

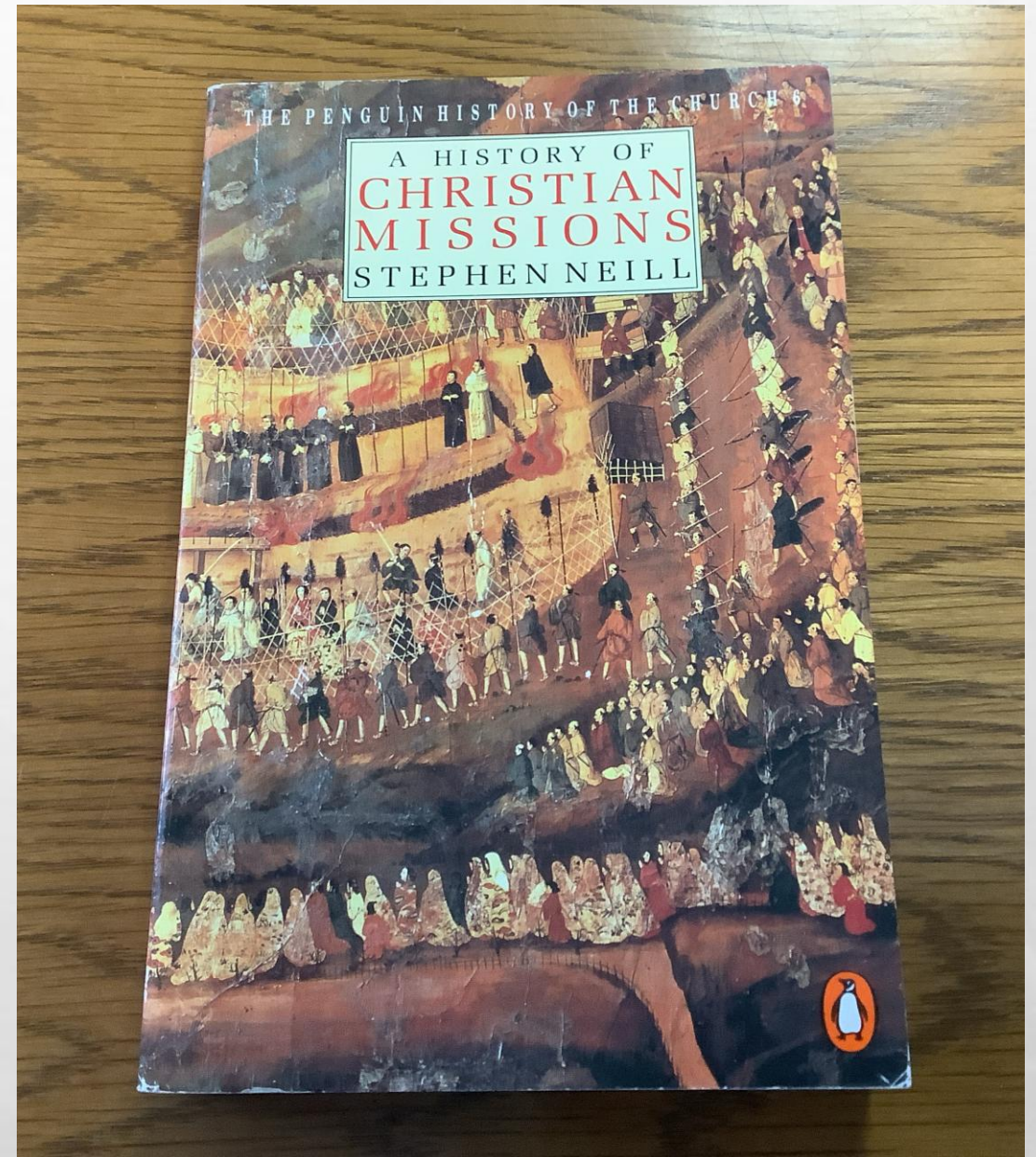
*ACTS:
A CHRIST-CENTERED, SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, MULTIETHNIC
CHURCH ON MISSION*



EARLY CHURCH VIGNETTES: PART 4

THE EARLY EXPANSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- THEY DEEPLY BELIEVED IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS FOR THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD.
- EVERYONE WAS A WITNESS OF THE GOSPEL.
- THEY SHARED A COMMON CHARITABLE LIFE.
- PERSECUTION ACTUALLY RESULTED IN GREATER COMMITMENT AND CONVERSIONS.



