



Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community

“Kingdom living in the body is designed to be a life of joy and adventure.”



Check-In

Did the Spirit of God **launder** your **inner person** this week? What **dirt** was **removed** by your **wash-rinse-repeat** discipline?

My Daily Mantra...

I woke 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.

Homework Review

- In what ways did **Spiritual Reality** show up for you this week?
- Was **Spiritual Reality** ever your **primary reality** for a good portion of a day?
- How does **waking up in the Kingdom** help your **awareness** of Spiritual Reality?

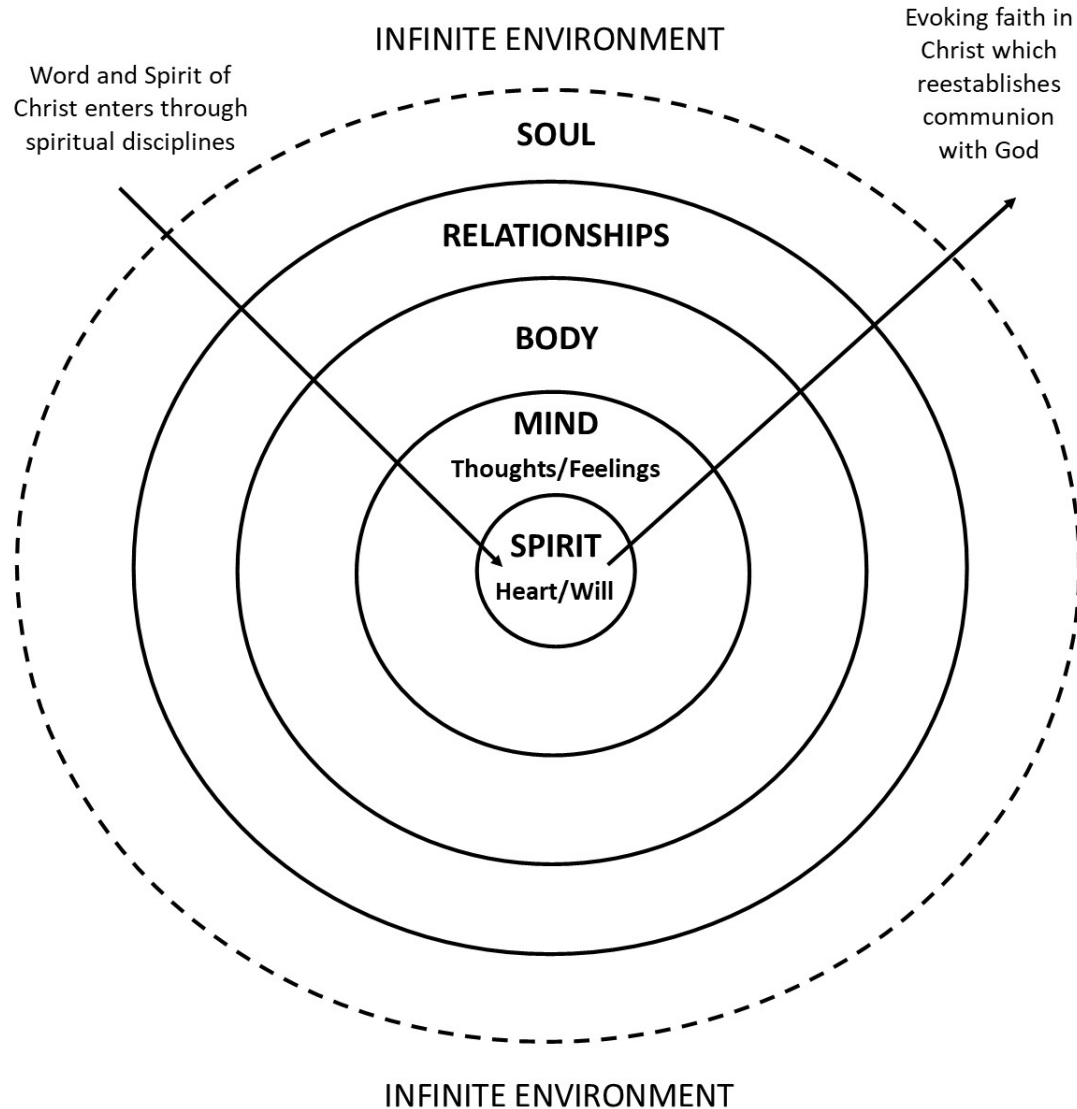
Spiritual Reality

- It is not a **commitment** or a **lifestyle**
- It is not a **social** or **political stance**
- It is a life **integrated into, arranged around, and dominated by** the Kingdom of God

The Entire Human Self

The Whole Picture

Spiritual
Formation
*in the
Kingdom
of God*



A Life of Faith & Surrender



Christ's Faith as My Faith

(Karl's Story)

- The **faith** by which Christ **lived his life** is expressed in the **gospel** he preached
- **Early** in our **relationship** with God **we learn** to have **faith in all Christ did and said**
- At some point on our **journey** we move from only having **faith in Christ** to having the **faith of Christ**

Matthew 8:26

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"

- If the **disciples** had had **Jesus' faith**, they would have **calmed the storm themselves** instead of **asking Jesus** to do it

Alive to Christ - a completely new way of being alive

A Life of Faith & Surrender



- "kainotes zoes" is a **different life** in both **kind** and **degree**; a life with a **fresh, new quality**
- Jesus' **resurrection** was not just a **resuscitation**, it was a **completely new** form of life
- Remember the difference between the **cauliflower, Lucy** and **Lisa**?
- **Dead to one reality** and **alive in a whole new way**, walking in **newness of life**

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life

Alive to one reality – Dead to another

1 Corinthians 2:9-16



Our sinful nature and the body



Spiritual Reality & Physical Body Not Opposed

They are complimentary

