

LESSON 2 The Holy Spirit Gives Life

Why did the Holy Spirit come? The Pentecostal writer, Melvin L. Hodges, offers four important reasons. First, the Holy Spirit has come to *enable us to think God's thoughts*. Our natural thinking is self-centered; the divine program calls for self-giving. We think of ourselves; God thinks of others. So something must take place that will bring our thoughts into line with God's thoughts. The coming of the Spirit was intended to accomplish this.

The Holy Spirit came to *enable us to share God's emotions*. One of God's emotions is love. It is not in us to yearn for the lost, to sacrifice strength and time, to weep and pray for the fallen. Only God's Spirit can put that love in us.

The Spirit has come to *enable us to pray God's prayers*, to pray in God's strength for the things God wants us to receive. We do not know what to ask for, and we have no ability to present ourselves to God. So the Spirit helps our weaknesses.

Finally, the Holy Spirit came to *enable us to do God's work*. God's method was announced in the Bible: "'Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6).

The Plan

- A. Life and Health for Your Body
- B. Life and Health for Your Spirit
- C. Life With a Purpose

The Goals

1. Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and body.
2. State how we can have spiritual life, health, and growth.
3. Explain how you can have purpose in your life.

A. LIFE AND HEALTH FOR YOUR BODY

Goal 1. Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and body.

Life from the Spirit of Life

You have received from the Spirit something worth more than all the silver and gold in the world—life. Two of the titles of the Holy Spirit are *Spirit of God* and *Spirit of Life*. Together with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit participated in the creation of the world. The Spirit of Life brought life to this earth. His life-giving power makes the laws of nature function. Your Friend, the Spirit of Life, worked through these natural laws the miracle of life and birth that brought you into the world. Job 33:4 notes, “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 33:4).

Application

- 1 Memorize Job 33:4.

2 Give two titles of the Holy Spirit that are mentioned in this section.

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Health from the Spirit of Life

Who can give you strength when you are weak? Who can give you vibrant health when you are sick? Who can protect you against the poisons in your environment? Who can give you peace and release from the tensions of your daily problems? Who can break the power of drug or alcohol addiction? Who can make the deaf hear, the blind see, and the paralytics walk again? Who can heal cancer, leprosy, heart trouble, and any other disease on earth? Who can even bring the dead back to life? Your Friend, the Spirit of life! The One who made our bodies knows how to make them well again.

The Spirit works in different ways to heal. Many are healed when they accept Jesus as Savior, others when they are baptized in water or in the Holy Spirit. Many are healed instantly when prayed for, others gradually. Some are healed while reading the Bible; others while taking communion, sitting in a church service, praying, or going about their work. As God's children pray and believe, the Spirit of life pours His life and strength into the one for whom prayer is made.

The Spirit of life brings health to the mind and nerves as well as to the body. He delivers people from depression, fears, and all kinds of mental illness. He sets people free from demon powers today just as Jesus did when He walked on earth.

The Holy Spirit worked through Jesus to bring healing and health to all who needed it.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
(Acts 10:38)

After Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to take His place. The Holy Spirit filled the believers and did through them the same miracles that He had done through Jesus. Acts 5:12, 16 record,

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. . . . Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Holy Spirit gave the early Christians the *charismata* or supernatural gifts that they needed to carry on the work Jesus had begun. Nine of these gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. Three of them are gifts of faith, healing, and miracles. Paul states,

To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. . . . To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:7, 9–10)

Many Christians today recognize that what the Holy Spirit did for the early church in the book of Acts is God's pattern for His church today. They ask Jesus to fill them with the Holy Spirit and He does. They ask for the Holy Spirit to manifest His gifts through them and He does. As a result, many are receiving healing by the power of the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer.

James tells us that if we are sick we must ask the elders of the church to pray for us—the pastor, the evangelist, or the deacons. In the Bible, oil is a symbol that represents the Holy Spirit. People were anointed with oil to show that they belonged to God and trusted in His Spirit to work in them. The oil does not heal. The Spirit does.

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)

You, too, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, can be used by the Holy Spirit to bring health to others. You can show them in the Bible how Jesus healed the sick. Let them know that He still answers prayer and heals people today through the power of the Holy Spirit. Every believer in Jesus Christ has the right to pray for the sick and expect them to get well. Why? Jesus promised it! So believe!

“These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:17–18)

Application

3 According to Jesus’ promise in Mark 16:17–18, would place their on the sick, and the sick would get

4 Does the Holy Spirit perform miracles of healing today?



Resurrection from the Spirit of Life

The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and changed His body. And He will do the same for you! The Holy Spirit lives

in God's children now to give us the more abundant life that Jesus promised. Someday He will give resurrection life to all those who believe in Jesus. He will so change our bodies that we will rise in the air to meet Jesus. In our changed bodies we will never again know weakness, pain, disease, or death! Paul affirmed,

If Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (Romans 8:10–11)

Application

5 Read Romans 8:10–11.

6 Thank God for the hope of the resurrection.

B. LIFE AND HEALTH FOR YOUR SPIRIT

Goal 2. State how we can have spiritual life, health, and growth.

