

## Life-Changing Words

# Sorry

### I. Introduction

- A. We're going to look at the word "sorry" by examining ourselves with unflinching honesty!
- B. Will you make asking God to deliver you, at any cost, the great priority of your life?
  - 1. "Barnabas" - - which means "son of encouragement"
- C. Acts 5:1-2 (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. <sup>2</sup>He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.*
- D. Acts 5:3-4 (NLT) *<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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!"*
- E. Acts 5:5 (NLT) *As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.*
- F. Acts 5:10-11 (NLT) *<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.*
- G. Spiritual power flows when people get real honest about their sin and about their need for God!
- H. II Corinthians 12:9a (NAS) *"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."*
  - 1. When we hide, that's when spiritual power decreases.

### II. How to Live the Word "Sorry" With Deep Spiritual Power Before God and Others

- A. Regularly do a fearless and searching moral inventory.
  - 1. Psalm 139:23-24 (NAS) *<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup>and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.*
  - 2. The 7 Deadly Sins are: pride, anger, lust, envy, gluttony, greed, and laziness.
  - 3. What the world needs the most is better people.
- B. Confess your sins to God, yourself, and at times, another person.
  - 1. James 5:16a (NAS) *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.*
- C. Do whatever you can to make right what you have made wrong.
  - 1. Romans 12:18 (NAS) *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*
  - 2. At its core, taking a moral inventory, and doing confession, and making amends, is the way that transformation and redemption happen in a person's life.

### III. Barriers That Will Keep You From Doing This

- A. You'll start to think, "I don't really need to do this. Other people are way worse than I am. There are murderers out there, adulterers, kidnappers, addicts, etc. They need to do this. But my life is pretty much okay."
  - 1. The sins of "decent" people are incredibly dangerous and subtle.
  - 2. It was "decent people" who put Jesus on the cross!

- B. The evil one will put the thought in your mind of, "I know I should do this. I ought to do this. I know God wants me to do this. But, I don't want to do it."
1. If you're serious about following Jesus, then, "I don't want to do it" died a long time ago in your life!
  2. There's no other way to follow Jesus than dying!
  3. Galatians 2:20 (NAS) *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."*
  4. If you want to live a resurrected life, you have to die first!
  5. Because we need to keep dying!

#### **IV. Conclusion**