

LESSON 7 Jesus, the Healer and Baptizer

You have studied many things about Jesus already! You have learned that He is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Word of God, and the Light of the world. These titles tell us important truths about who He is.

Looking at the things Jesus does is another way of understanding who He is. In this lesson, we will examine two of His works: Jesus heals our bodies and souls, and Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. It is important to know that Jesus can do these things because of who He is. He can heal us because He is the Son of God who created everything—including our bodies. And He can baptize us in the Holy Spirit because He is the Son of Man, the perfect sacrifice who has been exalted at the Father's right hand in heaven. From there He sends the Holy Spirit upon His children. He does these things for us because He loves us. What a wonderful Friend!

Jesus is alive today, and He continues to be the Healer and Baptizer. As you study these ministries of His, you will discover the many wonderful blessings they include.

The Plan

- A. Jesus, the Divine Physician
- B. Jesus, the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit

The Goals

- 1. Explain why Jesus is able to heal people today.
- 2. Discuss what the Bible says about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A. JESUS, THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN

Goal 1. Explain why Jesus is able to heal people today.

In the pages of the Gospels, we meet Jesus as the Great Physician, Healer of body and soul. And as we talk with His people, we discover that He continues His practice today.

Healer of Body and Soul

What is a physician? What does he or she do? The answers to these questions help us to appreciate Jesus as our Divine Physician. A good physician:

- 1. Wants to help and heal the sick.
- 2. Is qualified and prepared to treat the sick.
- 3. Examines patients thoroughly.
- 4. Diagnoses his or her patients' problems.
- 5. Prescribes the proper treatment.
- 6. Applies the treatment needed (with the patient's consent).

Are these six statements true about Jesus? Yes. Every one of them! He showed that He cared for those who were sick in soul and body. As our Creator, He does not need to make medical tests to discover our problems. He knows us and understands

our needs. He made us and can easily repair any part that is not functioning properly.

Healing and salvation are both a vital part of the Savior's ministry. In fact, the word salvation in the Bible includes health for the body as well as deliverance and safety for the soul.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. (Matthew 4:23–24)

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Matthew 8:17)

Jesus healed all who came to Him for healing—the blind, the sick, the crippled, and those whose spirits were warped with fear, suspicion, and hatred. Our Divine Physician came to bring health to the whole person—body, mind, emotions, and spirit. He wants us to enjoy life in all its fullness. John 10:10 records Jesus' words: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Continuation of His Work

Jesus is still the Great Physician. He sent His followers out to heal the sick in His name. What He did in person when He was here on earth as a man, He does now in answer to prayer and through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is just the same today. Thousands can tell you how Jesus has healed them in answer to prayer.

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues . . . they will place their hands on sick people, and they will

get well.” . . . Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:17–18, 20)

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14–15)

Application

- 1** According to the Bible, salvation includes health for the
 - a)** physical body only.
 - b)** soul only.
 - c)** body, mind, and soul.

- 2** Jesus is able to heal us of any kind of disease because He
 - a)** created us.
 - b)** lived on earth.
 - c)** taught about God.

- 3** Suppose a friend were to ask you this: “How can I be sure that Jesus Christ still heals today?” From the following list, select the two Scripture portions that would be the most direct answer to the question.
 - a)** Matthew 4:23–24
 - b)** John 10:10
 - c)** Hebrews 13:8
 - d)** James 5:14–15



B. JESUS, THE BAPTIZER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Goal 2. Discuss what the Bible says about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

We read in the Old Testament about leaders of God’s people—prophets, priests, and rulers—who were filled with the Holy Spirit. You remember that they were anointed with oil to set them apart for God. The oil poured on them was symbolic. They depended on God to pour His Spirit on them to give them the power to do whatever He wanted them to do.

One day, God gave the prophet Joel a wonderful promise. The time would come when God would pour His Spirit out on all His people, not just on their leaders.

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28–29)

Centuries later, God told John the Baptist that the Messiah would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. God had sent John the Baptist as His special messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah and to present Him publicly. Great crowds gathered to hear John preach. John baptized many of them in water to show that they had repented of their sins and now belonged to God. Then John told them:

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

Not long afterwards, John presented Jesus publicly. He used four descriptions or titles to describe Jesus and His mission:

1. Lamb of God

2. A man who . . . has surpassed me
3. He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit
4. The Son of God (John 1:29–34)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ . . . I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. . . . I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.” (John 1:29–30, 32–34)

The Bible uses the word *baptize* (which means “immerse” or “dip”) to speak of two different experiences: (1) being immersed in water to show repentance, and (2) receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. When God pours out, sends, or gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers, they are “baptized” or immersed in the Holy Spirit. The result is that they are “filled” with the Holy Spirit.

