

# “The Stirring of the Spirit”

(Luke 11:13)

Dr. Richard S. Koole  
Chapel Pointe  
July 24, 2011

---

## I. Introduction

### A. Your incredible body

1. “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” (Paul Brand & Philip Yancy)

*My shoes are kicked off, and I am wiggling the small bones in my right foot. Exposed, they are half the width of a pencil, and yet they support my weight in walking. I cup my hand over my ear and hear the familiar seashell phenomenon, actually the sound of blood cells rushing through the capillaries in my head. I stretch out my left arm and try to imagine the millions of muscle cells eagerly expanding and contracting in concert. I rub my finger across my arm and feel the stimulation of touch cells, 450 of them in each one-inch-square patch of skin.*

*Inside, my stomach, spleen, liver, pancreas, and kidneys, each packed with millions of loyal cells, are working so efficiently I have no way of perceiving their presence. Fine hairs in my inner ear are monitoring a swishing fluid, ready to alert me if I suddenly tilt off balance.*

*When my cells work well, I'm hardly conscious of their individual presences. What I feel is the composite of their activity known as me. My body, composed of many parts, is one.*

2. The physical body is alive and well when:
  - a. Each part does its job and supports the others
  - b. But....when one part fails to do its job...problems

### B. Compared to the local church

1. The church is not primarily:
  - a. *An organization*

1. *“When churches are primarily concerned with organization, they usually become “unchristian”*
2. I’m a shepherd...not a CEO
3. My job is to “feed” flock, not just organize it
4. I Peter 5:2-3

***(2) Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; (3) not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.***

***b. A team of paid professionals***

1. Not like going to watch the Tigers play
  - a. Church isn’t a spectator sport
2. The work is to be done by the team
3. And you’re part of the team
4. “Partners” not “Customers”

***c. A building or a denomination***

1. We’ve seen the demise of labor unions and political parties
2. We’re witnessing the demise of denominations
3. The church isn’t a building or a denomination

***d. A country club***

1. An enjoyable place to go on the weekends
  - a. Where you make contacts
2. And you only pay fees if you feel like it

**2. The church is a living, growing body**

- a. Romans 12:5

***(5) So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.***

- b. Each of us has a role to play
- c. The church body is hampered when just one part fails

## II. Review

### A. Luke 11:13

*(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?*

### B. Last week....all about the Holy Spirit

### C. Next week....the unpardonable sin

### D. But first....the question of “Spiritual Gifts”

## III. Spiritual Gifts

### 1. *God has given each of you a supernatural gift*

- a. The Holy Spirit is the gift God has given us
  - 1. And yet the gift is individualized to fit your life
  - 2. We call it “your spiritual gift”

- b. 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.*

- c. Why did God give you your special gift?

### 2. *The purpose of your spiritual gift is to serve others*

- a. I Peter 4:10-11

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

***(11) If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.***

b. God will hold you accountable

1. "How did you use the gift I gave you?"

c. Me and preaching

1. Can't let it go to my head

2. 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!***

3. Woe to me if I don't use my gift

4. And woe to you if you don't use yours

d. Each is of equal importance in God's sight

1. No one is insignificant

e. Addressed in I Corinthians 12

***1. I Corinthians 12:1***

***(1) Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant***

***2. I Corinthians 12:11-17***

***(11) All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. (12) The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. (13) For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.***

***(14) Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. (15) If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. (16) And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body." It would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. (17) If the whole body***

*were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?*

3. My mother's 40 years with the "Toddlers"
  - a. Just as significant
  - b. Generational impact
- f. The body human—the "insignificant" white blood cells

I can see directly through his skin cells into the pulsing capillaries which carry his blood. I focus the microscope on one bluish capillary until I can see individual blood cells pushing, blocking, thrusting through it. Red blood cells are by far the most numerous: smooth, shiny discs with centers indented like jelly doughnuts. Uniform size and shape make them seem machine-stamped and impersonal.

More interesting are the white blood cells, the armed forces of the body which guard against invaders. They look exactly like the amoebae: amorphous blobs of turgid liquid with darkened nuclei, they roam through the body by extending a finger-like projection and humping along to follow it. Sometimes they creep along the walls of the veins; sometimes they let go and free-float in the bloodstream. To navigate the smaller capillaries, bulky white cells must elongate their shapes, while impatient red blood cells jostle in line behind them.

Watching the white cells, one can't help thinking them sluggish and ineffective at patrolling territory, much less repelling an attack. Until the attack occurs, that is. I take a steel needle and prick through, puncturing a fine capillary. An alarm seems to sound. Muscle cells contract around the damaged capillary wall, damming up the loss of precious blood. Clotting agents halt the flow at the skin's surface. Before long, scavenger cells appear to clean up debris, and fibroblasts, the body's reweaving cells, gather around the injury site. But the most dramatic change involves the listless white cells. As if they have a sense of smell (we still don't know how they "sense" danger), nearby white cells abruptly halt their aimless wandering. Like beagles on the scent of a rabbit, they hone in from all directions to the point of attack. Using their unique shape-changing qualities, they ooze between overlapping cells of capillary walls and hurry through tissue via the most direct route. When they arrive, the battle begins.

