

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

The BHS is a separate work of God wherein a believer is filled and immersed in the Holy Spirit by Jesus. The BHS is one of three (3) baptisms.

1. We are **baptized** into the body of Christ by the Spirit when we are saved. (I Cor. 12:13).
2. After we are saved we are commanded to be **baptized** in water as identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20) (Rom. 6:1-6).
3. Then we are commanded to be **baptized** in the Holy Spirit after we are saved and water baptized (Acts 1:4-5; Matthew 28:18-20; Heb. 6:1-2; Eph. 5:18)

What does the BHS do for the believer?

The BHS **gives the believer power from heaven** (Acts 1:8). The Greek word power (Acts 1:8 – “ye shall receive power...”) is the Greek word *Dunamis* (Strong’s concordance: miraculous, power, ability, might, strength, violence, mighty wonderful work.). This is the word that dynamite was taken from. The word “zeal” could also apply. The Greek for zeal is “*zelos*” which means to be hot, glow, fervent! The BHS gives the believer the potential of greater wisdom, love and spiritual power (2 Tim. 1:6-7). The BHS opens the believer up to the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Cor 12:7-10. Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit before he ministered. (Matt. 3:16-17 [water]) (Acts 10:38 [BHS]).

How does the BHS manifest itself?

A manifestation of the BHS is speaking in other (unknown) tongues. The believer is able to speak in a heavenly language to God as the Spirit gives the utterance (Acts 2:1-4). The language that the Spirit speaks through the believer is unknown (or not to be understood) by the believer but by God (1 Cor. 14:2,14).

Can every believer receive the BHS?

YES! Every believer can receive the BHS! Luke 11:13 says, “If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Matt. 28:18 – The Great Commission). Jesus told the disciples to teach the nations (us) to obey (observe) all things whatsoever he had commanded them. He commanded them in Acts 1:4-5 not to depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Spirit. See also Acts 2:38-39.

How Does A Believer Receive the BHS?

The BHS is received by faith! Just as salvation is received by faith, the BHS is received by FAITH! And not by a believers works. The BHS with the evidence of speaking in other (unknown) tongues is also referred to in Acts 2:28, Acts 10:44,45 and Acts 11:15-17 as the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Notice gift and not works! Acts 1:4 and Acts 2:39 call the BHS a promise of the Father. All of the promises of God are received by faith to EVERY BELIEVER. Rom. 4:16 says, "It is by faith that it might be by grace so that the promises might be to all the seed".

In Gal. 3:2 Paul asks the question, "Receive ye the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?" The answer, of course, is by the hearing of faith. Rom. 10:17 says, "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*".

The believer is told by Paul in 1 Cor. 14:1 to desire spiritual gifts! The Greek word "desire" here is the same word for zeal, (to be hot, fervent, etc.) for spiritual gifts. Your faith coupled with a burning desire for the BHS will bring the manifestation in your life. God said in Matt. 5:6 that those that are hungry He would fill.

When we truly believe and desire that Jesus would baptize us in the Holy Spirit, we can then ask the Father (Luke 11:13) and begin to worship Jesus and thank him for it! Remember, the Bible says in Acts 2:4 that "they spoke as the Spirit gave the utterance." This is of the utmost importance!!! The key is to begin to worship Jesus and give your voice to the Holy Spirit by faith.

The BHS will come on believers in several ways, as it did on believers in the early church in Acts.

- (I) THE LAYING ON OF HANDS and prayer of a minister or another believer. This is seen in Acts 8:14-18, 2 Tim. 1:6-7 and Acts 9:17-18.
- (II) DURING PRAYER OR PRAISE & WORSHIP as seen in Acts 2:1-4.
- (III) WHEN YOU THINK NOT as in Acts 10:44-46. This occurs to many believers as the Word is preached and as believers are magnifying the Lord.

Remember, the important thing is to know that Jesus wants to fill you with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Ask Jesus in faith to Baptize you in the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13) "*If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask*".

Begin to worship Jesus and give your voice to the Holy Spirit by faith! Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim. 1:6-7 to "*stir up that gift that came on you by the laying on of my hands, for you have not been given the spirit of fear but the Spirit of love, power and a sound mind.*"

Questions Often Asked About the BHS

1. Is the BHS a separate experience from salvation?

Yes! In John 20:21-22 Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," yet the last thing he said to the disciples before he ascended into heaven was in Acts 1:4. He said, *"Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith he, ye have heard of me, for John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days from hence."*

Acts 8:14-19 states how when the apostles heard that in Samaria they had received the word of God, they went down to minister the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They had only been baptized in the name of the LORD Jesus (water baptized). They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost.