- The Spiritual life **makes possible** a fulfilling life **in the body**
- It does this by **initiating** an **interaction** between **our body** and the **Kingdom of God**
- The body was **not designed** to function **on its own** outside an **interactive relationship** with the **Spiritual life**
- The **body is not evil**

Our sinful nature and the body



Sin: Missing the Mark

- **hamartia** - to miss the mark; failure to attain God's standard for thoughts, feelings and behaviors
- The **visual image** is an archer placing an arrow in his bow, drawing it back and aiming at the target, and missing the bull's eye
- A result of living life apart from God is continually missing the mark

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

1 John 3:4

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness

Our sinful nature and the body



Sinful Nature - a system of habits

- The **fall of man** was God **removing himself** from man because of **man's disobedience**
- The **result** of man **living apart** from God was Adam & Eve and their families basically saying, "*Well, I guess we are going to have to figure this out for ourselves.*"
- The **consequence** over time was development of a "**system of habits**" and **disordered, obsessive desires** that have become **ingrained** in our **bodies** and **minds**, pulling us **away** from God
- The "**sinful nature**" or "**flesh**" is not an **innate, deterministic force**; it is not a **virus** or **chemical** in the **brain** or **blood stream**; it is not something **forced** upon us we **cannot avoid**
- It is the **habitual, automatic tendency** to live **independently apart** from God

Our sinful nature and the body



Sinful Nature - on your own apart from God

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 pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

John 15:5

"I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Ephesians 2:12

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world

Our Sinful Nature & the Body

Review...

- Spiritual & Physical not Opposed
- Missing the mark, life apart from God
- Habitual, individualistic way of life



Table Talk

If you were honest, in what area of your life are you most tempted to live apart from God?

