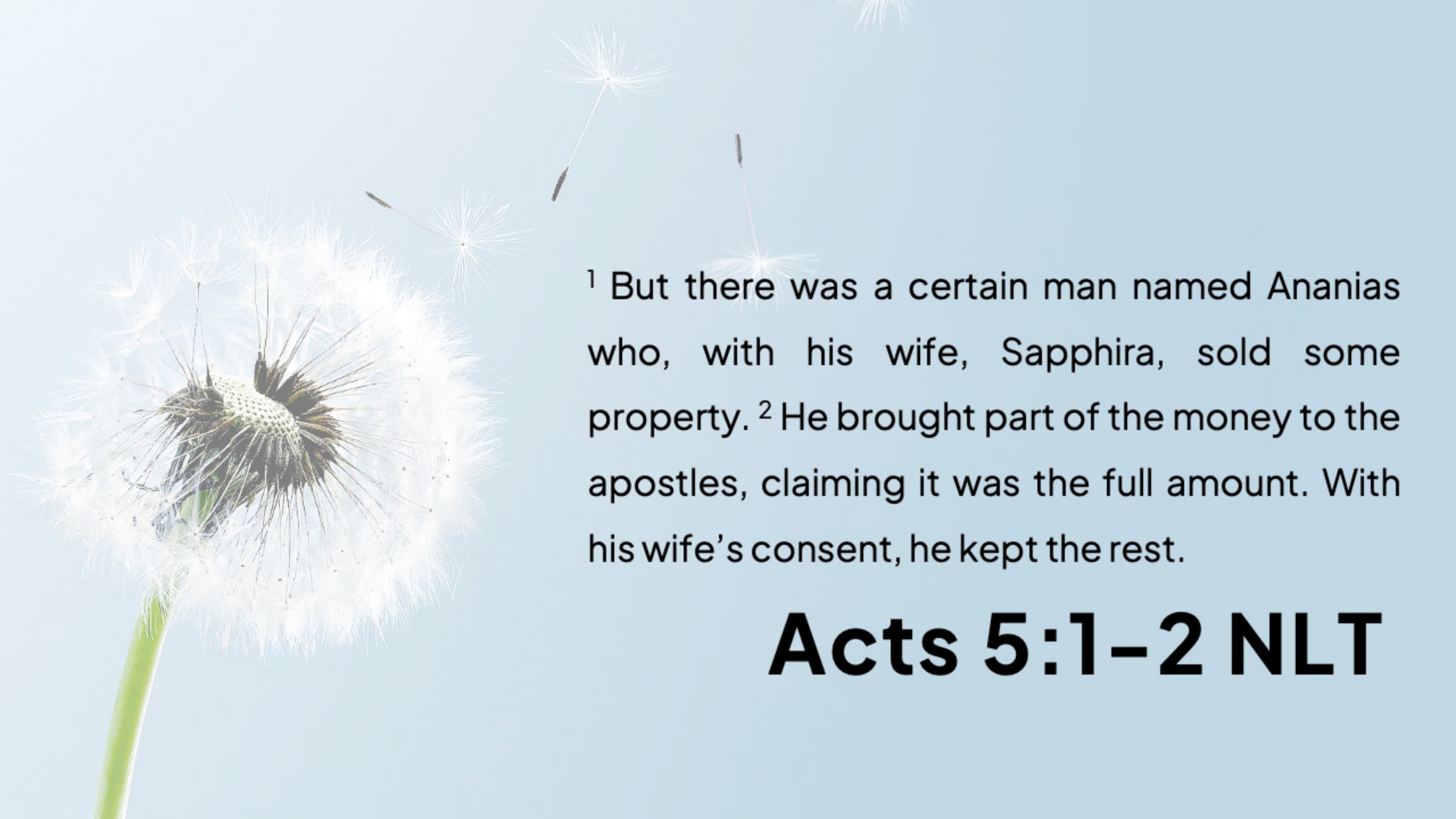
Jesus loosened His grip on His **divine privileges** and tightened His grip on **us**.



When it comes to generosity,
some people are like rocks,
some are like sponges and
some are like honeycombs.



The first internal **conflict** and discipline in the Book of Acts is centered around the topic of generosity and **money**.




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.

Acts 5:1-2 NLT




Ananias and Sapphira were willing to lie and deceive for the sake of **reputation.**



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!”

Acts 5:3-4 NLT



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.

Acts 5:5-6 NLT



It is important to note that the issue here was not the money or the amount, it was an issue of the heart.



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?”

Acts 5:7-11 NLT



“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.”

Acts 5:7-11 NLT



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

Acts 5:7-11 NLT

What can these passages in Acts teach us about generosity?



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- Generosity is evidence of the Holy Spirit's **work**.



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³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.

Acts 4:33 NLT





Generosity is not a **natural** thing;
it is a **supernatural** thing.

What can these passages in Acts teach us about generosity?

- Generosity is evidence of missional **priority**.



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³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.

Acts 4:33 NLT





This is the greatest mission on earth because it has **eternal** consequences.

What can these passages in Acts teach us about generosity?

- Generosity is evidence of **unity**.



- Generosity is evidence of **unity**.

³² All the believers were united in heart and mind.

Acts 4:32a



What can these passages in Acts teach us about generosity?

- Generosity is evidence of **love**.



- Generosity is evidence of **love**.

³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

Acts 4:34-35 NLT





Our wallets follow what we love.

What can these passages in Acts teach us about generosity?

- Generosity is evidence of leadership and maturity.



- Generosity is evidence of leadership and maturity.

³⁶ For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. ³⁷ He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

Acts 4:36-37 NLT





Barnabas was always
laying his stuff **down** in
order to pick others **up**.

What can these passages in Acts teach us about generosity?

- Generosity is evidence of **trust.**



- Generosity is evidence of **trust**.

And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32b





There are really two concepts
when it comes to money:



There are really two concepts
when it comes to money:


Our culture looks at money and
sees the concept of **ownership**.



There are really two concepts when it comes to money:

Our culture looks at money and sees the concept of **ownership**.

Ownership says it is **mine** and I can do with it what I want.



There are really two concepts
when it comes to money:

The Bible teaches us to look at money and
see the concept of **stewardship**.



There are really two concepts when it comes to money:

The Bible teaches us to look at money and see the concept of **stewardship**.

Stewardship says it is **God's** and I will be held accountable for what I do with it.



¹¹ The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours;
everything in the world is yours—you created it all.

Psalm 89:11 NLT