



**Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community**

***“Through our words  
we give others a piece of our mind.”***



# Check-In

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*Describe one area of your life God is transforming, something he is changing in you.*

My Daily Mantra...

# I wake up in the Kingdom this morning

an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe



I breathe Kingdom air (LOVE)  
I burn Kingdom fuel (GRACE)  
I build Kingdom character  
I do Kingdom work



*A Kingdom life is one that is different from most of the people waking up in the world around me.*

# **Characteristics of a Kingdom Life**

- A life in which God freely communicates
- NOT a navigation system for life
- A life different from most people waking up in the world around me

# ETERNAL

- *A Kingdom person thinks in terms of eternity*

# Eternal



**Eternity is reality and has always been the way things are.**

## **Psalm 90:1-4**

- **Eternity** becomes our reality at **conversion to a new life** in Christ
- **Eternal life is mostly spiritual** with a brief physical component now
- **Eternal** is a **kind** of life, a **quality** of life, and **not simply** a **longer life**
- It is something we **begin to understand** at **salvation**

## **Ecclesiastes 3:10-11**

- *God has placed in every man a question without an answer* - a **burden**
- Every man is **asking** about the **eternal significance** of their life, and all their **daily activities**
- What is the **meaning**?
- But God says **they cannot know** the **sovereign eternal plan** of God



# Table Talk

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*Regarding family, friends,  
faith, work, & play, how  
would thinking eternally  
change one for you?*

# Characteristics of a Kingdom Life

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## **Eternal**

*A Kingdom person thinks in terms of eternity*

## **Purposeful**

*A Kingdom person moves with Kingdom purpose*

## **Relational**

*A Kingdom person operates in a constant conversational Kingdom relationship*

## **Redemptive**

*A Kingdom person lives in a process of transformation*

## **Attractive**

*A Kingdom person is the kind of person on the inside others want to be like*

# Purposeful

- *A Kingdom person moves with Kingdom purpose*

# Purposeful



## To Bring Glory to God

The **glory of God** is the **visible manifestation** of His **infinite beauty**, **perfections**, **divine attributes**, and **magnificent character** - such as **holiness**, **power** and **love** - seen in **who He is** and **what He does**.

- **Exodus 33:12-23**
- **Isaiah 6:3**
- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

God is **worthy of glory** because he is the **creator of all things**.

- **Revelation 4:11**

God **created us to bring glory** to him

- **Isaiah 43:7**

# Purposeful



## To Accomplish the Purposes of God

Live **the life** of a **disciple** of Jesus.

- **Romans 8:29-30**

**Make disciples** everywhere, **baptizing** and **teaching** them **everything** Jesus commanded.

- **Matthew 28:19-20**

**Share your gifts** in **ministry** to others

- **1 Peter 4:10-11**

**Fellowship**

- **Hebrews 10:24-25**

# Table Talk

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*With 100% as the total, what percent of your day is lived for your purposes and what percent is lived for Kingdom purposes?*

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# Relational

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# Relational



- **Personal** – we get to know each other
- **Dynamic** – the relationship is constantly growing
- **Interactive** – there is back and forth exchange
- **Conversational** – both speak and listen in a casual way
- **Constant** – always continuing, ongoing moment by moment

**John 15:1-8**

# Table Talk

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*What do you like most and least about how you are operating in a constant conversational relationship with God?*

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# Redemptive

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# Redemptive



- Adam and Eve were **created alive to God physically** and **alive to God spiritually** – created to live forever
- Warned not to eat of the tree of good and evil, **they ate** and **died spiritually** and also **began to die physically**

## Genesis 2:17

- Living **out** of direct **fellowship with God**, mankind **needs to be reborn** spiritually
- Man **lived in this way** until Jesus' **ascension** and the **Spirit** coming at Pentecost

## John 3:3, 5-8

- **Once born again**, believers **live with both** a **sinful nature** and the **Spirit of God inside**, and in a **constant battle** for the **redemption** of their **physical** and **spiritual** life
- Our **needs** and **desires** are **transformed** and **met in Christ**
- We experience **liberation** from a **sinful nature** life
- We experience **assurance** of an **abundant** life

## Galatians 5:16-17

# Alive to one reality – Dead to another

1 Corinthians 2:9-16





# Table Talk

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*What areas of your life  
have seen the most  
transformation over the  
past 12 months?*

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# Attractive

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# Attractive



## Matthew 5:13-16

- **Salt:** full of **flavor**; a **preservative**
- **Light:** **shows** the way; pushes back the **darkness**
- What is **attractive** is **NOT** what we do, but **WHO** we **ARE**

# Attractive



## Dallas Willard on Transforming Culture

"God speaks not just for us and our purposes, nor does he speak primarily for our prosperity, safety or gratification. Those who **receive the grace of God's saving companionship** in his word **are by that fact also fitted to show humankind how to live.**

**They, and they alone, are at home in the universe** as it actually is. In that sense they are the light of the world. Their **transformed nature** automatically suits them to this task. Therefore, this task is not an option or an afterthought.