Key Aspects of the sinful nature



Habits, Not just Nature

Habituation is a result of repeated actions, and not an innate, uncontrollable disorder

1 John 3:7-10

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are; Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

Key Aspects of the sinful nature



Disordered Desire

Unmanaged desires or lusts from **thoughts, emotions, behaviors** in the **body**, and **unhealthy relationships** pull us away from God

Romans 7:21-24

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Paul describes the **result** of sin **living in him** as a **battle**, not a **comfortable way of life**

Key Aspects of the sinful nature



Body as Agent

The body plays an **integral role** as **ungodly tendencies lodge themselves** in the **parts** of our **bodies**, making **evil** an almost **automatic, habitual response** of our **body**; this **derails** the **Kingdom purpose** and **use** of the **body**

Romans 6:11-13

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Key Aspects of the sinful nature



Rooted in Self-Idolatry

The **core** of a **sinful nature** is a **focus** on **self-realization**,
the **natural result** of living **apart from God**

Romans 1:21-22

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God or gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

2 Timothy 3:1-4

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Key Aspects of the sinful nature



Spiritual vs Unspiritual

"To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted." (Titus 1:15)

- To the **person** whose **entire soul** is permeated with the **Spirit of God** and **Kingdom ways**, **everything is pure**
- To the **person** who has **removed God** and **Kingdom ways** from their soul's **operating system**, **nothing is pure**
- The **body** and its **sensations**, **desires**, and **preoccupations** are not **evil** for anyone whose **inner person** is **guided** by the **Spirit**
- However, they are **subordinate** to the **life** of the **Spirit**, and will at times be **opposed** or left **unsatisfied**; but **never** with the **attitude** that **what is vital** to our **life** and **happiness** is **lost**, or that we have been **damaged** in any way

Key Aspects of the Sinful Nature

Review...

- Habits, not just nature
- Disordered desire
- Body as agent
- Rooted in self-idolatry
- Spiritual vs Unspiritual



Table Talk

*How does a believer
change long-term
ingrained habits of living
apart from God?*

The Goodness of Rightness



Kingdom Living - Joy & Adventure

- Failure to experience this deeply satisfying Kingdom life always results in making a sinful life look good
- This is where temptation can feel so powerful against us
- When we just cut off the pleasure of sin with nothing better to replace it, we end up going back to sin
- True spirituality is not about escaping the material world or ignoring the body, but rather about living a Spirit-inspired life in the body

The Goodness of Rightness



The Body is a Power Pack

- The **body** is our "independent power source for action" a "little 'power pack'" given by God
- **Spirituality** is not just about having **good thoughts**; it is about **training** our physical bodies—our **habits, tongue, eyes, and actions**—to **act in alignment** with **God's will**

The Goodness of Rightness



The Body is a Battleground

- **Sinful patterns and tendencies** are often ingrained in our **physical habits** and **brain chemistry**
- Therefore, the "**deepest ground**" of **spiritual transformation** is not just a **mental change**, but the **physical re-training** of the **body** to **support the Spirit**

The Goodness of Rightness



Spirituality in a Physical World

- The "fullness of human life" is achieved when we **stop treating the physical and spiritual as separate**
- Through **spiritual disciplines** like **fasting, solitude, or serving others**, we bring our **bodily members** into **submission** to God, allowing our **physical lives** to become a "**living sacrifice**"

The Goodness of Rightness



Bringing it all Together

- In essence, you **cannot** have a **truly mature, deep spirituality** that **neglects** your **physical reality**
- The **goal** is to bring your **body** into **harmony** with the **life of God**, making it a "**temple**" that expresses **goodness** in **daily life**
- **Imagine your life becoming increasingly, a Kingdom Life, Life on the Rock!**

Peter, The Rock

- From **FOLLOWER** to **FAILURE** to **FAITHFUL WARRIOR** for Christ and the Kingdom - the **ROCK**

1 Peter 2:11-12

*Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. **Live such good lives among the pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*



Table Talk

Regarding bringing your body into harmony with God, where have you seen the greatest change recently?

Spend the week **thinking about** and **observing** the way your **body influences** and **interacts** with the **spiritual reality** around you.

Ask, "*How does my waking up in the Kingdom change the way I think about and use my body?*"

Look up **scripture** or re-read from **tonight's study**, verses on the **physical body**, and how it is **transformed** along with your **inner person**.