During the three and a half years of Jesus’ public ministry, His disciples must have wondered many times when He would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Jesus called this experience “the promise of the Father.” But He had to carry out His mission as the Lamb of God before He could be their Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. He had to die, rise again, and return to heaven. Then He would send the Holy Spirit to them. The night before Jesus died, He told His disciples many things about the Holy Spirit.

“And I [Jesus] will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever . . . But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will

teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. . . . When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. . . . But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. . . . But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13)

After Jesus’ resurrection, just before He went to heaven, He told His followers: 1) receive the Holy Spirit and His power so they could be witnesses for Him; 2) tell everybody everywhere about Jesus and His salvation.

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:4–5, 8)

Application

- 4** Jesus told His followers about a gift He would ask His Father to send them after He returned to heaven. The gift was the
- a)** Bible.
 - b)** forgiveness of their sins.
 - c)** healing of their bodies.
 - d)** Holy Spirit.

5 Following are several events connected with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Mark them with the numbers 1–5 in the order in which they happened.

- ... **a** Jesus fulfills His mission as the Lamb of God and dies for our sins.
- ... **b** Jesus returns to heaven.
- ... **c** Jesus tells His followers to wait until the Holy Spirit comes upon them.
- ... **d** Joel prophecies that God will pour out His Spirit on everyone.
- ... **e** John the Baptist presents Jesus as the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.



Fulfillment

Just before Jesus went to heaven He told His followers that a few days later they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. They returned to Jerusalem and waited. Ten days later—on the Day of Pentecost—it happened! Jesus baptized them (120 believers) with the Holy Spirit and fire. And they received the power He had promised—power to be His witnesses.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own

language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? . . . —we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:1–7, 11)

Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, gave the people God’s message: They were seeing God fulfill Joel’s prophecy. They had refused Jesus as the Messiah and crucified Him. But God raised Him from the dead. Jesus returned to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. This proved Jesus was the Messiah.

Luke records,

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. . . . Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:32–33, 36)

John’s message that Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit was true. Jesus was the Lamb of God, the Baptizer, the Son of God—the Messiah. How terrible that the people had not believed in Jesus! Their unbelief had sent Him to the Cross. Could God forgive them?

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” . . . Those who accepted his message were baptized, and

about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:37–39, 41)

From that point on, the book of Acts is the record of how the Spirit-filled believers were witnesses for Jesus wherever they went.

Does Jesus still baptize with the Holy Spirit? Yes! Joel’s prophecy is being fulfilled more widely now than at any other time in history. Around the world millions of believers have received the Pentecostal experience—the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus is bringing new life and power to many churches. We call this the charismatic renewal. Charisma means “gift.” The Holy Spirit comes as a gift and brings with Him many gifts of spiritual power.

Application

6 Peter said that the proof that Jesus was the Messiah and had been raised from the dead was the

- a)** coming of the Holy Spirit upon His followers.
- b)** miracles done by the prophets.
- c)** signs and wonders God gave in the heavens.

7 When the Holy Spirit came upon the believers on the day of Pentecost, a crowd gathered around them because they were

- a)** healing the sick.
- b)** speaking about God in many different languages.
- c)** baptizing those who repented of their sins.

8 You have studied several things the Holy Spirit can do for you. Draw a line under each way you want Him to work in your life.

- a)** Be your Helper
- b)** Stay with you forever
- c)** Teach you about Jesus
- d)** Lead you into the truth
- e)** Give you power to witness for Christ
- f)** Speak through you in other languages about God’s greatness

9 Do you want Jesus to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit? He can baptize you right now! If you want Him to, pray the following prayer or use your own words.

Prayer: Jesus, please give me the gift of the Holy Spirit. I want Him to be my Helper and to teach me about You. I want Him to give me power to be Your witness. I want Him to speak through me now in other languages about the great things God has done. Thank you, Jesus. I receive Your wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In this lesson, you have learned more about who Jesus is by studying His work as Healer and Baptizer. He has these gifts and is ready to give them to you. Your part is to ask. He said:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. . . . If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9, 13)

Check Your Answers

- 4** **d)** Holy Spirit.
- 1** **c)** body, mind, and soul.
- 5** The order is as follows **a** 3, **b** 5, **c** 4, **d** 1, and **e** 2.
- 2** **a)** created us.
- 6** **a)** coming of the Holy Spirit upon His followers.
- 3** Your answer. (Matthew 4:23–24) and (Hebrews 13:8) together would form the most direct answer.
- 7** **b)** speaking about God in many different languages.
- 8** Your answer