Spiritual Life

You need more than just life for your body. You need the everlasting life that God has provided for your spirit. Jesus died in your place to give you that life. And the Holy Spirit brings that life to you. The change He works in you is so great that Jesus called it a new birth. We also call it conversion, indicating change. No one can be God's child or go to heaven without this miracle of spiritual birth. Jesus said,

“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”
(John 3:6–7)

Here is what the Holy Spirit does for you in conversion:

- 1. The Holy Spirit leads you to Christ. He prepares you for conversion by showing you that you are a sinner, condemned to eternal separation from God. He lets you know that you cannot save yourself, so He helps you understand that Jesus died in your place. He makes you want to leave your sins and accept the forgiveness Jesus offers you. He makes Christ real to you and helps you accept Him as your Savior.
- 2. The Holy Spirit breaks the power that sin has over you, gives you a new nature, and makes you a child of God. Paul said,

Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.
(Romans 8:2)

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

- 3. The Holy Spirit comes to live in you, to help you, lead you, and let you know that you are now a child of God.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.
(1 Corinthians 6:19)

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. (Galatians 4:6)

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. (Romans 8:15–16)

Application

7 Do the steps here describe your experience of conversion?

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8 If something seems missing in your experience, review these three steps and ask the Holy Spirit to do His work in you.

Spiritual Health

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

You feed your body, clothe it, and take care of it as best you can because you want it to be comfortable, strong, and healthy. You must take care of your spirit too if you want it to be happy and healthy.

Prayer is just as important to your spirit as the air that you breathe is to your body. In the next lesson you will learn how the Holy Spirit helps you pray.

God's Word is food for your spirit. The Holy Spirit has come to help you understand the Bible. He is the Author of the Bible, so He understands everything in it. Long ago the Holy Spirit had men of God write in the Bible the things that you need to know.

Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

Jesus promised the disciples that when the Holy Spirit came He would teach them. After they were baptized in the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they understood God's Word better. Many of those who now receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit have the same experience.

John 14:26. "The Holy Spirit . . . will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Nehemiah 9:20. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them.

In their book on the Pentecostal experience, Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan included these testimonies and many more like them.

“I suddenly found myself strongly drawn to the Scriptures. They seemed transparent to me. Prayer became a real joy.”

“I went back to my dormitory room and stayed up until 3 a.m. reading the book of Psalms and Acts. I couldn’t put the Bible down. I wanted to read more and more.”

“Since this experience the Holy Spirit has taught me more about Scripture than I could have learned in a whole lifetime on my own. When I read the Bible now the words live because Christ lives for me.” (1969, 37, 64, 68)

Application

9 Memorize John 14:26.

10 Think about your own attitude toward Bible reading. Do you enjoy it? Would you like to understand it better?

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11 Thank God for the Bible and for the privilege of prayer. Before you read the Bible every day, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through it.



Spiritual Growth

As children grow up, they usually do look more like their parents. Do you look more like your heavenly Father every day? As you let the Holy Spirit lead you daily, you

will grow spiritually. Others will be able to see in you these characteristics—the fruit of the Spirit—that make you look like your heavenly Father.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23)

When you were a baby, you were very helpless. But as you grew, you became stronger. You had new experiences and learned to do many things that you could not do before. God leads His children into many new spiritual experiences too: blessings, tests, and work to be done for Him. These experiences will help you grow spiritually.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a spiritual experience that God wants all of His children to have. It is also called “being filled with the Spirit.” Remember that the Holy Spirit has the same nature as God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit wants to fill you so completely that your whole nature will be saturated with the nature of God. The nature of God is love and holiness. So when you are full of the Holy Spirit, you will be full of love and holiness.

Think of a dry sponge. If you put it in water, it soaks up every drop that it can hold. Take it out and it just drips with water. Shake it, hit it, squeeze it, and it only releases the water with which it is filled.

You are the sponge. Jesus wants to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, plunge you into the Spirit of life until you soak up His nature in every part of your being. When you are full of the Spirit, troubles may shake you, people may strike you, but all the pressures of life bring out the love of God with which you are filled.

In his book, *They Speak With Other Tongues*, John L. Sherrill tells about his baptism in the Holy Spirit:

At the actual moment of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, there was one overwhelming impression: I was bathed in, surrounded by,

washed through with love . . . We are so concerned with the power-aspect of the Holy Spirit. But the nature of that power, I am convinced, is love . . .

The secret ingredient in this kind of transforming holiness, I came to think, was love. When I came into contact with love as an overwhelming experience in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I found that I had been cleansed, built up, healed. I knew a kind of wholeness I'd never dreamed of. (1965, 130–131)

Application

12 Memorize Galatians 5:22–23. Pray that the Holy Spirit will produce this fruit in you.

13 Name two characteristics of the nature of God that people should be able to see in His children.

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C. LIFE WITH A PURPOSE

Goal 3. Explain how you can have purpose in your life.

You were not born just to take care of yourself. Your physical life has a purpose greater than just taking care of your body. And your spiritual life is more than just taking care of your spirit. You were born to have a part in God's great plan. He has a special plan for you—a work for you to do.

The Holy Spirit wants to help you fit into God's plan. Let Him lead you and you will discover the real meaning and purpose of life. He will give you a cause worth living for and worth dying for—the cause of Christ. The Spirit will make you a witness for Christ in two ways: through your changed life and

through your words. He sets your feet on the road to heaven and helps you invite others to go with you to your heavenly home. Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8).

Application

14 Thank the Holy Spirit for being your Friend and Helper.

15 Complete this statement: We can have purpose if we allow ourselves to be led by the



Check Your Answers

13 love, holiness (could be others as well).

2 Spirit of God, Spirit of Life.

15 Holy Spirit.

3 believers, hands, well.

5 Did you notice how many times the words “lives” and “life” appear in these verses?

4 Yes, He does!