In the distance, a shapeless white cell, resembling science fiction's creature, "The Blob," lumbers toward a cluster of luminous green bacterial spheres. Like a blanket pulled over a corpse, the cell assumes their shape; for awhile they still glow eerily inside the white cell. But the white cell contains

granules of chemical explosives, and as soon as the bacteria are absorbed the granules detonate, destroying the invaders. In thirty seconds to a minute, only the bloated white cell remains. Often its task is a kamikaze one, resulting in the white cell's own death.

- g. The body can't function without white blood cells
  - 1. Leukemia
- h. When a cell in the body goes rogue
  - 1. Becomes "cancerous"
  - 2. A spreading parasite
- i. In the church body
- j. Paul to the elders of Ephesus—Acts 20:28-31

***(28) Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. (29) I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. (30) Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. (31) So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.***

### ***3. God knew what he was doing when he gave out the gifts***

- a. ***I Corinthians 12:18-19***

***(18) But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. (19) If they were all one part, where would the body be?***

- b. God sees the big picture
  - 1. He knows how to best use you
- c. God has provided each congregation with all of the essential elements
  - 1. It's just a question of whether the members use their gifts
- d. When I first came to Chapel Pointe
  - 1. It was all there
  - 2. We stirred up some powerful gifts

- e. This is a place for you to grow your gift
- f. Play the hand God has dealt you
  1. Accept who you are and your goal in life
  2. Trust God to use you

#### ***4. Spiritual gifts allow the church to work as a team***

- a. *I Corinthians 12:20-21*

*(20) As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

*(21) The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"*

- b. We like to extol individualism
- c. God does not
  1. We need each other
- d. The head needs the hands and feet
- e. Can survive...but not thrive...without them

#### ***5. Don't confuse fame with success***

- a. Lady Gaga has fame....Mother Teresa had success
- b. The comparison – I Corinthians 12:22-23

*(22) On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, (23) and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,*

- 1. Some seem more feeble
- 2. Think less honorable
- 3. Seem uncomely
- c. The unseen body parts

1. The internal organs

d. The body won't function without them (I Corinthians 12:24)

*(24) while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,*

e. What has God empowered you to do?

1. Declarers of God's Word

2. Teachers

3. Encouragers

4. Givers

5. Merciful

6. Administration

7. Service

- a. The largest group and the largest need

- b. Check out the opportunities

f. No division (I Corinthians 12:25)

*(25) so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*

g. "Bema shock"

1. When the white blood cells get honored

2. The unseen workers who make it all happen

3. I'm getting my reward now

- a. Yours is yet to come

***6. There is minimum weariness and maximum effectiveness when you exercise your spiritual gift***

- a. Walking on your hands

1. Explain
  2. Even a 2 year old could beat the best hand walker
- b. Why you don't grow weary
  1. Supernatural empowerment
- c. I never grow tired of declaring the truth of God
  1. Delivering a message from God
  2. So much more I need to share with you
- d. But there are other areas of ministry that wear me out
  1. There is exhaustion and ineffectiveness when you serve in an area that needs a different spiritual gift
  2. Why volunteers wear out
- e. The importance of following your passion
  1. Bill Hybels in "*The Volunteer Revolution*" (pp. 81-82)

*That energy flows from passion. A God-given passion—an area of intense interest—lies buried within each of us. One of the goals of volunteer experimentation is to discover that passion. Connecting our spiritual gift with an area of passion is the key to ultimate effectiveness and fulfillment in serving.*

*When you're serving in an area of passion, nobody has to fire you up to stay involved; you can't help but show up. It feels like recess, when the bell rings and you get to do your favorite thing.*

- g. Why each church looks so different
  1. Hybels, p. 91

*The leadership of every local congregation must look at the biblical mandate for the church and pray that God will bring to them the balance of gifts necessary to create a whole and healthy body. But beyond that, I believe every local congregation should have a unique "flavor" based on the sometimes quirky mix of gifts, passions, and life experiences of its members.*

***7. The ministry of Chapel Pointe is hindered when even one member fails to use his or her gift***

a. *I Corinthians 12:26-27*

***(26) If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. (27) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.***

b. When a toe doesn't work

1. Lost opportunities
2. Somebody here needs your gift

c. What we could have become...

d. Vision for Chapel Pointe

1. Where the truth is spoken in love
2. Where we feel like family
3. Where you can find a place to serve
  - a. And love doing it

**8. *God will some day ask you for an accounting***

a. 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!***

b. What it will cost if I fail to use my gift

1. The local church will not get the feeding it needs
2. I'll sacrifice what could have been my greatest joy
3. And I'll have to face God
4. "I gave you this incredible gift. Why didn't you use it? It was supposed to be used to help the people of your church?"

d. Woe to you if you fail to use your gift to serve others

1. Your loss of joy and fulfillment
  - a. The excitement of being on a mission

2. You've crippled the rest of the body
3. You'll be required to explain to God

**9. *It may be time for you to “stir up” your gift***

a. Getting a campfire going

1. Ashes lying dormant
2. Fan into flames...stir it up

b. *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.***

c. Power...love...self-discipline

d. Some of you will need to “stir up” your gift

1. Not burning very hot

e. Have been “quenching the Spirit”

f. Failure to use your gift will lead to:

1. Ineffectiveness
2. Frustration
3. Burnout or boredom

g. How to “fan it into flame”

h. Taking the first step

1. Volunteer booth
2. First Serve
3. Design your own ministry