

Trials in the Early Church

Introduction: "When God is working in power, Satan is on hand to counterfeit, \_\_\_\_\_ and contend. But where there is real spiritual power, deceit and hypocrisy will be readily exposed" (MacDonald).

- I. Problems from \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 5:1-11)
- A. Not every church member of the early church was fully \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.
  - B. There never was, and there never will be a \_\_\_\_\_ church.
  - C. "Their sin was in \_\_\_\_\_ to give all, while only giving some" (MacDonald).
  - D. "Ananias, a believer, was influenced by \_\_\_\_\_, not the Sprit!" (Bible Knowledge Commentary).
  - E. There are those who give just to get \_\_\_\_\_ by others.
  - F. You can fool the church members, but you can never fool \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 15:3).
  - G. "It was a case of God showing His displeasure at this eruption of \_\_\_\_\_ in His church" (MacDonald).
  - H. "Judgment must \_\_\_\_\_ at the house of God" (1 Pe. 4:17).
- II. Problems from \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 5:12-42)
- A. God continued to give the apostles the power to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. The religious leaders could not suppress their \_\_\_\_\_ anymore.
  - C. By delivering the apostles from prison, God was showing the religious leaders who was really in \_\_\_\_\_ and who His servants were.
  - D. The gospel is the word of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Jn. 5:12).
  - E. They were not afraid to preach the \_\_\_\_\_ to the authorities.
  - F. Instead of \_\_\_\_\_ from the conviction they felt, the religious leaders resorted to anger and plotted to kill the apostles.
  - G. Gamaliel wisely counseled the leaders to let God deal with the apostles: if it were a cult it would \_\_\_\_\_ away, but if it were of God then nobody would be able to defeat it.
  - H. There were many cults in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostles—there is nothing new under the sun.
  - I. The disciples were beaten and told to never teach in the name of Christ—what would the modern day church do if this were commanded \_\_\_\_\_?
  - J. They counted it an \_\_\_\_\_ to be able to suffer for Christ (1 Pe. 2:17-20).
  - K. "The disciple is not above his \_\_\_\_\_" (Mk. 10:24).
  - L. "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world \_\_\_\_\_ you" (1 Jn. 3:13).
  - M. \_\_\_\_\_ could stop these disciples from preaching Christ.

Conclusion: There will always be opposition to the work of the Lord. We will either find ourselves as part of the problem or as part of the solution. Which are you?