

“The Gift That Keeps on Giving”

Luke 11:11-13

Dr. Richard S. Koole
Chapel Pointe
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I. Introduction

A. What gets you stirred up?

1. Carolyn and the Casey Anthony verdict
 - a. Going through airport security
 - b. The Tigers blowing a lead in the 9th
2. Some stirring is good
 - a. Getting stirred out of our complacency
 - b. Stirring up a church
3. Complacency can lead to the death of a local church
 - a. Churches that lose their passion
 - b. It's been called “dead orthodoxy”
 1. Holding the truth....but without passion or power

B. The greatest threat to our churches

1. Paul warned about it in II Timothy 3:5

“having a form of godliness but denying its power”

2. Just going through the motions each Sunday
3. A. W. Tozer

“The greatest threat to our churches is not liberal theology, but dead orthodoxy”

4. He blames the preachers (A.W. Tozer)

It is true that the church has suffered from pugnacious men, but she has suffered more from timid preachers who would rather be nice than right.

Our seminaries may be at fault here. They want their students to be cultured if it kills them and they begin by draining off all salt and leaving only sweetness. The young man is trained to gesture gracefully, smile faintly and sound scholarly. The direct language that men naturally use when speaking to each other is edited out and a vague, stilted jargon is substituted for it. The total result is artificiality and ineffectiveness.

C. I want a church with authenticity and power

1. Where the “unexplainable” happens
2. Where passion and power are the operative words
3. Where the Holy Spirit is the source of all power
4. Where people experience...not just hear about...God

D. The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit

1. Promised to the church
 - a. Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. The “Power” arrived at Pentecost
3. Absolutely necessary for you to succeed

E. Two incredible truths re: the Holy Spirit

1. **The Holy Spirit is God**
2. **The Holy Spirit dwells inside of you**
 - a. Our bodies are referred to as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit
 - b. In Luke 24:49 Jesus promised,

(49) I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high

c. The fullness of God is literally inside of you

d. Ephesians 3:19

that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God

3. Powerless without his presence

F. The measure of power available

1. I John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

2. II Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

3. II Timothy 3:5

“having a form of godliness but denying its power”

4. Lord we want your power to be seen in us

II. Review

A. The Lord’s Prayer.....Luke 11:1-4

B. The Persistent Neighbor.....Luke 11:5-10

1. Illustrates the need for persistent prayer in verses 5-8

2. The grand finale in verse 9-10

(9 So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

C. Now the clincher in verses 11-13

III. Text...Luke 11:11-13

A. The Principle (vs. 11-12)

(11) Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead: (12) Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

1. The principle....Fathers give good things to their children
 - a. And we don't want them to worry about asking
3. The two illustrations
 - a. Fish or snake?
 1. Fish are good
 2. Snakes are poisonous
 3. Dads don't want to hurt their children
 - b. Egg or scorpion
 1. Same principle
 2. Eggs are good....scorpions can hurt
 3. Dads want to give good gifts to their children

B. The Comparison (v. 13)

(13) If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

1. If you then being evil
 - a. Evil compared to God
 - b. Our fallen nature
 - c. But, still capable of doing good
2. How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him
 - a. Just think about what our Father is capable of doing

3. Gave us the ultimate gift.....the Holy Spirit

- *You ask for comfort, He gave you the Comforter.*
- *You ask for help, He gave you the Helper.*
- *You ask for truth, He gave you the Teacher of truth.*
- *You ask for power, He gave you the Spirit of power.*
- *You ask for wisdom, He gave you the Spirit of wisdom.*
- *You ask for guidance, He gave you the Guide.*
- *You ask for love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control and He gave you the Spirit whose fruit was released in your life.*

IV. Why God gave us the Holy Spirit

#1.....To protect you from Satan

a. I John 4:4

(4) You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

b. II Thessalonians 2:7

(7) For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

#2.....To adopt you into the family of God

a. Galatians 4:4-7

(4) But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, (5) to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (6) Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." (7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

b. Romans 8:18-19

(18) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (19) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

#3.....To convict you when you sin

a. John 16:7-9

(7) But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (8) When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt (9) in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

#4.....To give you assurance of your salvation

a. I John 4:13

(13) We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit

b. Romans 8:16-17

(16) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (17) Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

#5.....To seal you until the day of redemption

a. Ephesians 1:13-14

(13) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory

#6.....To guide you through your daily life

a. John 16:7

(7) But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

b. John 16:12-14

(12) I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. (13) But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (14) He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you

#7.....To comfort you when sorrows hit

a. John 14:16-17

(16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (Comforter) to be with you forever— (17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

b. Literally, “The Helper” or ”one called alongside to help”

1. Someone who encourages

c. The Comforter has come

#8.....To intercede for you in prayer

a. Romans 8:26-27

(26) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (27) And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.

