

**Acts 5:3 says that Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit and verse 5 says that he lied to God. So the Holy Spirit must be a Person in the Godhead.**

Response: Jesus called the holy spirit the “*finger of God*,” so the holy spirit is God’s instrument of activity, and the Bible associates God’s spirit with His power.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, the holy spirit should not be regarded as a person, whether as part of a trinity or as a totally separate person; but it is reflective of Personality, and that Personality is God (the Father). There is a point expressed in the Athanasian Creed, the trinitarian statement of belief, with which the patertheist<sup>22</sup> can agree: “The Holy Spirit is of the Father... neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding ....” Since the holy spirit is a part of God, lying to it is the same as lying to God.<sup>23</sup> Also, Jesus, having received from his Father all authority in heaven and earth, has been granted exercise over the holy spirit. He can use it, direct it, distribute it, and communicate through it as he will. Therefore, the holy spirit can be reflective of his personality as well.

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<sup>21</sup> Compare Matthew 12:28 to Luke 11:20; and compare Genesis 1:2 to Jeremiah 32:17; consider Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8. [Prop # 21]

<sup>22</sup> *Patertheism*: The doctrinal position that the Father is the only true God. From the Greek words *pater* (*father*) and *theos* (*God*). (Accent on the second syllable as in *paternity*.) [Prop # 21]

<sup>23</sup> Consider this, Peter also said, “*Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie... How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart?*” Because of the parallels in Peter’s words here, do trinitarians teach that Ananias is one person of a triune Satan? -- Acts 5:3, 4 (RSV) [Prop # 21]