Homework

The background of the right side of the image is an underwater scene with a blue tint. Several divers are visible, some upside down, creating a sense of movement and depth. The word 'Homework' is overlaid in large white letters.

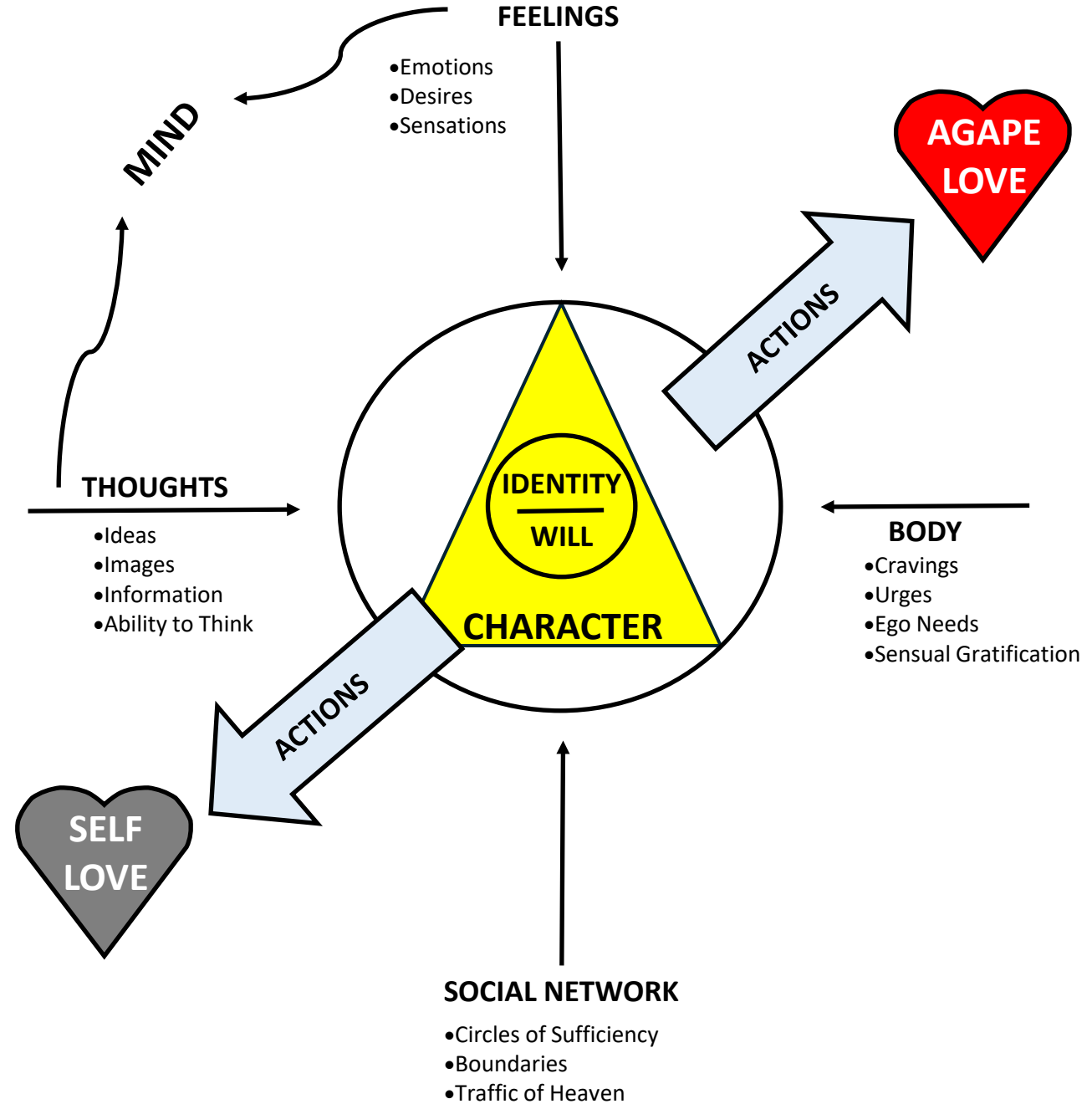
Homework Review



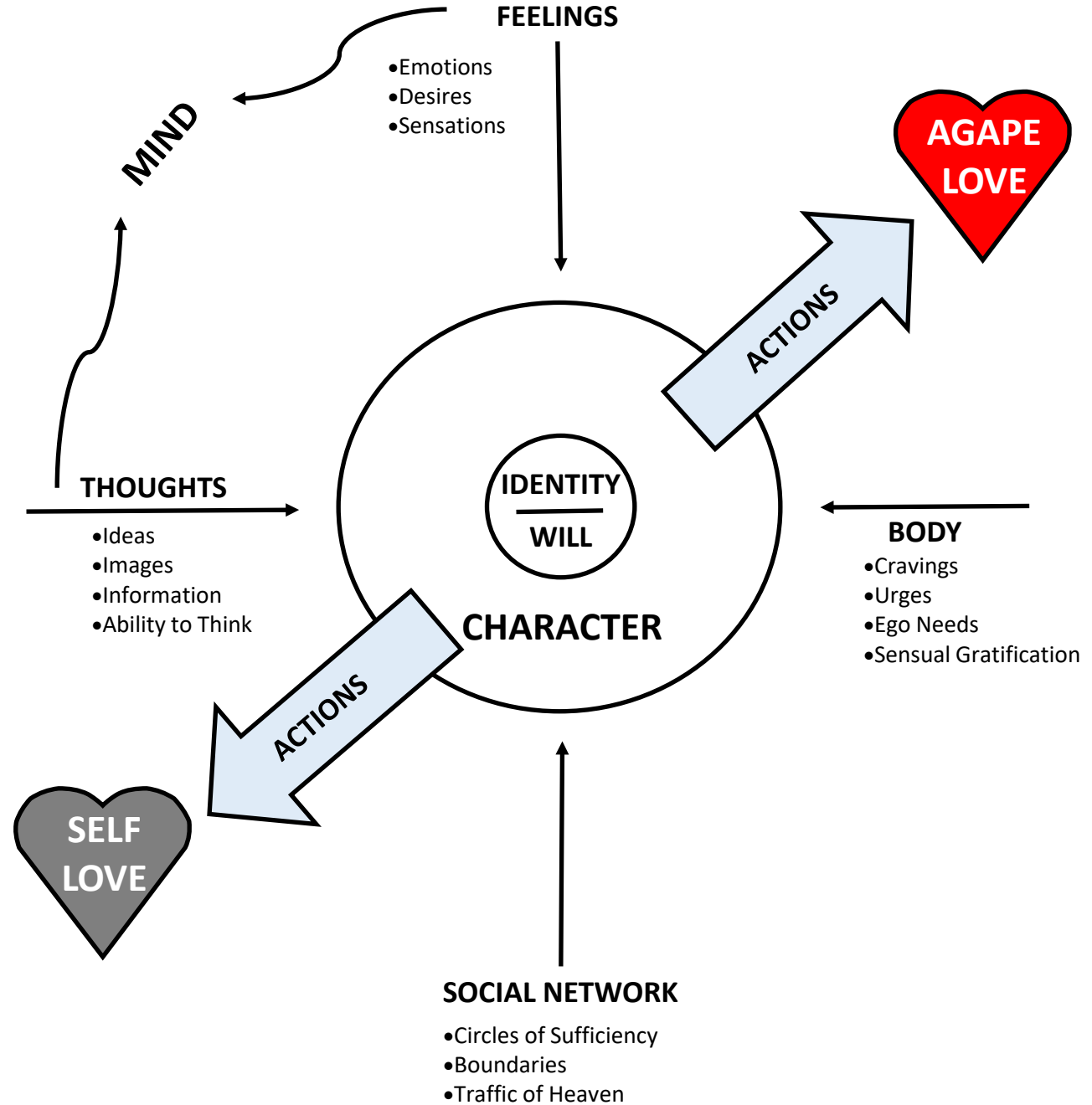
- Where are you seeing God at work in you, around you, or through you?
- What are you learning about your inner person?