***The light that they radiate is not what they do, but who they are.***

**Solutions to humanity's problems** - from incest to atomic warfare, from mental illness to poverty and pollution - **are by no means easy or simple.** But what we know of human nature seems to indicate that **insight on how to live** can be provided effectively **only by those** who are prepared to **lead the way by example.**

**Only by showing how to live can we teach how to live.**

It is by the kind of life **that is in us** and that **makes us examples** of God's indwelling that **we reveal the foundation** for communicating God's redeeming word and Spirit to an ever-larger circle of human beings. This is the pattern set forth in the New Testament book of Acts and later points of Christian history. **In us, as in Jesus Christ himself, the Life is to be "the light of all people"."**

*(John 1:4; Hearing God, by Dallas Willard, p. 190)*

# Table Talk

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*When was the last time  
you can remember  
someone saying they  
wanted to be like you in  
some way?*

**On 5 days this coming week, choose one of the five words describing the characteristics of a Kingdom life; one for each day, and focus on it for that day.**

# Homework

An underwater photograph showing several divers in a blue, slightly hazy environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is dynamic, with bubbles and movement, suggesting an active underwater activity.

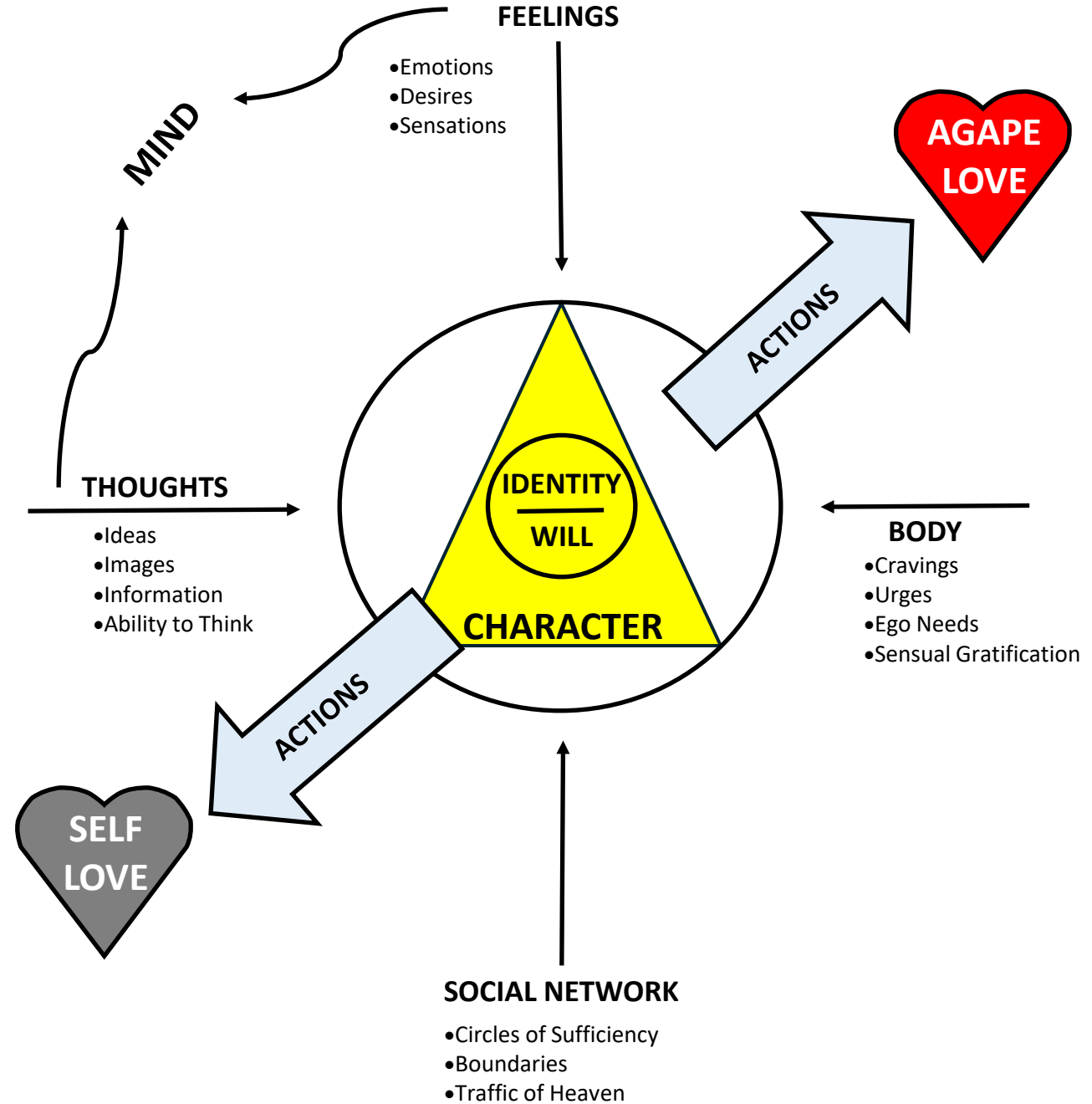
# Homework Review



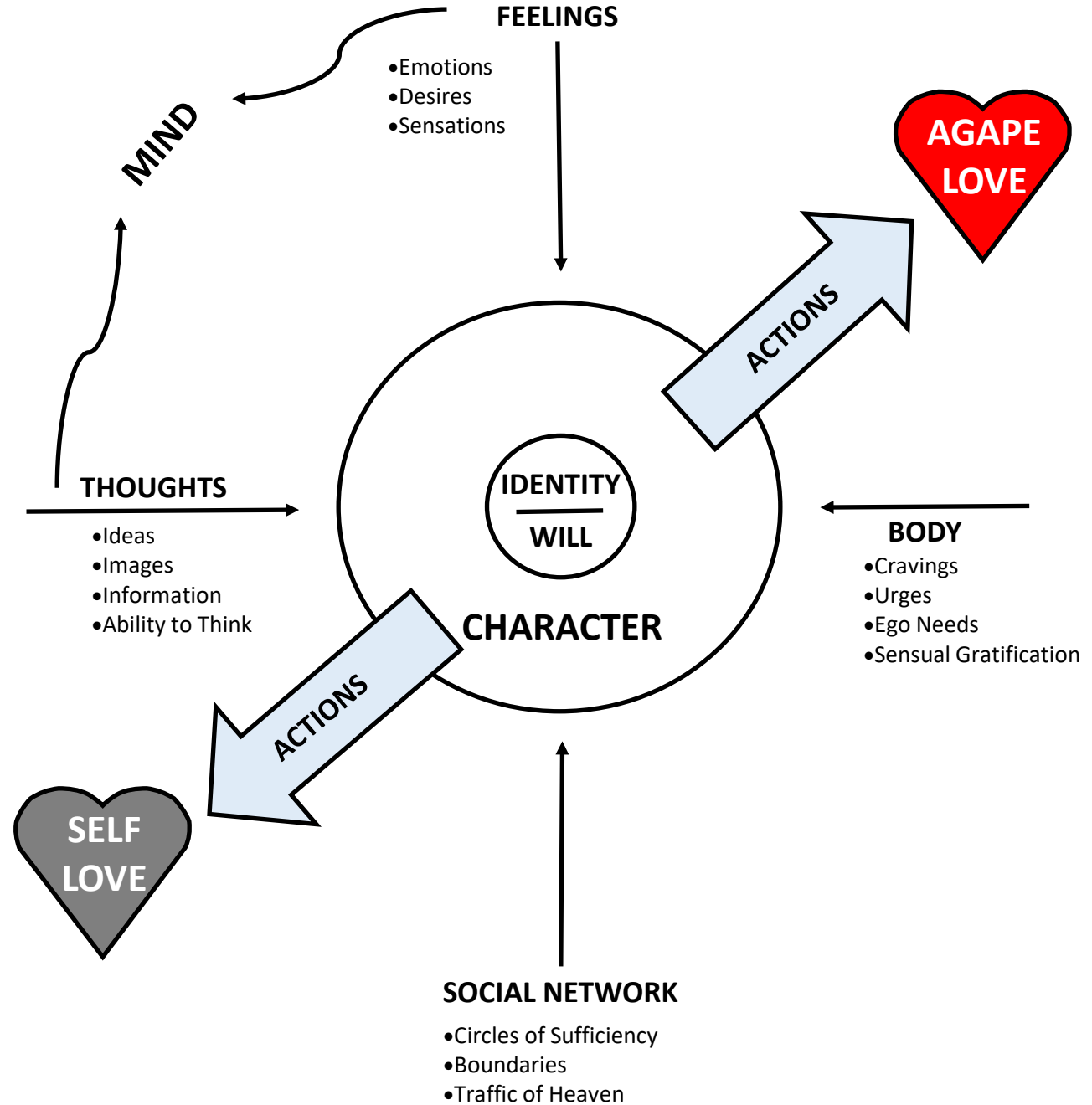
- Where are you seeing God at work in you, around you, or through you?
- What are you learning about your inner person?

