

said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, . . . You have not lied to men but to God.' ").

Negatively, the doctrine of the Trinity does not teach that God is one Person. God is three Persons. The doctrine does not teach that God is three Gods. God is one God. The doctrine does not teach that there are three divine essences (the "essence" of anything is its ultimate nature). There is only one essence that is divine.

Positively, the doctrine of the Trinity teaches that there is one Being that is divine, but that three Persons participate in that one Being. The doctrine teaches that there is only one God, but that there are three Persons who are that one God. The doctrine teaches that there is one essence (combination of essential characteristics) that is fully divine, but that there are three divine Persons who fully share that essence.

Thus God is a "tri-unity", a "three-in-one", a Trinity, because God is at the same time one and three (but in different senses). God is one in divine essence, and three in divine Persons.

The Trinity, therefore, is the doctrine that there are three Persons who are characterized, through and through, by a unique combination of divine qualities, attributes, perfections, which combination is the same for all three.

SUMMARY AND BRIEF APPLICATION OF THESE GREAT AND AWESOME TRUTHS

Thus far we have learned that the Spirit of God is a person, and that He is divine. We have learned that the Spirit is present everywhere, or omnipresent. And we have learned that the Spirit is both one with and yet distinct from the Father and the Son.

How do these truths apply to me?

First, the Spirit of God is a person, capable of personal inter-relationships. Do I realize this? Do I treat Him as a person? Or has He been virtually unknown to me in a personal sense? Have I viewed Him as some kind of an impersonal power or as some sort of vague influence? Do I realize that I can hurt Him, grieve Him by my thoughts or words or actions, or that I can lie to Him? Do I enjoy a person-to-person relationship with Him? Is He a real person in my day-to-day life?

Second, the Spirit of God is a divine Person. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all His perfections. Do I recognize Him as God? Do I realize that He is equal in power and glory with the Father and the Son? Do I realize that He has all of the attributes and all of the rights of deity? Do I understand that He deserves the adoration, worship, praise, obedience, and service that God deserves? Is the Spirit of God God to me?

Third, the Spirit of God is omnipresent. Do I realize what this means? Am I aware of the fact that I am always in His presence, that He is my environment, that I can never go anywhere where He is not already present, that I need never go somewhere in order to find Him, and that