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

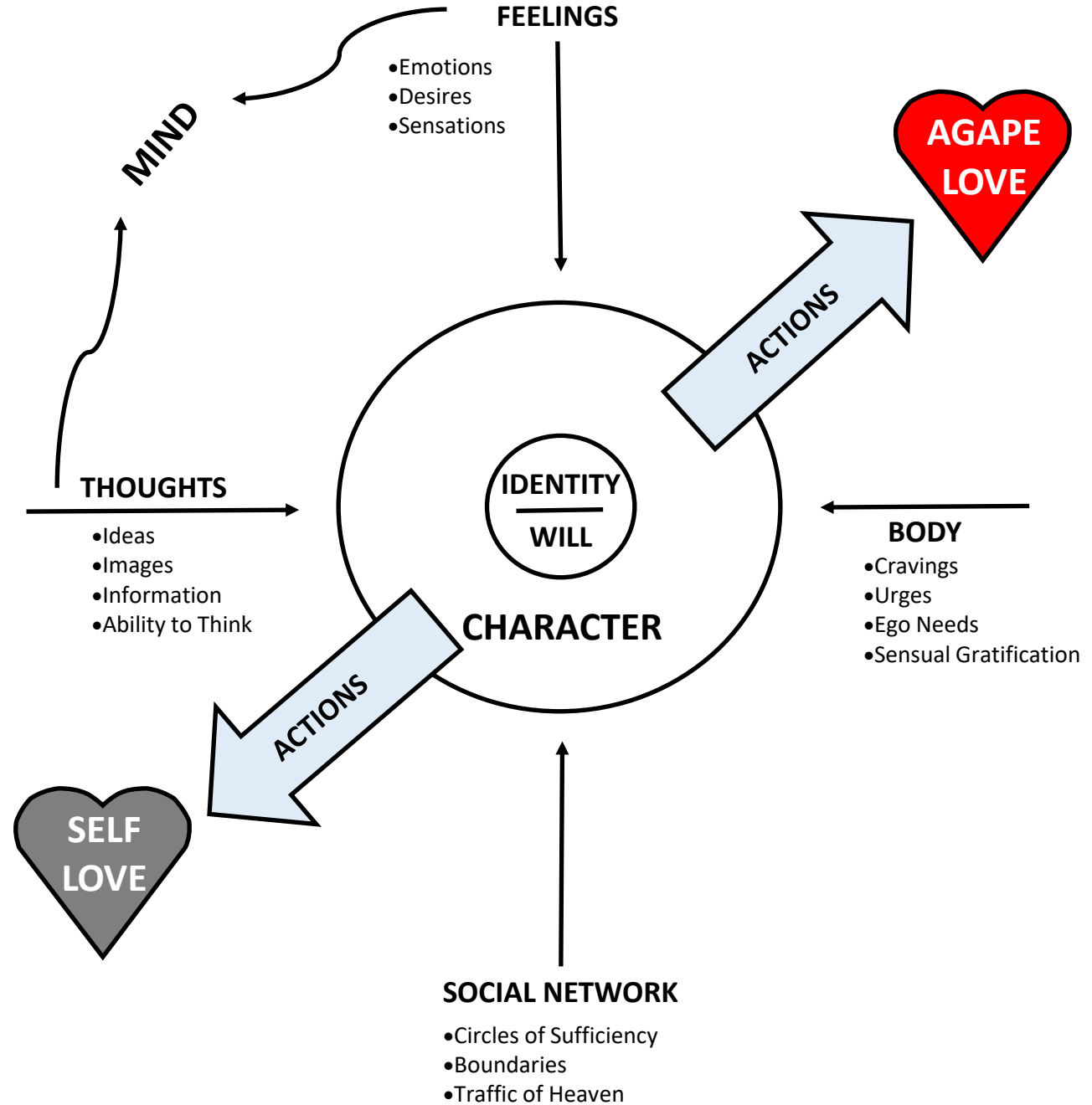
Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



