



# **The Consequences of Losing the Fear of the Lord**

A journey through Romans 3:18, Exodus 32:1-6, and Acts 5:1-11

# Understanding Consequences

**1**

## Action

What you choose to do

**2**

## Result

What happens because of it

**Galatians 6:7:** *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."*

## Natural Consequences

- Touch fire → Get burned
- Don't eat → Get hungry
- Live without God → Experience emptiness

## Imposed Consequences

- Steal → Prison
- Work hard → Promotion
- Deliberate sin → God's discipline



# What Does It Mean to Lose the Fear of God?

The loss of the fear of God is one of the most dangerous spiritual conditions a person can experience.

## Like Losing Brakes

When brakes fail, even a small hill becomes deadly

## Gradual Decline

Doesn't happen overnight—it's a slow slide

## Nothing to Stop You

No restraint from sliding into sin and destruction



# Three Branches

01

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## **The Root Problem**

Romans 3:18 - The theological  
foundation

02

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## **Old Testament Example**

Exodus 32:1-6 - Historical  
corporate example

03

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## **New Testament Example**

Acts 5:1-11 - Church age individual example



# Branch 1: The Root Problem

## Romans 3:18

*"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

### What It Means

- God not in their consciousness
- Living as if God doesn't exist
- No accountability considered

### Like a Worker Without a Boss

When the boss travels, worker arrives late, steals supplies, does personal business—living as if no one is watching



# Why Does This Happen?



## Sin Nature

Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fall short



## Pride & Self-Sufficiency

Want to be their own authority



## Love of Sin

John 3:19 - People loved darkness rather than light



## Satan's Deception

2 Cor 4:4 - Blinded minds of unbelievers

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## The Consequences That Follow (Romans 3:10-17):

- Unrighteousness and lack of understanding
- Destructive speech—deceit, cursing, bitterness
- Turning away, becoming worthless
- Violence and destruction of others

📄 **Discussion Question:** What are signs in our society and church that show people have "no fear of God before their eyes"?

# Branch 2: The Golden Calf

## Exodus 32:1-6

While Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Law, the Israelites grew impatient and created a golden calf to worship.

"These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"





# How They Lost the Fear of God



## Impatience & Doubt

Moses delayed—they forgot Red Sea, manna, miracles. Just 40 days!



## Leadership Compromise

Aaron gave in to pressure instead of standing firm



## Substituting True God

Credited man-made idol with God's work. "Golden calf Christianity"



## Corruption & Indulgence

"Rose up to play"—sexual immorality and wild partying



# The Devastating Consequences

## Immediate

# 3,000

## Deaths by Sword

In a single day

- God's anger burned
- Moses interceded to prevent total destruction
- Plague struck the people

## Long-term

- Permanent stain on Israel's history
- Referenced repeatedly as warning
- Delayed journey to Promised Land
- God wouldn't go with them personally

 **Discussion Question:** What are the "golden calves" we're tempted to create when God seems silent? How do we maintain faith during waiting periods?

