

Key Points of the Baptism of Holy Spirit (BOHS)

Although the Holy Spirit already lives inside you, the baptism in the Holy Spirit brings His power in your life to another level. To better understand the baptism in the Holy Spirit, compare it to water baptism. Just as water baptism means to be immersed in water, being baptized in the Holy Spirit means to be immersed in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit completely fills you in a greater way than before.”

-The New Believer's Handbook, composed by Rebecca Gullion with Gospel Publishing House

Part 1: Basic Overview of the BOHS

1. Why Baptism?

“Baptism” means to immerse or submerge. So, BOHS means to be “submerged” in the Holy Spirit.

2. Who is doing the Baptism?

- When we are saved, the Holy Spirit is the baptizer who places us into the body of Christ.
- When we are Baptized in the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the baptizer who immerses us in the Spirit.

3. The reason for two separate experiences with the Holy Spirit.

- In conversion the Holy Spirit *indwells* (or resides within us).
- In the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit would saturate or *immerse* Himself within us.

4. Speaking in Tongues gives evidence of God's power of connection.

Acts 2:4 “They spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them ability.”

5. Being a greater witness gives evidence of God's power of capability.

Acts 2:14-40 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you..."

6. The promise is big for us today.

Acts 2:38-39 to the crowd “Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off. For all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Part 2: Two questions about the BOHS

1. Who Can Be Filled with the Spirit?

Anyone who has been truly born again can and should immediately be filled with the Holy Spirit. Not just for special Christians nor is it only for a certain denomination. This promise is for all Christians of all ages (Acts 2:17-18; 38-39).

2. Who Can Pray with Others to Be Filled with the Spirit?

Anyone who has been filled with the Spirit can lead someone else into this experience.

How to Lead Someone in the BOHS in a Life Group Setting.

Note: If you have anyone who has stated opposition to BOHS in a previous life group or conversation, it may be wise to let them know beforehand that you will be discussing and inviting the group to receive the BOHS....just so that person isn't blindsided.

1. Ask the group if anyone wants to receive the BOHS. If so, continue. If not..then close in prayer and followup in conversations throughout the week.
2. For those who respond, ask them to stand and come into the center of the room so you can pray with them. For those who do not, ask them to join you in prayer for these students who responded.
3. Ask the students who responded if they are a Christian and for what purpose are they seeking the BOHS. Discern if they are seeking the Holy Spirit or a sign, or a act of God. Let them know that the BOHS is to be immersed in the Holy Spirit for Him to work greater through and in them not just getting a gift or thing in of itself.
4. Put the student at ease and ask if they have any nervousness or fears about this experience. Let them know that the Holy Spirit will come upon them and fill them with His Spirit but He will not move their tongue or speak for them. They have full control of their words. Pray with them for faith, etc if needed.
5. Have them raise their hands as a symbolic expression of submission and to begin worshipping Jesus out loud. The Word says that Jesus will baptize them in the Holy Spirit. Inform them that when they begin to sense a syllable or 2 in their heads. They have the freedom to speak them out and continue to worship Jesus in their minds as they begin to speak in tongues. It is when we begin speaking in tongues that we believe we have the sign of the person being baptized by the Holy Spirit.
6. Have them ask Jesus to baptize them with the Holy Spirit and then begin worshipping Jesus until the sign of speaking in tongues comes.

A few things to remember:

- You cannot force this to happen. Do not hype it up nor believe that the volume of your prayer will increase the possibility for this to happen. God wants to baptize us in His Spirit in his time.
- Pray as long as you are comfortable. If the person prayed over, begins to speak in tongues, encourage them to continue worshipping Jesus in their minds and praying in tongues. If the person does not begin to speak in tongues in a reasonable amount of time (3-5 minutes) ask them gently if they have any fears or nervousness still and to submit them to God. After a few more minutes, then simply encourage the person that God is the giver and He can give them this gift at any time. Tell them not to lose hope and to continue seeking the BOHS.
- At the end of the time of prayer, explain what you did to the group at large. Let them know what happened if the BOHS was received and what happened if it was not. Be gentle and be up front. God is in control and future conversations for better understanding and seeking will come out of this experience. Finally, be mindful to followup with each person to gather their thoughts and see if they have any questions.