- 1. RADICAL GOSPEL ATTITUDE**
- 2. SACRIFICIAL GOSPEL ACTION**
- 3. DISCERNING GOSPEL ASSOCIATION**

UNITY IN BELIEF AND IN LIFE PRIORITIES AROUND THE GOSPEL.



1. RADICAL GOSPEL ATTITUDE

ACTS 4:32-33

[32] NOW THE FULL NUMBER OF THOSE WHO BELIEVED WERE OF ONE HEART AND SOUL, AND NO ONE SAID THAT ANY OF THE THINGS THAT BELONGED TO HIM WAS HIS OWN, BUT THEY HAD EVERYTHING IN COMMON. [33] AND WITH GREAT POWER THE APOSTLES WERE GIVING THEIR TESTIMONY TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS, AND GREAT GRACE WAS UPON THEM ALL.

2. SACRIFICIAL GOSPEL ACTION

ACTS 4:34-35

[34] THERE WAS NOT A NEEDY PERSON AMONG THEM, FOR AS MANY AS WERE OWNERS OF LANDS OR HOUSES SOLD THEM AND BROUGHT THE PROCEEDS OF WHAT WAS SOLD [35] AND LAID IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET, AND IT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO EACH AS ANY HAD NEED.

JOHN CALVIN

1509-1564



WE MUST HAVE HEARTS THAT ARE HARDER THAN IRON IF WE ARE NOT MOVED BY THE READING OF THIS NARRATIVE. IN THOSE DAYS THE BELIEVERS GAVE ABUNDANTLY OF WHAT WAS THEIR OWN; WE IN OUR DAY ARE CONTENT NOT JUST JEALOUSLY TO RETAIN WHAT WE POSSESS, BUT CALLOUSLY TO ROB OTHERS...THEY SOLD THEIR OWN POSSESSIONS IN THOSE DAYS; IN OUR DAY IT IS THE LUST TO PURCHASE THAT REIGNS SUPREME. AT THAT TIME LOVE MADE EACH MAN'S OWN POSSESSIONS COMMON PROPERTY FOR THOSE IN NEED; IN OUR DAY SUCH IS THE INHUMANITY OF MANY, THAT THEY BEGRUDGE TO THE POOR A COMMON DWELLING UPON EARTH, THE COMMON USE OF WATER, AIR AND SKY.