# Branch 3: Ananias & Sapphira

## Acts 5:1-11

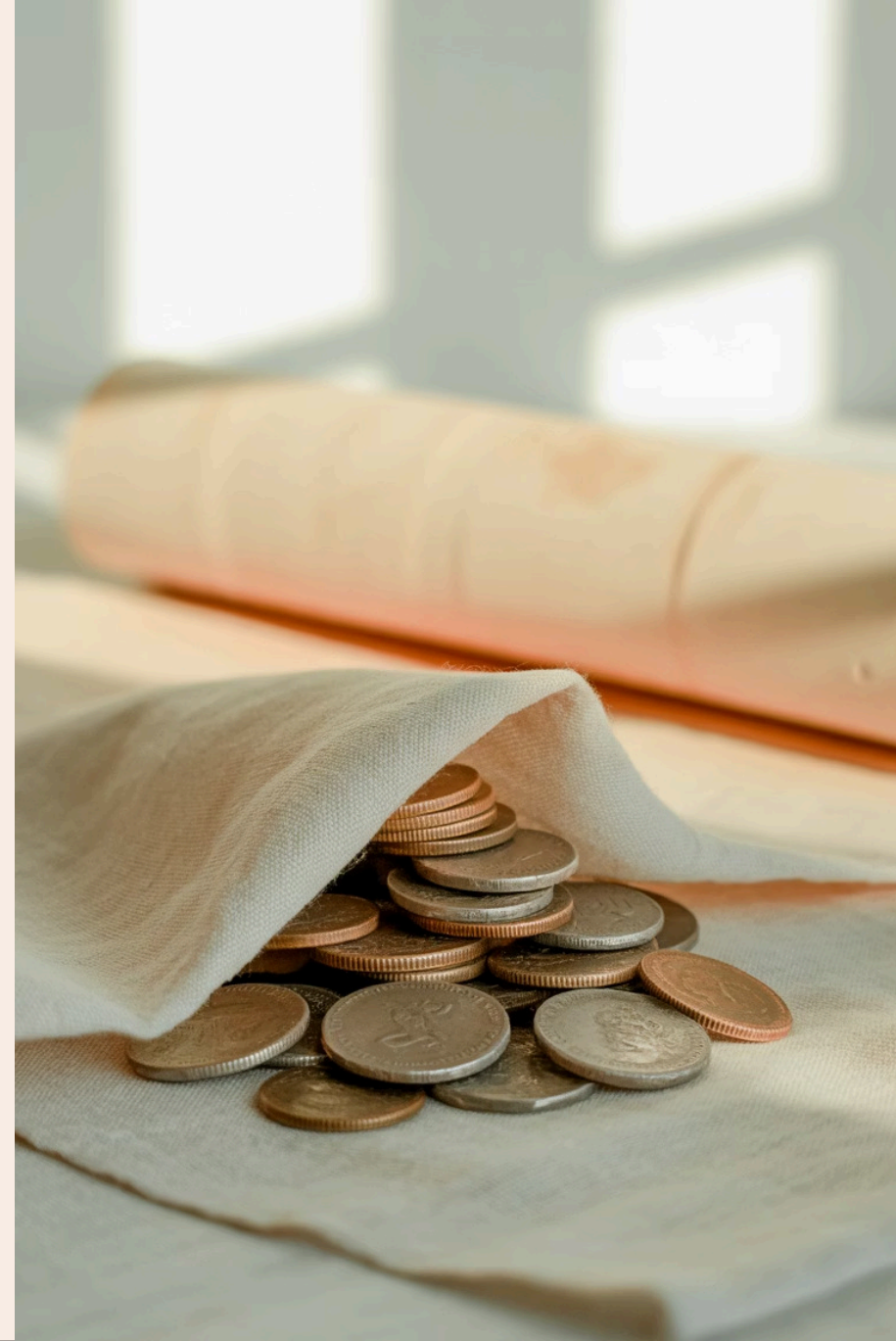
Early church believers were selling possessions and giving to those in need. Ananias and Sapphira sold property but secretly kept back part while pretending to give everything.

### The Deception

Wanted praise like Barnabas without the same sacrifice

### The Real Problem

Not keeping money—that was their right. **Lying about it** to look more spiritual



# Testing the Holy Spirit

*"Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" - Peter to Ananias*

|                                            |                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Knowing God is present but sinning anyway  | Knowing God sees everything but trying to hide               |
| Treating God casually despite His holiness | Challenging God's authority to see "what will really happen" |

## Modern Applications:

- Testifying falsely about "big offerings"
- Exaggerating prayer life or fasting to seem holy
- Lying about "miracles" to gain attention
- Pretending righteousness while hiding secret sins

**The Consequence:** Both dropped dead immediately when confronted. Divine judgment, not human punishment.

📄 **Discussion Question:** Why does God's judgment seem less immediate today? Does that mean we can be less concerned about holiness? (Hebrews 10:31, 2 Peter 3:9)

# How to Maintain the Fear of God



## Meditate on God's Word

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 - Fear grows as we know Him better



## Remember His Faithfulness

Psalm 77:11-12 - Don't let impatience erase memory



## Accountability in Community

Hebrews 3:13 - We need others to stay alert



## Honest Heart Examination

Psalm 139:23-24 - Serving for His glory or our reputation?



## Remember Holiness & Mercy

Psalm 130:3-4 - Reverence for both justice and love

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The fear of God is not a burden but a **blessing** that keeps us from destructive paths. Restoration is possible through repentance and renewed commitment.