

1. Simple question first, what is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (BoHS)?

The BoHS is a **spiritual experience** where someone experiences the Risen Christ in a personal way. It is to “**release**” or to yield **to the work of the Holy Spirit** within a person.

2. Errr, can you explain more about that? Any relationships with the Sacrament of Baptism?

Ok, some clarifications first. The BoHS is not the Sacrament of Baptism and not for the replacement for any of the Sacraments in the Church. It is a **spiritual experience** which means that the person’s imagination, memory, feelings, intellect and will are touched by God’s love and action that leads to the longing of closer union with God.

It has indeed close relationships with the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation (Initiation). The power of the Holy Spirit is already present within someone by Baptism and Confirmation. However many powers associated with these are often “tied” or bound up. A “**release** of the power of the Holy Spirit” means that the full effects of the sacraments are actually realized, as the Spirit leads the Christian into a new life of prayer, personal experience of God’s love, personal knowledge of Christ and desire to live a true Christian life as described in the Bible.

3. However, is the term “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” really important? Isn’t the term “Renewal of Baptism” more suitable?

The term “Renewal” indicates a restoring of something that is already present before. However, many of baptized people may not have experienced the Risen Christ in personal way—at least not as daily or vital in their lives. The term is important to restore the full teaching on Baptism that was present in the Early Church, which included what are called here the effects of the BoHS. In fact, our sacrament of Initiation is supposed to have the effects of the BoHS, if the person receiving it truly experience a conversion and accept Jesus as their Lord, just like what normally happened in the early Church.

4. Is it Biblical?

Yes, it is! A basic Scriptural understanding would be: (please open your bible!)

First, Christ himself described **Pentecost** as being baptized in the Spirit (**Acts 1:5**). The feast itself was definitely a spiritual experience for the Apostles rejoiced, became bold and expressed their joy in praising God (**Acts 2**).

Second, this spiritual experience of the Holy Spirit could be received at a later time than the moment of sacramental Baptism as happened to the disciples in Samaria (**Acts 8:14-17**). In fact, the Church uses the passage as one of the base for Sacrament Confirmation (**CCC 1288, 1315**), and that same effects we should expect after the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Pentecost also happen after the Apostles being baptized sacramentally.

And many more, in fact, if you read the whole Acts book, you will find lots of references to it.

5. You said that this can be received after Sacrament of Baptism, but, is it necessary?

For answering that question, let me list down the things that should take effects after someone is being baptized.

A new awareness of Christ's presence in his own life and in the Eucharist. A fully awareness of Christ's redemption on him or her that leads to deeper acknowledgement of Christ's Lordship in one's life. The person begins to know, love and serve Christ in a personal way.

Deeper life of prayer. The person looks forward to finding time when he can be alone with the Lord and spends periods in fervent prayer.

Hunger in the Scriptures and the Sacraments

Power over sin and evil habits.

Longing to serve and live in community of believers.

Growth in union with God. God, who seemed so abstract and far away, is suddenly experienced as close.

If for some reasons, a person is not drawn to love of Christ, not even consider prayer as important, finds Scriptures boring, not even care for the Eucharist or Sacrament of Reconciliation or still perceive God as a punishing and cruel God, after being baptized, **the BoHS is necessary for the person to realize the full effects of the sacraments**. Hey, being baptized is not something small, it is the initiation into the life of Christ, the way to be born again. We cannot expect something "ordinary" after being baptized as well. Only the Holy Spirit can enable someone to live a Christian life to the fullest, by taking Jesus as the example to follow.

How if someone has not even be Baptized? Can he or she receive the BoHS?

Yes it can ☺. This sometimes occurs and should, sooner or later, lead the person to be baptized sacramentally. In Acts 10, the Roman gentile Cornelius and all of his family were filled with the Holy Spirit like in Pentecost, and because of that, Peter could not refuse to Baptize them. So, they were Baptized after the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the pouring of the Holy Spirit on them (Acts10:44-48, 11:15-18).

[note: I haven't included this, but considering there are 2 non baptized participants do we need to include this?]

6. Are there any conditions for the reception of the BoHS?

Yes there are some basics conditions:

Knowledge about the BoHS Spirit,

Faith in Jesus Christ the risen lord, faith in the promise of Jesus to baptize in His Spirit, and acceptance of His Lordship

Repentance, sorrow for sin (this is extremely important as sin is the biggest blockage of the fullness reception of the Holy Spirit).

Desire or longing or openness to the fuller life in the Spirit

Being prayed with by others for the Baptism of the Spirit

The last condition is not a necessary condition. A person might experience the BoHS privately when, under the influence of God's grace, he is led to reach out to God and seek a deeper life with Him.

7. Will I receive the Gift of Tongue after the Baptism? What will I experience ?

Well, **gift of Tongue** and **resting in the Spirit** are common to be received by someone during the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. However, it is not the main goal of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Signs of a spiritual experience— like consolation in prayer, tears, feeling of a deep love for Christ, or of repentance and conversion—are likely, but need not, accompany the BoHS.

Many describe these as “tender emotions that effect our sensibility and cause us to experience a feeling of spiritual joy.”

Be reminded that the BoHS is to experience God's love and to renew one's life in the Spirit. So, it is not (and should not be) the “emotions” (and that become the base of one's life changing, instead it is His Love that renew his/her life.

8. I thought the Pentecostal experiences were only for the Early Church, I was wrong!

The BoHS bestowed on the Apostles, like in the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**), is meant to be bestowed on all Christians, the gifts are not meant to “die out”.

However, BoHS doesn't guarantee one's perfection in Spiritual Growth, in fact, it is just the beginning. One needs to be involved in Community and more importantly to be always connected to Christ through prayer, Scriptures and Sacraments for continuous Growth in the Spirit.

9. What should I do then if I want to receive the BoHS?

Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, repent from your sins, reconcile and confess your sins to the Priest, desire and ask God for it. Don't rationalize! Be open and surrender everything to God, let Him do his work upon you.

*“I baptize you with water for repentance,
but he who is coming after me is mightier than I,
whose sandals I am not worthy to carry;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”*

(Matthew 3:11)