

# TEACHING NOTES

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## 'The Holy Spirit - Then & Now'

*Some ponderings to go with today's message...*

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit acted in a different way than in the New Testament and beyond. In the Old Testament accounts, we see the Holy Spirit come and go, descending on men and women alike for several different reasons. Often to proclaim a message from God which could be encouraging or a rebuke, a warning for the future - modify your behaviour or else! The Holy Spirit didn't always seem to be about but popped into and out of the life of the people of God.

In our reading in Numbers 11:24-30, God takes some of the power of the Spirit placed upon Moses and puts it upon the seventy elders who are with him in the Tent of meeting. This is to demonstrate that they have been empowered to share with Moses the burden of the people and even Eldad and Medad (not cousins of Bildad, sorry, my quirky sense of humour still cracks me up with some biblical names) who didn't make it to the tent didn't miss out on the ecstatic blessing, prophesying in the camp.

The Acts passage is very familiar to us and illustrates the new way the Holy Spirit has begun to work. The Holy Spirit comes and stays, doesn't just come and 'rest' on the odd chosen person and flit away when the moment has passed.

The Holy Spirit has come to dwell within the believer, to confirm that we have embarked on a lifelong adventure with the Living God, to teach us how to live, to comfort us and so much more. We are worried sometimes because we put expectations on ourselves to perform amazing things for God, not realising that God is patient and has prepared appropriate tasks for us to carry out and they are important because the Creator of the universe has prepared them for each one of us.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

When was the last time you were awestruck by something you attribute to God?

*(I encourage you to take the time to share this with someone)*

Does the idea that the Holy Spirit may be working in, on and through you excite you or worry you?

*(Share this as well with someone....)*

May God continue to Bless you as we walk the challenging days ahead!

*Allan*