



Cell Guide



DATE: 02 JULY 2023 | SPEAKER: ELDER LEE EE YANG
TOPIC: RESTORING THE FEAR OF THE LORD | SCRIPTURE: [ACTS 5:1-11](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Examine areas in their lives that are out of alignment of God's will, design and purpose
2. Desire to cultivate the Fear of the Lord in their lives

SERMON SUMMARY

Although the early church was experiencing revival, Ananias and Sapphira's lives grew out of alignment from God's ways and direction for that season. They sought to maintain a public image that did not match the condition and desires of their hearts. As a result, they lost their focus, their integrity and the fear of the Lord in their lives.

Likewise, our lives must be in constant alignment with God's will and purposes. In order to do so, we must learn to cultivate the Fear of the Lord in our lives. It is a healthy type of fear where we do not approach God on our own terms, but in holy reverence. Then, we will be able to maintain our focus on God and His purposes, as well as maintain integrity in our lives.

SERMON RECAP

[Acts 5:1-11](#) is an abrupt halt to the momentum of the early church. It is important to remember that God purifies His church in times of revival. Times of revival is when God exposes things in our hearts that are sinful. Here are 3 observations about Ananias and Sapphira:

a) They Lost Their Focus ([Acts 4:32-35](#))

- Both of them started spiritually well and were in the thick of the revival of the early church.
- However, Ananias and Sapphira's attention soon shifted from God to man. They withheld a portion of the proceeds that they pledged to give because they wanted to attract the praises and affirmation of people without them really doing so. They started to pursue their image in front of people.
- Our motivation matters – who we are and what we want to be known as must be the same.

b) They Lost Their Integrity ([Acts 5:3-4](#))

- Their unholy motivation to pursue an image in front of people opened a door for Satan to come in.

- Satan filled their hearts and this caused them to lie. They were deluded into thinking that it is ok to lie to the Holy Spirit.
- Are we putting God’s stamp on the things that are not right in our lives? God desires honesty in our innermost parts.

c) They Lost the Fear of the Lord (Acts 5:9-10)

- Sapphira had the chance to confess, but she did not because she had lost the fear of the Lord.
- The Fear of the Lord involves reverence – a healthy type of fear. We must never approach God on our own terms.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Share with the group your relationship with your parents when you were much younger. Then answer these questions:**
 - a. Did you have a “fear” of your parents? What does that “fear” mean?**
 - b. How does this “fear” of your parents differ from the “Fear of the Lord”?**

Leader’s Notes

This is an introduction / ice-breaker question. This question helps to examine what it means to have the Fear of the Lord. One of the best examples of how to understand the Fear of the Lord is see how we relate to our parents, especially when we were younger. By examining how we (should have) related with them, we can draw out some similarities with how we should relate with God.

Transition

For most of us, we do have fun with our parents – we laugh with them, play with them, joke around with them, and at times treat them like our buddies. But at the same time, all of us would have a certain “fear” of them – we would honour and pay attention to what they have to say, we do not want to offend them or go against their instructions, we try and walk in their ways and instructions, etc.

Our relationship with the Lord is very similar with how we (should) relate with our parents. Yes, He is good, He loves us and is our Friend. But at the same time, He is holy and righteous – He cannot tolerate sin, disobedience, injustice and self-centeredness.

So, having the fear of the Lord means that although we can come to God as we are, we cannot approach Him on our own terms. We cannot live the life He gave us according to what we desire. God is to be behold, revered and not offended. This in a sense is what the fear of the Lord is.

- 2. Bible teacher, Derek Prince, once commented, “True wisdom is inseparable from the fear of the Lord.” Why do you think that is so?**

Leader’s Notes

One of the fundamental beliefs for Christians is this – God is good! Not only that, He is the source of all that is good. God is the definition of goodness. Nothing that is the opposite of good will come out from Him. Therefore, every instruction, command and discipline that He gives to mankind comes out of His goodness.

To fear the Lord means to have a reverence for Him by walking in His ways (His instructions). Therefore, when we choose to walk in God’s ways, we are doing what is best for us and the people around us. When we do so, we are being wise.

So, wisdom and the Fear of the Lord cannot be separated.

Transition

Indeed, wisdom and the Fear of the Lord cannot be separated. So, let us examine how this can be applied in our lives so that we can live as the wise and not the unwise.

