

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the bright light filtering down from the surface. The overall tone is serene and inviting.

Deeper Dive

Spiritual Formation
in Community

Welcome!

The Kingdom

“My goal is to wake up in the Kingdom of God every morning, and to live each day fully alive in that Kingdom, regardless of my geographical location in the world.”

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is dynamic, with bubbles and movement.

Check-In

Work of the Spirit Report

The Spirit's Work

In me,
Around me,
Through me

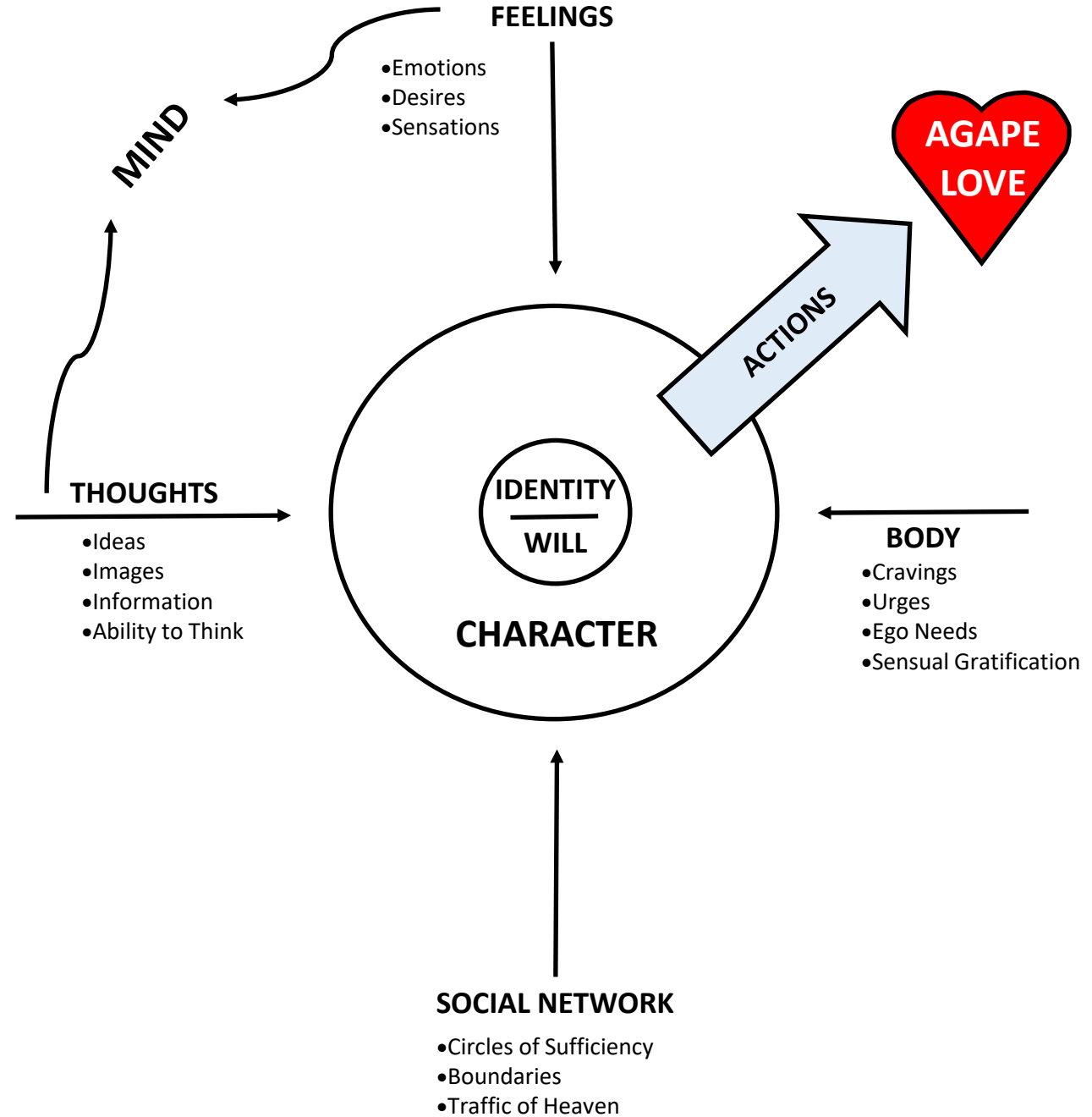
**Bringing
Every
Thought
Captive**

*What spiritual
disciplines did you
use to bring
attention to the
transformation of
your thought life?*

An underwater photograph of several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The word "Review" is overlaid in large, white, serif font in the center of the image.