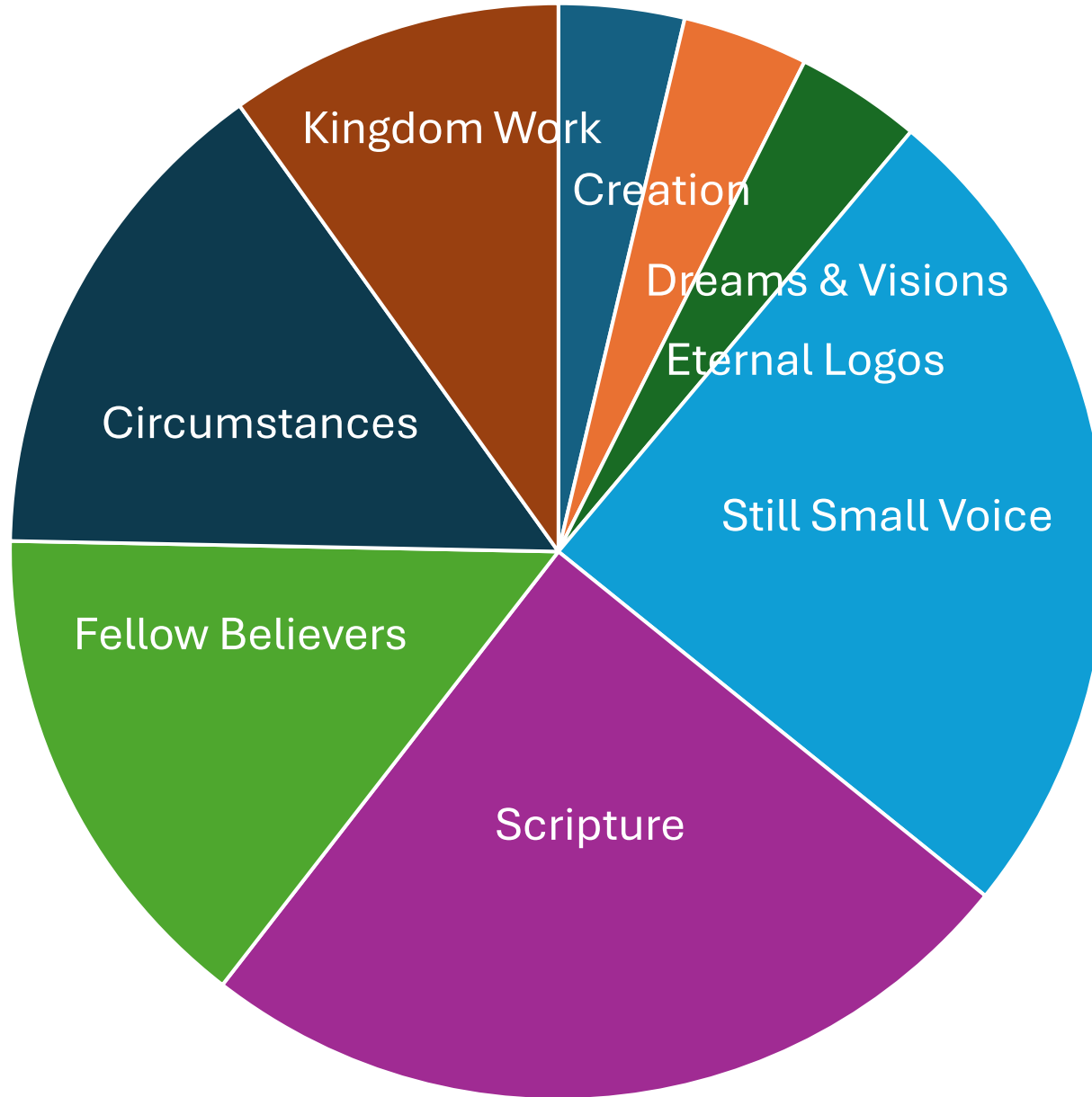
Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



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**