



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### “What are You Holding Back?”

Sis Techie Rodriguez, Elder- Founder

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In our life, what are we holding back? Are we willing to give everything to God, so He can use us in changing this world?

There are two sets of people in this world. One set is composed of those who keep something back from God, and whose lives come to a quick end; the second set of people are those who hold nothing back, and become God's instruments to change the world.

#### **Characters from the Bible Who Did Not Hold Back:**

1. Peter and John who despite being warned by the Sanhedrin never stopped preaching the Gospel (Acts 4:18-20).
2. The Apostles and the Community (Acts 2:42-47) that devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles shared everything according to each one's needs.
3. Barnabas who sold his field and gave the proceeds to the apostles (Acts 4:36-37).

#### **Who Held Back Something from God?**

Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a property, but they retained part of the money for themselves (Acts 5:1-11). They committed the following sins:

##### **1. They engaged in rivalry.**

They saw the admiration that Barnabas received and they also wanted adulation from people.

A real servant of Christ does not seek the approval of people (Gal 1:10).

##### **2. They robbed God.**

Regardless of the amount of money that they kept back, they were robbing God because they professed to give the entire proceeds to the church's treasury (Titus 2:10, Mal 3:10).

##### **3. They were dishonest.**

Their dishonesty was pre-meditated. They allowed satan to devour them from within. Dishonesty is a big problem in our world. We cannot cheat God (Gal 6:7).

##### **4.They plotted to cover up their fraud.**

It was not a sin committed at the spur-of-the-moment. They talked it over and agreed to the fraud (Acts 5:2).

##### **5.They were hypocrites.**

They tried to appear more generous than they actually were. Let us remove the mask of hypocrisy and show who we really are, for God detests hypocrites (Mt 23:13).

##### **6. They did not fulfill their commitment.**

We should fulfill our promises, or not make a promise at all (Eccl 5:3-6). Let us not allow our mouth to lead us to sin.

##### **7.They lied to God.**

God is a God of truth, and He hates liars (Prov 6:16-19). We cannot be children of God and be liars at the same time (Jn 8:44). The Holy Spirit was sent to teach us the truth (Jn 16:13).

##### **8. They committed wicked schemes.**

They were judged for their deceit and hypocrisy. No one is being forced to give everything, but once a commitment is made, we should not hold back.

**Whenever we feel like holding back to God, let us remember the following:**

1. The things we have are not even ours. God owns everything.
2. All that we accumulate stays in this world.
3. If we release the things of this world, we can change this world.

#### **Reflection:**

1. Are you holding anything back from God? Are you giving Him your absolute best?
2. Do you have the kind of passion that does not hold anything back from bringing people to Jesus?

**Transcriber/Writer:** Bro. Jerald Tristan R. Doma

**Editor:** Sis Jo Advincula

**Final Editor/Approver:** sis Vera I. Tuplano

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