2. Can satan get involved with speaking in other tongues?

No! Luke 11:9-13 states, *"If a son asks for bread of any of you that is a Father, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give you the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

3. What is the difference between the Gift of the Holy Spirit and the Ministry gift of tongues?

The ministry gift of tongues is not given to everyone except as the Holy Spirit wills. This is the gift whereby a believer is prompted by the Spirit to give a message in tongues and then someone in the assembly would interpret the unknown tongue in a known (English, etc.) language. The gift of the Holy Ghost is the ability of every Spirit-Baptized believer to pray in unknown tongues at any time. See Eph. 6:18; Jude 10, 21; 1 Cor. 14. The Gift of tongues mentioned in 1 Cor. 14 is to be exercised in the assembly of believers and must be accompanied by an interpretation of that tongue.

4. Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Do we now have to "tarry" or wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as they did in Acts 1:4?

No! This is the only reference to "waiting" mentioned in God's Word. After the Holy Spirit fell on the 120 believers in Acts 2, the believers received the Holy Spirit immediately when hands were laid upon them or when they heard and believed. (See Acts 8:1-18; Acts 9:17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7; 2 Tim. 1:6-7).

5. What good does it do for me to pray in tongues?

- a. It edifies or builds us up in the Spirit! (See 1 Cor. 14:4; Jude 20-22; Eph. 3:20)
We need recharging every day! Praying in tongues builds us up with POWER by prayer to live by faith by the word! (Acts 1:8)
- b. It is a heavenly language that God alone understands, therefore, satan cannot understand or get involved in our prayers or plans! (1 Cor. 14:2; Isa. 28:11; Rom. 8:26-28)
- c. The Holy Spirit knows how to pray and what to pray for, therefore, praying in tongues (praying in the Spirit – 1 Cor. 14:14-15; Jude 20) allows the Holy Spirit to help us pray according to the will of God! (See Rom. 8:26-28; 1 John 5:14; 1 Cor. 14:2).
- d. Praying in tongues allows God to impart wisdom, understanding, and direction, which has been deposited in our Spirit through hearing God's word and seeking Him! (See Prov. 20:5; Isa. 28:9-12); 1 Cor. 14:2).
- e. Praying in tongues allows the Holy Spirit to help us overcome the "sins and weights that so easily beset us." (See Rom. 8:26, "*Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities*") (weaknesses, faults, flaws, sins) Jude 20-21 says it puts us "In the Spirit".
Hebrews 4:15-16 says: "*For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (weaknesses); but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we might receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*"
- f. Praying in tongues gives us "rest and refreshing" as Paul points out as he quotes Isaiah 28:12; and 1 Cor. 14:21. Jude 20-23 states that praying in the Holy Ghost "*keeps (guards) us in the love of God.*" Isa. 28:12 says "*This is the rest wherein ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.*"
- g. Praying in tongues ushers us into the "Gifts of the Spirit" listed in 1 Cor. 12:1-12.
These gifts are the MANIFESTATION of the Spirit to bless and minister to the body of Christ. The gifts include the Word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the gift of faith, the gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues (ministry tongues to the body assembled) and the interpretation of tongues.

- h. Praying in tongues (in the Spirit) and singing in tongues (in the Spirit) will aid us in worship and magnifying God through us. Jesus said in John 4:23-24, “*But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*”.
- Acts 2:11 says, “*we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.*”
- Acts 10:46 says, “*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God*”.
- 1 Cor. 14:15 says, “*What is it then? I will pray in the Spirit, and I will pray in the understanding also: I will sing in the Spirit and I will sing in the understanding.*” (The language he understood or knew).
- i. Praying in tongues allows the Holy Spirit to pray with us and pray the will of God for us and bypass our intellect or limited knowledge. Rom. 8:26-28, “*The Spirit makes intercession for us according to God’s will*”.

SENT TO ME ON 4-14-14

Dear Bethel Intensive Grads, grace and peace!

On Sunday, April 27, 10:30 a.m. at Mount Paran Church of God, Elders will be praying for a few folks who have expressed a desire to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I was thinking that there may be some others of you who would like to receive this Baptism also if you have not already. Please let me know if you would like to do this so we can determine where to meet for prayer and how many Elders we might possibly need to help us pray for this precious and powerful (dunamis) infilling of God’s Spirit for empowered service in His kingdom on earth. Attached you will find some information on this Baptism which may be a big help to you in understanding what it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. God bless you greatly as you celebrate Jesus’ resurrection this coming Sunday –

Sally

Sally and John Howard

1140 Kingston Drive NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30342-2122

404-255-7470

404-754-3697 c Sally; 404-245-0889 c John

404-816-1153, x 307 ofc John

johnsash@bellsouth.net

jrhoward1@bellsouth.net