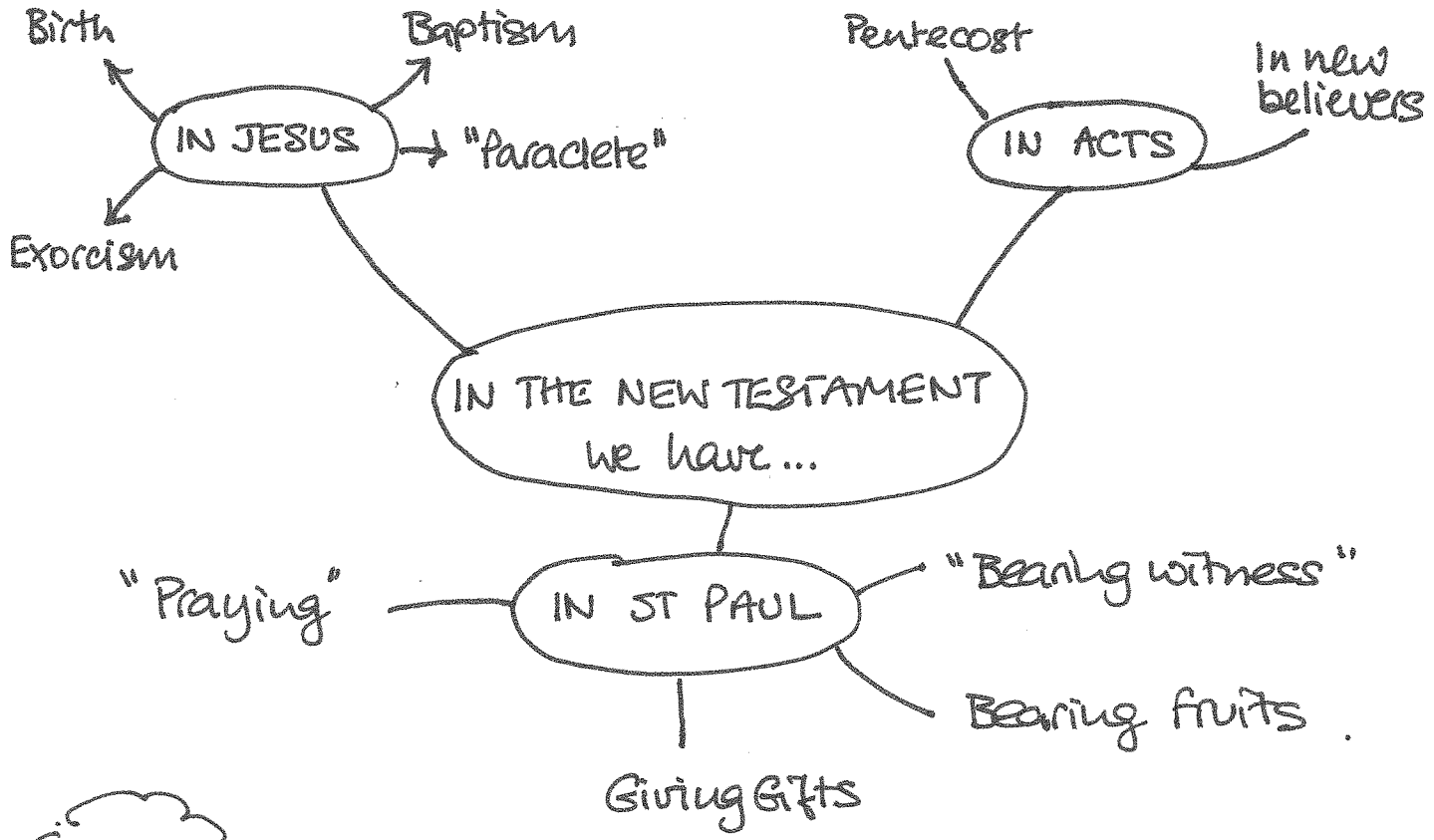
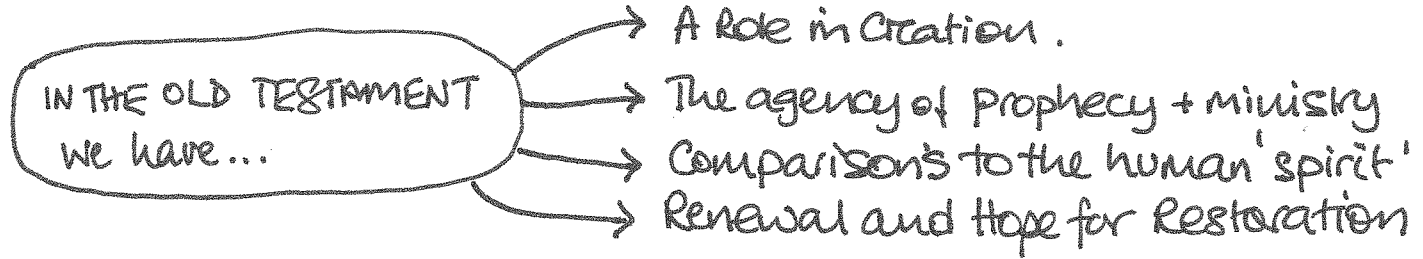


THE BLUFFER'S GUIDE TO GOD  
 @ GREENBELT 2011

As if all that wasn't complicated enough, we've also got to think about...

THE HOLY SPIRIT



So...

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: there appear to be three "agencies" God the father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit.

This leads to...

A rather familiar problem...

Does this mean there are now THREE Gods?

Ways out of this CONUNDRUM:

- TRITHEISM → Yup! There are 3 Gods!
- MODALISM → God is really ONE, but acts in THREE WAYS
- MONARCHIANISM → There is ONE God + TWO little helpers.

OR...

**NONE OF THE ABOVE** ... because of the way God reveals himself.

The TRINITARIAN LANGUAGE of the Bible.

The TRINITARIAN LANGUAGE of Christian worship.

The skeptic says... → "Are we just being led by the nose by language?"

**ECONOMIC TRINITY:**  
How we see God as Trinity by his actions in the world

**IMMANENT TRINITY:**  
What God is really like in regard to himself.

Karl Rahner: "The Economic Trinity is the Immanent Trinity and vice versa." ie. God's revealed to us is what God is really like to himself.

**TRINITY LANGUAGE** → ONE SUBSTANCE ← what makes God God.  
THREE PERSONS ← how we experience Father Son and Spirit (distinct).

But remember :

UNITY + COMMUNITY

IN

**MYSTERY**

— We can never "capture" God in our thinking.