

C. Every Christian receives the *gift* or indwelling of the Holy Spirit when he is baptized into Christ. Several New Testament passages use the Greek verb *oikeo* to describe the Holy Spirit's presence in every believer. It comes from the word for house, *oikos*, and means "to inhabit, to take up residence, to live in."

1 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

D. When you become a Christian, he moves in to live with you so that Jesus can live through you. Like our own spirits, he may be invisible, but his presence is unmistakable. His work is to transform our lives and make us like Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

E. We have powerful help in living the Christian life. The Spirit works to rebuild our inner willpower that has been weakened by continued participation in sin. When a believer decides to change, the Holy Spirit supplies him the willpower needed to eventually make those changes if he is determined to keep trying.

3. The Holy Spirit helps us escape God's judgment on the wicked, unbelieving world around us.

John 16:8, 11

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning . . . judgment. . . ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

A. God created Hell as a place of punishment for the Devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41

⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire *prepared for the devil and his angels.*'"

B. Hell is where the Devil will spend eternity. And if you are following the Devil, it's where you will end up as well!

C. Hell is worse than your worst nightmare. The Bible most often describes hell as an inextinguishable fire. Hell is a place of unending corruption and complete darkness. But the worse thing about Hell is that it is a place of eternal separation from God.

D. Hell is the terrible yet inescapable destination of every person who refuses to accept Jesus as their Savior. People mistakenly think they have to do something especially bad to go to hell. You don't have to do anything exceptionally wicked to go to hell. It is the default position for sinners. Every living soul who has reached the age of moral accountability is already on his way to hell unless he embraces Christ as his savior.

John 3:16-19

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil."

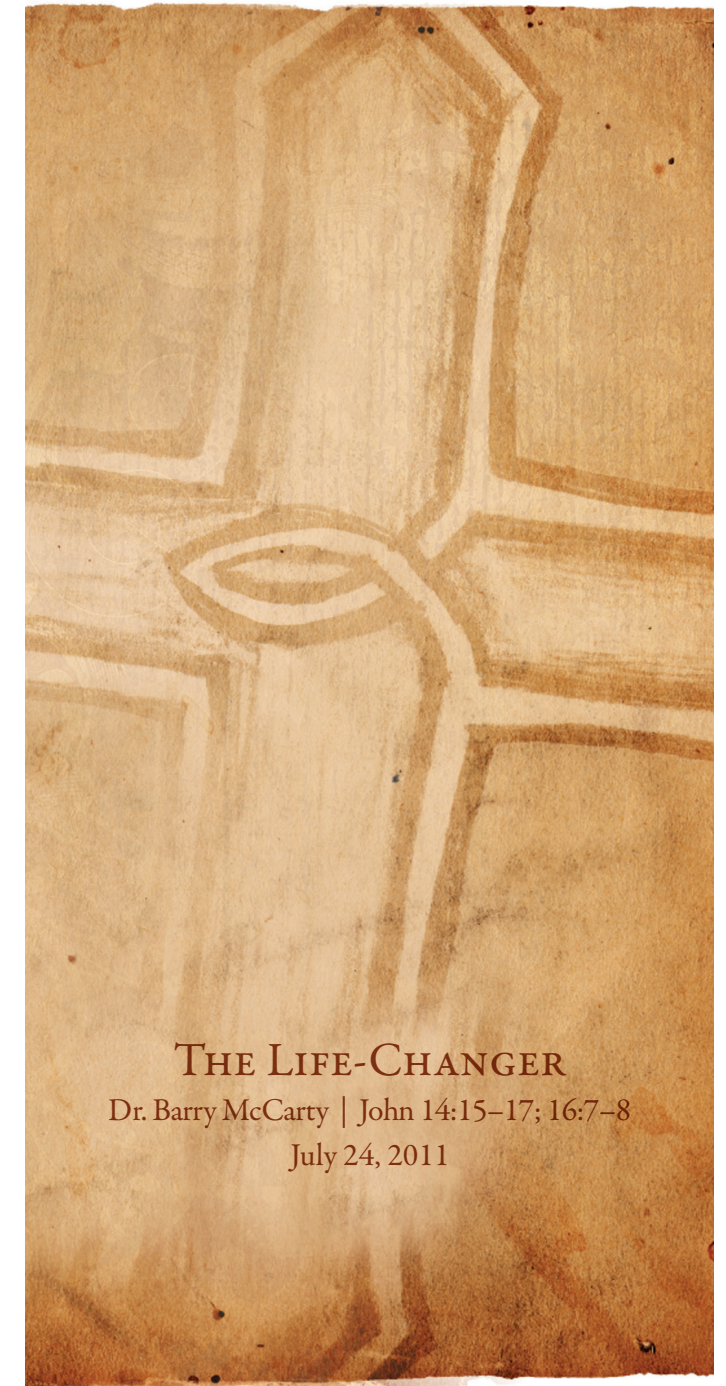
Conclusion

Our lives are made up of a few years of choices and an eternity of consequences. There is absolutely nothing more important than making sure that you will escape the judgment of this sinful, wicked world and enter Heaven. If you have not yet obeyed the gospel, I beg you, please, do not walk out of this building today without Christ.

Sermon by Dr. Barry McCarty

Peachtree Christian Church—July 24, 2011

1580 Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309 | peachtree.org



The Life-Changer

JOHN 14:15–17; 16:7–8

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. . . .

⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. (ESV)*

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came, he would convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

1. The Holy Spirit helps us get serious about sin.

John 16:8

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin

- A. All of us suffer from some degree of spiritual blindness. And it is the most dangerous disease you can have. Without God’s help, you are not only blind to your own sins, but you are *blind to your blindness* as well.
- B. The Holy Spirit helps us *see* our sins that separate us from God and are the root of broken lives and broken relationships. Then, he helps us *repent* of those sins and change.
- C. The most important thing the Holy Spirit has done to convict the world of sin is to supernaturally guide the writers of the Bible in creating the written Word of God.

2 Peter 1:21

²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

- D. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to bring us under conviction concerning our sins. The Bible is like a surgeon’s scalpel. It dissects our innermost thoughts and intents. It lays us bare.

It probes our hearts. For the thoughtful Christian, Bible study is a bit like exploratory surgery—a spiritual biopsy. The word cuts our souls wherever it finds sin.

Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- E. What does being under conviction look like? David’s penitential psalms give us a picture of how the Holy Spirit works in a person’s heart to convict him of his sin.

Psalms 38:1-8

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath! ²For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me. ³There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

⁴For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. ⁵My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, ⁶I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. ⁷For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. ⁸I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

- F. Just as washing out a wound keeps it from becoming infected, confession and godly sorrow can open a spiritual escape valve that keeps secret sins from festering and

poisoning our souls. Notice the blessing of God’s mercy and grace that followed David’s conviction of his sins.

Psalms 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- G. The Holy Spirit delivers us from sin and from spiritual blindness. He helps us *see* our sin, then *kill* it.

Romans 8:13

¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

As the great Puritan preacher Robert Owens put it, “*Be killing sin or sin will be killing you.*”

2. The Holy Spirit helps us know and do the right thing.

John 16:8

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning... righteousness....

- A. Repeat here everything we said about the Bible in the first point because the most reliable guide to always doing the right thing is the Word of God inspired by the Spirit of God.
- B. But the Holy Spirit also helps us live lives that are pleasing to God. If you are a believer, there is a supernatural power—actually a supernatural person—who lives within you.

* All scripture references are from **The Holy Bible: English Standard Version** (Good News Publishers, 2001).