**What are you withholding from God?**

Scripture: Acts 5:1-10

Our reading comes from the tragic story of Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, withholding a portion of the proceeds they made from selling property.  Here, the two attempted to give the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. The apostle, Peter, quickly calls out Ananias and lets him know that the money was his to do as he pleased. However, Ananias was guilty of lying to the Holy Spirit. Peter also confronted Sapphira for knowing and consenting to the actions of her husband. We read that both immediately fell and died once confronted, and convicted, of their sins.

With that thought in mind, are we ever guilty of withholding what God has given us? I am afraid so. I am afraid that in doing so, we allow Satan to use us as his instrument when we withhold from God. For this devotion, I am not speaking of issues regarding finances. I think we are sometimes guilty of withholding from the Lord through other avenues. When we are called to worship, do we worship with all we have? I know there have been many times in my life where I have been in church, yet my mind was elsewhere.  Regarding prayer, do we withhold our communication with the Lord? What about private devotion and study? Are we providing God with just as much time as we do our family, jobs, and leisure activities? I know for me, I am guilty of both. At times in my life, I looked like Ananias and Sapphira. When we are guilty of withholding from God, we make ourselves a poser, a liar, and a deceiver. What is so amazing about this story are the verses that appear prior to this passage. Luke shares in Acts 4:36-37  a similar story about Barnabas. However, Barnabas is noted for bringing all he had and laying it at the feet of the apostles. I pray that I am more like Barnabas and not like Ananias and Sapphira. I pray that I am not withholding anything from the Lord.

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