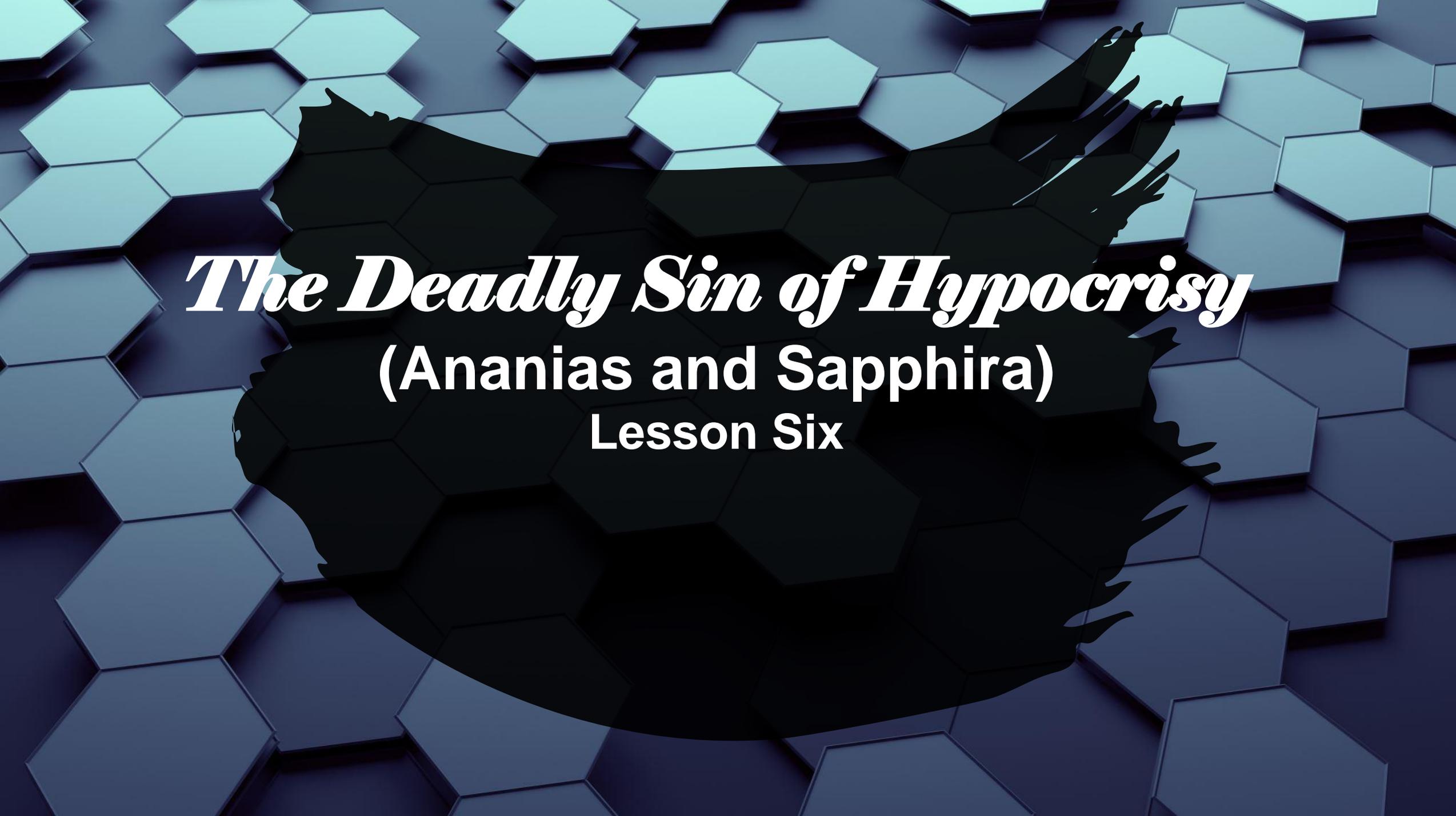




The Temptation Itch

MAY BIBLE STUDY SERIES



The Deadly Sin of Hypocrisy

(Ananias and Sapphira)

Lesson Six



Proverbs 12:22, Those who deal truthfully are [God's] delight.

“Honesty is a very expensive gift, don't expect it from cheap people.”

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Acts 5:1-11

Scripture Lesson

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. 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. 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!"

As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?” “Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.”

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

Ananias' name means "God is Gracious"; and his wife Sapphira's name (from which we get the word "sapphire") means "Fair" or "Beautiful".

Hypocrisy comes from the Greek (hypokrisis), which means "play-acting" or "wearing a mask;" saying one thing and doing something else.



Six Observations About Spiritual Hypocrisy:



1. Spiritual Hypocrisy Is Energized by Satan.

John 8:44, “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”



2. Spiritual Hypocrisy Is A Matter of The Heart.

**3. Spiritual Hypocrisy Never
Fools God.**

**4. Spiritual Hypocrisy Is
Always Connected with Other
Sins.**



5. Spiritual Hypocrisy Is Intentional.



Hypocrisy exists when your actions, your lifestyle, and your heart do not at all correspond with your spiritual convictions, beliefs, and pronouncements.

**We excuse our dishonesty by
telling ourselves that what
goes on in our homes is a
private matter, nobody's
business but our own.**



6. Spiritual Hypocrisy Is A Serious Offense.

The Desired Effect

“And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.”

**“We lose the approval of
God when we seek the
applause of men.”**



Bible Study Follow Up Chat

Questions:

- 1. What resonated with you from the story of Ananias and Sapphira?**
- 2. What was wrong with keeping back part of the proceeds from its sale? What was Ananias guilty of?**
- 3. How would you respond to the unbeliever who charges, “The church is full of hypocrites”?**
- 4. Why is hypocrisy such a deadly sin? How can we detect it and fight it in ourselves?**

5. How can a person who is prone to be a people-pleaser become a God-pleaser?

6. How honest should we be about our personal struggles? Should we share all our struggles with everyone? What guidelines apply here?

7. Have you ever made a promise that you could not keep? What do you do when you realize that you cannot keep that promise?

8. “We are all Ananias and Sapphira.” Agree or disagree? Why?