Review

Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



We feel...

Warm, hungry, an itch or afraid
Dizziness and thirst
Sleepiness and weariness
Sexual interest and desire
Pain and pleasure
Loneliness and homesickness
Anger and jealousy

But also...

Comfort and satisfaction
Power and accomplishment
Curiosity and intellectual gratification
Compassion for others and enjoyment of beauty
A sense of honor and a delight in God

Feeling is essential to life.

(Table Exercise)

**Feelings
Move
Us...**

**for Good
or
for Bad**

*“For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,
but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*

Eating & Drinking

Representative of pleasurable experiences, not evil in and of themselves

Numbing out; stuffing problems down

Feeling pleasure & happy emotions, free and unburdened by anything

Righteousness

Living a Christlike life from the inside, out

Peace

The WILL at rest - no longer striving to achieve or avoid a particular outcome

Joy

Pervasive sense of overall and ultimate well-being, comprised more of delight than pleasure - joy is deeper and broader than pleasure

Because the Kingdom is about righteousness, peace and joy, and not about eating and drinking, our feelings must be **TRANSFORMED** to serve Kingdom purposes

Romans
14:13-17

**Transformation into Christlikeness
is possible!**

**Vision
Intention
Means**

**Deeper
Dive**

- 9:10 The **fear** of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- 10:12 **Hatred** stirs up strife, but **love** covers all transgressions
- 11:2 When **pride** comes, then comes dishonor
- 12:25 **Anxiety** in a man's heart weighs it down
- 15:15 A **cheerful** heart has a continual feast
- 17:22 A **joyful** heart is good medicine, but a **broken spirit** dries up the bones
- 21:17 He who **loves pleasure** will become a poor man; he who **loves wine** and **oil** will not become rich
- 22:4 The reward of **humility** and **fear** of the Lord are riches, honor and life
- 29:25 The **fear (trust)** of man brings a snare, but he who **trusts** in the Lord will be exalted

Proverbs on Feelings

Destructive
vs
Healthy

Modern Culture

Revered ritual and personal relations do not smoothly govern life.

Human solidarity in family, neighborhood, school, workplace and church has been pulverized.

People are overwhelmed with decisions and can only make those decisions on the basis of feelings.

In a vacuum of faith and community there is no sense of "the Kingdom Way".

So I decide individually every single choice I have to make, and base all those decisions on how I feel, not a "Kingdom Way"

**Deciding
by how
we feel.**

Modern Culture

Feelings become reasons to do what you want.

Feelings fill the vacuum left by purposelessness, or actually find purpose in satisfying feelings.

For this person, to desire something becomes permission to have it.

"If it feels good, do it"

"You deserve a break today"

"You only go around once in life; grab the gusto while you can"

"If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with"

**Deciding
by how
we feel.**

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires are passing away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Those who live by their feelings generally have no significant degree of self-control.

Self-Control is the ability to direct yourself to be the person you have decided to be, and do the things that person would be doing.

**Deeper
Dive**

Homework

Study Romans 5:1-5 all week

“Transforming Emotions”

Define key words

Ask good questions

Journal your conclusions

**Big
Idea
Of the
Week**

A Day in the Kingdom

Wake up in the Kingdom
Breathe Kingdom Air (*love*)
Burn Kingdom Fuel (*grace*)
Build Kingdom Character
Do Kingdom Work

Deeper
Dive

The background of the slide features a faded, light blue image of two divers underwater. One diver is positioned higher and upside down, while the other is lower and more upright. Both are wearing scuba gear, including tanks and fins. The overall tone is serene and aquatic.

Invite Others

Who do you know that needs to know God
in a deeper and more real way?

Deeper
Dive

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is peaceful and serene.

Deeper Dive

Spiritual Formation
in Community

See you next week!

Spiritual Formation

“The Spirit-driven process of forming my inner being so that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”

The Human Self

in order of dominance.