- 3. Read [Proverbs 28:14](#). In Scripture, the Fear of the Lord often corresponds with humility and lowliness and sensitivity of heart. Reflect on these characteristics. Share with the group which areas of your life you think are missing these characteristics. Then, pray for one another so that the Fear of the Lord may return to these areas and you will then walk as the wise.**

Leader's Notes

This is an application question. It is not enough to just know and understand what the Fear of the Lord is. It is so much more important for us to apply it in our lives. Encourage your members to examine honestly so that they can live as the wise. The areas that one can examine are:

- How we approach our relationship with God
- How we approach cells and services
- How we steward our work
- How we parent our children
- How we steward our marriages / singlehood
- How we steward our finances
- How approach questionable business practices

Resource

[What Does it Mean for the Christian to Fear God](#) by John Piper

Closing

The Fear of the Lord is a critical element in our lives as disciples. When Christ return may we be found to have the Fear of the Lord in our lives such that God would exclaim to us – “Well done, good and faithful servant!”. Let us posture to have the Fear of the Lord in our lives.

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for each other that the Fear of the Lord will be present in every area of our lives.
- Pray that we will encourage each other to fear God and not men / the world.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church that God will revive us individually as we go through the 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting.

3. World

- Pray for good weather in Singapore during this hot season. Pray also that there will not be any haze.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.
- Continue to pray for the heatwave that is affecting India and Mexico
- Pray for South Korea as they face torrential rain that has caused flooding and the evacuation of hundreds of families.
- Pray for riots/protests that are affecting France at the moment

- Pray for Japan as they release the Fukushima radioactive water into the ocean

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Current Sermon Series.** Join us on a seven-week journey to discover seven distinct traits of the early church that will provide fresh revelation of how God wants to empower us as His river flowing outwards. May the lives of the first disciples inspire us to be the church that continues to advance the Kingdom of God and reveal Christ in our generation! (*Sermon titles subjected to change*)

- 28 May : A Beautiful Mission
- 04 Jun : Revisiting Pentecost
- 11 Jun : Sharing Life Together in the Spirit
- 18 Jun : Ministering in the Power of Jesus
- 25 Jun : Holy Audacity: The Call to Boldness
- 02 Jul : Restoring the Fear of the Lord
- 09 Jul : Unstoppable

2. **Marriage Retreat.** We had a powerful time with 27 married couples in March as we piloted our first Marriage Retreat. It was a powerful time of learning, rejuvenation, healing and restoration for our couples. No couple left unimpacted. We would like to encourage married couples to join us at this retreat and experience God's hand on your marriage.

- For more information, download the eBrochure here: rlc.sg/mrBrochure
- Highlights from previous retreat: <https://youtu.be/csHrCtBsuWg>
- Link to signup: rlc.sg/mr

3. **Caleb Ministry: *Helping Seniors & Retirees Live Well and Finish Well in Christ.*** If you are working, retired or intending to retire in the next 5 years, we invite you to join us at our first event:

- **Finishing Well** *A four-part teaching series by Rev David Wong*
- **19 Aug, 16 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov 2023 9am to 12pm**
- **Topics include:**
 - Few Finish Well
 - Lessons from The Three Kings
 - Ignorance, Indulgence and Resilience
 - Open-ended Closures & Principles of Finishing Well
- **Registration Link:** rlc.sg/finishingwell
- **Cost:** Food: \$20 per pax (To be paid via PayNow when you register for the course.) | Book: \$20 per copy (To be purchased in-person in the Foyer outside Worship Centre on Sundays, 23 & 30 Jul.)

4. **Cultivating Emotional & Mental Wellness Seminar. Sun, 13 Aug | 11am-1pm Grace Chapel (Level 1)**

- This seminar will:

- Help individuals who are struggling with emotional or mental wellness
 - Educate and equip caregivers of those who are struggling with emotional or mental wellness
 - **Speaker: Dr Danny Ng**, a clinical psychologist in private practice and the President of the Singapore chapter of Renovaré (USA) offering resources for Christian Spiritual Formation for spiritual growth. He is the founder of Family Connexion, a Christian ministry whose focus lies in promoting a greater bonding and deepening of relationships between people, especially within the family.
 - Register at rlc.sg/counems
5. **Alpha Course. 1 July – 16 September.** If you have questions about Christianity that you are seeking answers for, we invite you to join us for Alpha - a series of interactive sessions that explores the basics of the Christian faith.
- For More Information: rlc.sg/alpha
 - To Sign Up: rlc.sg/join-alpha

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 3*
 - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec
 - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec

2. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).** The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Wed Night Prayer Meeting.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.

3. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
4. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>
5. **SuperLife Ministry: Call for Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
6. **Technical & Production (TAP): Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.
7. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. worry, fear, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '*The RiverLife Podcast*' on Spotify.
3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
4. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
5. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806DTNO*.

Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4

Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806DSCB*.

Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200711586WDON*

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