(thoughts, feelings, body, relationships, character, identity, will)

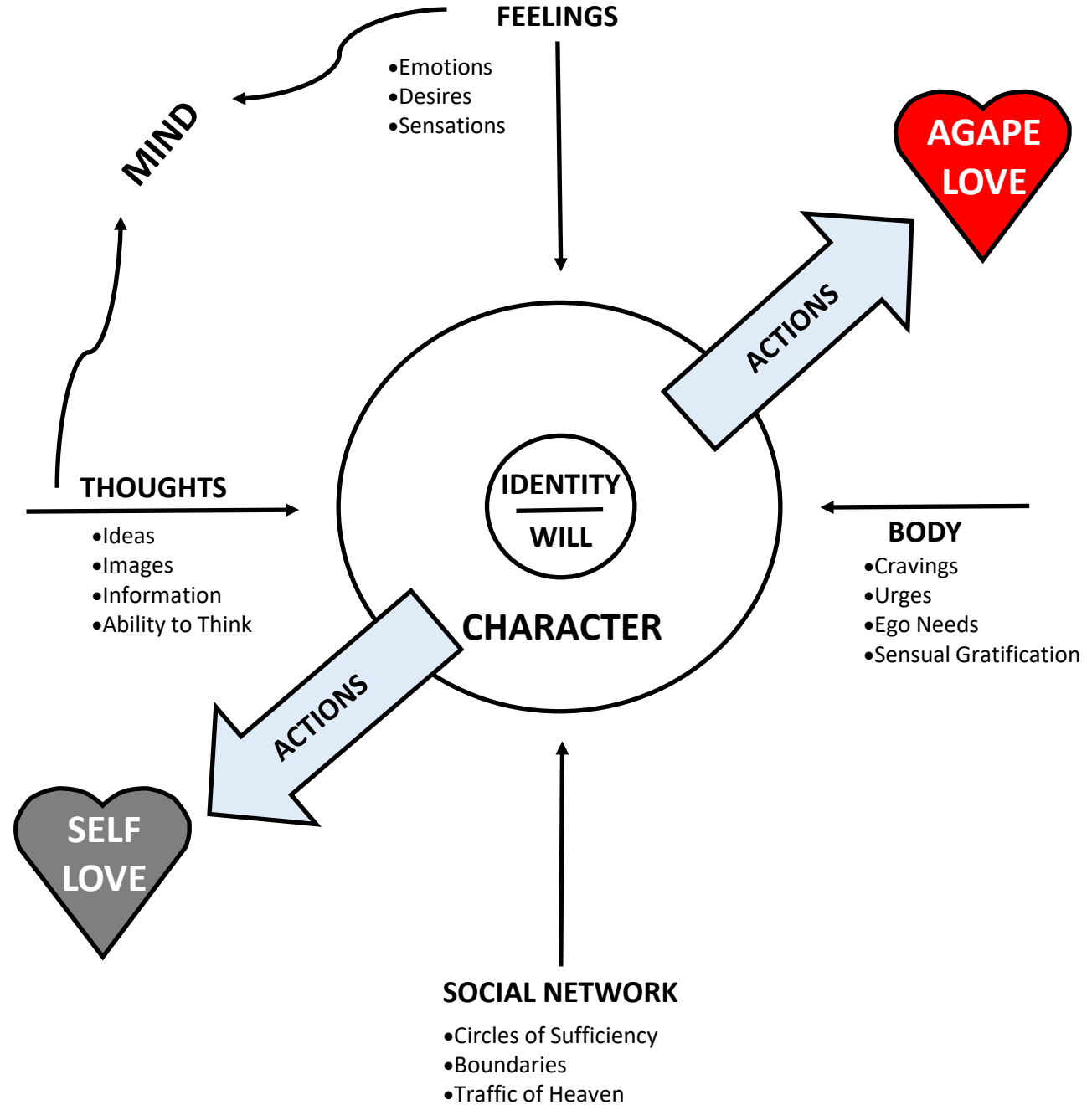
# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