#9.....To transform you into the image of Christ

a. II Corinthians 3:17-18

(17) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (18) And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

#10.....To produce spiritual fruit in your life

a. Galatians 5:22-23

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is not law.

#11.....To empower you to build his church

a. Acts 1:8

(8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

b. God promised that He would build his church...through us

V. How he planned to do that

A. He gave each of us a supernatural gift

1. The Holy Spirit is the gift God has given us

- a. And yet the gift is individualized to fit your life
- b. We call it “your spiritual gift”

2. The clearest summary is in Romans 12:5-8

(5) So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (6) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. (7) If it is servicing, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; (8) if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

B. We are to use our gifts to serve each other

- 1. Why God gave you such a gift
- 2. Key verse is **I Peter 4:10**

(10) Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

C. Things you ought to know about your gift

- 1. *Each Christian has one of these seven gifts*
 - a. Each of you is “gifted”
- 2. *A special empowerment to benefit the work of Christ*
 - a. Allows every Christian to perform at a “supernatural level”
 - b. Why we are challenged to attempt great things
 - c. God delights in showing what He can do through common people
- 3. *Gifts are distinct from talents*
 - a. Talents—natural
 - b. Spiritual gifts—supernatural
- 4. *These gifts are permanent*
- 5. *Christians should manifest characteristics of each gift*

- a. Declaring truth – I Cor. 14:1
- b. Serving – Col. 3:23-24
- c. Teaching – Col. 3:16 and Matt. 28:20
- d. Exhorting – Heb. 3:13; 10:25
- e. Giving – Mt. 10:8; Lk. 6:38; Rom. 12:13
- f. Ruling – I Tim. 3:4; Prov. 16:32; 17:2
- g. Mercy – Lk. 10:37; Gal. 6:2; Col. 3:12

6. *But you will find one most enjoyable and productive*

7. *God will hold you accountable for what you did with your gift*

- a. Me and preaching
- b. I Corinthians 9:16

(16) Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

D. Spotting the use of spiritual gifts in the hospital

1. Prophesying...Declaring truth

- a. “The Bible warns of gluttony and you’ve disobeyed God’s commandments!”
- b. “Here is what you need to do to make it right”

2. Serving

- a. “Let me take care of your kids and pets while you are in the hospital”
- b. “Can I make your meals?”

3. Teaching

- a. “I’ve studied what has happened to you and found some things you can do to correct the situation”

4. Encouragement

- a. "I've known others who have had the same problem and they have all recovered nicely"
- b. "You'll be just fine"
- c. "I've been through the same thing"

5. Giving

- a. "Here's some money to help cover the cost of the surgery"
- b. "Let me know how much you'll need until you get back to work"

6. Leadership

- a. "I've organized the women of the church to take care of the meals and clean your house."
- b. "I also spotted an electrical problem and have scheduled an electrician to come in"

7. Mercy

- a. "I'll stay here with you until you're better"

E. Abuses

1. Prophesying (Declaring truth)

- a. Think you know something about everything
- b. Overly dogmatic and unbending
- c. Applying your opinion to non-biblical areas

2. Serving

- a. The inability to say no
- b. Wanting to be recognized for your hard work

3. Teaching

- a. Ever learning and never using

- b. Get off on weird doctrines
- c. Overly dogmatic

4. Encouragement

- a. Encouraging a sinner who needs to be rebuked
- b. Leading them to think it is okay

5. Giving

- a. Giving with strings attached
- b. Using the ability to make money for your own profit
- c. Trying to control a ministry

6. Leadership

- a. Too task oriented
- b. Ignoring the feelings of other people
- c. Become a dictator

7. Mercy

- a. Taking up the offense of another

F. You should seek to “stir up” your gift

1. II Timothy 1:6

(6) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

- 2. Getting a campfire going
 - a. Ashes lying dormant
 - b. Fan into flames...stir it up
- 3. Next week.... “The Body Beautiful”

- a. Finding your gift
- b. Stirring it up in power

VI. Summary

A. What God sees in each of us

1. Each of you capable of greatness
 - a. I don't care about your talent or lack of talent
 - b. I see a gang of wonder women and super men
2. Are you "fanning to flames your gift?"
3. II Timothy 1:6-7

(6) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (7) For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.