



Daily Verse and Comment

Acts 5:3

(3) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?

New King James Version

This verse is unclear on the nature of the Holy Spirit, and it must stand in the light of verses from other parts of the Bible before it is correctly understood. For instance, nowhere in the Bible is the Holy Spirit shown to have manlike shape. The Father and the Son are revealed to have body parts like us—they even sit on thrones—but the Spirit is described to be like wind, oil, fire, and water.

The only shape it is ever given is that of a dove ([Matthew 3:16](#); [Mark 1:10](#); [Luke 3:22](#); [John 1:32](#)), and some dispute that the Spirit *looked* like a dove but rather in a visible form *descended* like a dove. Nevertheless, the Spirit is never described to have a humanlike shape. Man was created in the image and *likeness of God* ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)), so man looks like [God](#). If the Spirit were also a person in a "[trinity](#)," it too would look like a man just as the Father and Son do ([John 14:9](#)). Yet, at best, the Spirit had a dove's shape in one instance, and a man and a dove have never been mistaken for each other.

Other verses show the apostles giving praise, glory, and honor to the Father and Son without mentioning the Spirit ([Romans 1:7](#); [I Corinthians 1:1-4](#); [Galatians 1:1-5](#); and so on through the epistles). If it were part of the Godhead, this would be a grave omission.

Many of the Spirit's attributes can be shown to originate in the Father or the Son. For example, the Spirit is named "Comforter" in [John 14:26](#) (KJV), yet the Father is called "the God of all comfort" in [II Corinthians 1:3-4](#). Other

examples include making intercession: [Romans 8:26](#); [I Timothy 2:5](#); and [Hebrews 7:25](#); and enabling spiritual understanding: [I Corinthians 2:10-16](#) and [I John 5:20](#).

In addition, the Spirit has no familial relationship to Christians. God is our Father and [Christ](#) is our Elder Brother. Paul says "Jerusalem above . . . is the mother of us all" ([Galatians 4:26](#)). The Spirit, though, is not a person but a gift of God, the mind and power of God working in and through us ([II Timothy 1:7](#)).

Finally, the history of the trinity doctrine is open knowledge. The [true church](#) never accepted the idea, and even the false church did not embrace it until three centuries after Christ! Even then, it was only accepted as a political concession to the Roman emperor, Constantine. Add these facts to its absence in the Scripture, and it is no wonder the Catholics and Protestants call it a mystery!

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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