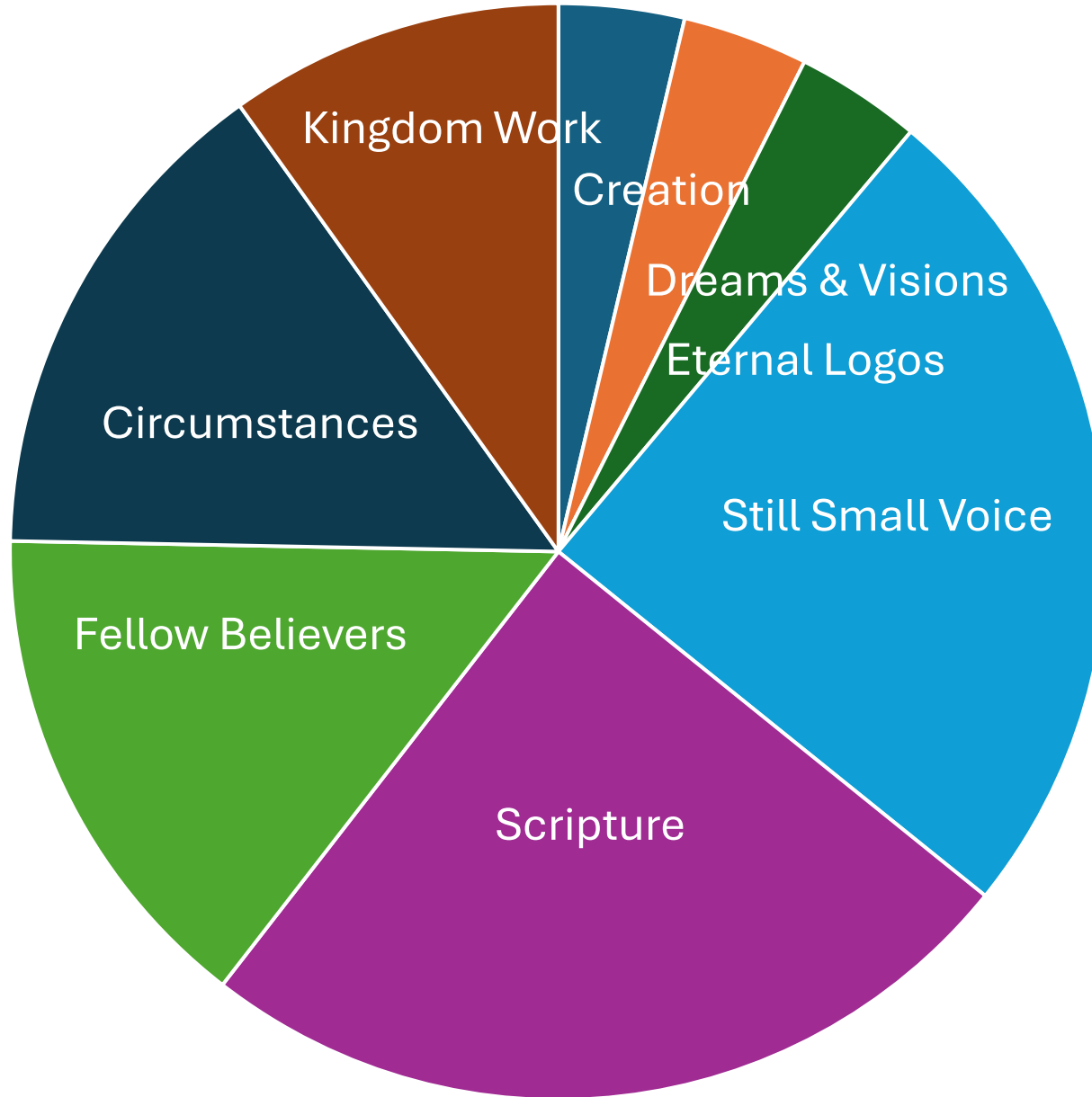
# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# The Many Ways the Word of God Comes to Us



■ Creation ■ Dreams & Visions ■ Eternal Logos ■ Still Small Voice ■ Scripture ■ Fellow Believers ■ Circumstances ■ Kingdom Work

# I Wake up in the Kingdom

an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe

- **Breathing Kingdom Air (love)**
- **Burning Kingdom Fuel (grace)**
- **Building Kingdom Character**
  - **Doing Kingdom Work**