Life away from God:

BODY

SOUL

MIND

SPIRIT

GOD

Life ordered by God:

GOD

SPIRIT

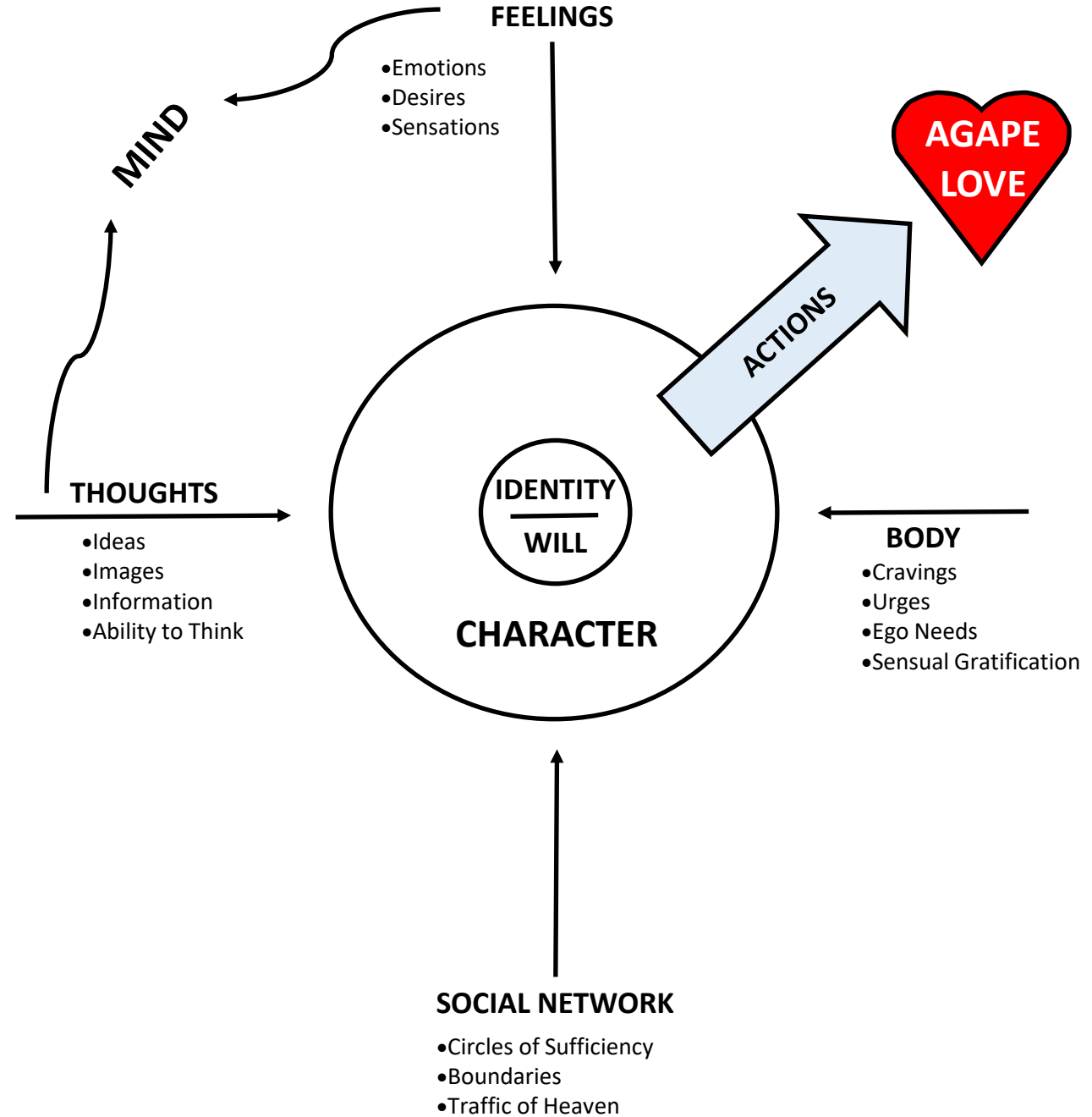
MIND

SOUL

BODY

Deeper
Dive

Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



The Entire Human Self

The Whole Picture

Spiritual
Formation
*in the
Kingdom
of God*