3. DISCERNING GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

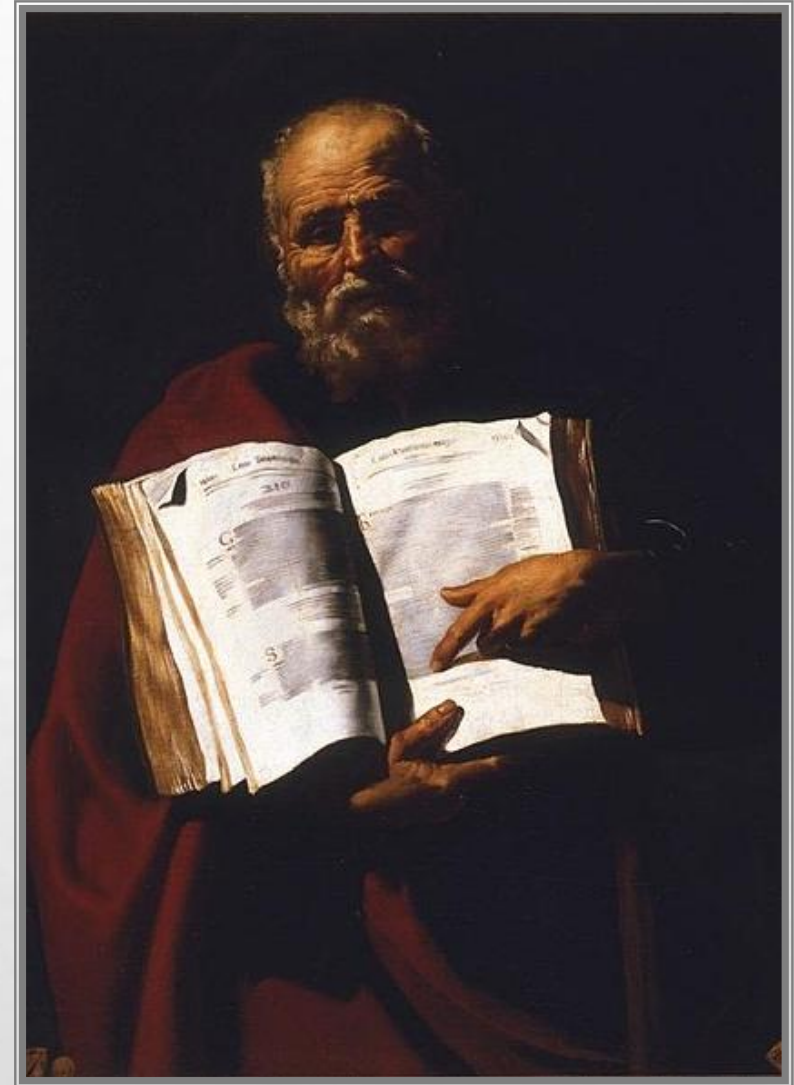
ACTS 4:34-35

[34] THERE WAS NOT A NEEDY PERSON AMONG THEM, FOR AS MANY AS WERE OWNERS OF LANDS OR HOUSES SOLD THEM AND BROUGHT THE PROCEEDS OF WHAT WAS SOLD [35] AND LAID IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET, AND IT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO EACH AS ANY HAD NEED.

CHRISTIAN CARING IS CHRISTIAN SHARING BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

ACTS 4:36-37

**[36] THUS JOSEPH, WHO WAS ALSO CALLED BY
THE APOSTLES BARNABAS (WHICH MEANS SON
OF ENCOURAGEMENT), A LEVITE, A NATIVE OF
CYPRUS, [37] SOLD A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO
HIM AND BROUGHT THE MONEY AND LAID IT AT
THE APOSTLES' FEET.**



ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA – ACTS 5:1-11

[1] BUT A MAN NAMED ANANIAS, WITH HIS WIFE SAPPHIRA, SOLD A PIECE OF PROPERTY, [2] AND WITH HIS WIFE'S KNOWLEDGE HE KEPT BACK FOR HIMSELF SOME OF THE PROCEEDS AND BROUGHT ONLY A PART OF IT AND LAID IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET. [3] BUT PETER SAID, "ANANIAS, WHY HAS SATAN FILLED YOUR HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TO KEEP BACK FOR YOURSELF PART OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE LAND? [4] WHILE IT REMAINED UNSOLD, DID IT NOT REMAIN YOUR OWN? AND AFTER IT WAS SOLD, WAS IT NOT AT YOUR DISPOSAL? WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVE CONTRIVED THIS DEED IN YOUR HEART? YOU HAVE NOT LIED TO MAN BUT TO GOD." [5] WHEN ANANIAS HEARD THESE WORDS, HE FELL DOWN AND BREATHED HIS LAST. AND GREAT FEAR CAME UPON ALL WHO HEARD OF IT ...[11] AND GREAT FEAR CAME UPON THE WHOLE CHURCH AND UPON ALL WHO HEARD OF THESE THINGS.

“

**LUKE SEEMS TO BE UNDERLINING THE
GREAT EVIL OF SINNING AGAINST GOD'S
PEOPLE. FALSEHOOD RUINS FELLOWSHIP.**

”

JOHN STOTT

3. DISCERNING GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

ACTS 5:5, 11

**[5] WHEN ANANIAS HEARD THESE WORDS, HE FELL DOWN AND
BREATHED HIS LAST. AND GREAT FEAR CAME UPON ALL WHO HEARD
OF IT ...[11] AND GREAT FEAR CAME UPON THE WHOLE CHURCH AND
UPON ALL WHO HEARD OF THESE THINGS.**

APPLICATION

- **CARE TEAM:** ELAINE LANDBACK
- **SERENE GARDENS:** SARAH LEWAN
- **FOOD PANTRY:** MARGARET MOUNTAIN
- **NEW LIFE RESCUE MISSION:** BARRY BRUNKE
- **ELL MINISTRY:** PASTOR BEAR AND JOE GENDICH