

“Was It Not Your Own?”

Acts 5:1-4

Introduction: God has blessed us richly in this life. He has given us dominion to use or misuse any or all those blessings. He allows us to decide for ourselves what choices we make in this life. Unfortunately, we don't always make the right choice.

I. Wealth

A. Ananias and Sapphira were not unlike us (Acts 5:1-4). They had some wealth. Yet, they weren't called on the carpet for what they had ... but how they used what they had. Before the land was sold and even after the land was sold, the apostle Peter reminds them they had the choice given from God to use that land or money in any manner they desired (vs. 4). However, they chose to use it in a deceitful way.

B. God has also given us the ability to choose how we use money. I can decide how much to spend on bills, how much to share with others and how much to give back to the Lord.

C. It's our choice to give a little or give a lot (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

D. Paul encourages everyone not to covet money but to be generous (1 Tim. 6:9-10, 17). The encouragement was given because it is our decision (vs. 17).

II. Abilities

God gives us abilities (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Pet. 4:11; Matt. 25:14-30). We decide how we will use our abilities.

III. Time

A. God gives us time (James 4:14-15). How do we use it?

B. Do we use our time to study (2 Tim. 2:15)? Do we use time to teach others? Do we use our time to worship Him?

C. We can use our time wisely or we can waste it. It's our choice!

IV. Our body

A. Our body is not our own (1 Cor. 6:19-20). God gave it to us to use.

B. Do we glorify God in the use of our body or do we degrade Him by our illicit use? (i.e. alcohol, tobacco, fornication, etc.) Again, it's our choice.

V. Influence

A. We are not here to serve ourselves (Rom. 14:7). We are here to influence others. Life is not about survival; it is about others.

B. Conversely, we can choose to be influenced adversely by others (1 Cor. 15:33). “Evil companions corrupt good morals.”

VI. God gives us the choice to become His children (John 1:12-13).

A. That “power” or “right” is in the ability to choose (vs. 11-12).

B. It was not given by blood line, birthright, or man’s own devices, but of God (vs. 13). His way! He gave us the choice.

C. I have the choice to become a Christian. However, it doesn’t mean I’ll make the right choice. God has given us the privilege to make the choice.

VII. We have a choice to remain faithful (Rev. 2:10). The early Church had it rough with physical persecution. Even to the point of death. Here John encourages them to be faithful because they had the choice not to be faithful. People will give up their faith for far less than physical persecution.

VIII. Forgiveness

A. God is willing to forgive our sins (1 John 1:9; Eph. 1:7). However, we choose whether to obey him.

B. **If** we repent of our sins God will forgive us. However, we choose whether to repent and ask his forgiveness. It is left up to us!

Conclusion: We all have the privilege to make choices. The privilege to make choices was given to us by God. God is watching to see what choices we make, and He will judge us by them. Will we hear the Lord ask on that final day, “was it not your own?” Or will we hear, “well done, good and faithful servant.” The choice is yours...