



Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community

“I find comfort in knowing God is for me.”



Check-In

Share your emotional weather today and aside from eternal life, the greatest benefit you receive from being a follower of Jesus.

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 a different life than most people waking up around me experience.

REVIEW...REVIEW...REVIEW...REVIEW...REVIEW

**Why three weeks
on transforming
our sin nature?**

God's speaking washes clean our heart and mind

- Like **soap, water, and working dirty clothes** back and forth, the **dirt is loosened and washed away**, leaving a **freshly cleaned** piece of clothing
- When we come to God, our **hearts and minds** are like that dirty shirt, **cluttered with false beliefs and attitudes, deadly feelings, past deeds, and misguided plans, hopes and fears**
- Using the **many ways** He speaks to us, **God's Word moves** into every part of our **personality**, just like the **water and soap** move through the shirt's fibers
- God's Word **pushes out** and **replaces** all that is **false** and **encouraging** us to **live apart from God**

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.

A clean heart and mind (*identity, will, character, thoughts, emotions, body and relationships*), **prepares us spiritually to be of use to the King in the Kingdom**

2 Timothy 2:19-21

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are His," and "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

Over time we create a **Kingdom Life on the Rock** into which **God can speak** and know that **we are listening, spiritually prepared**, and will **do something** about **what he tells us**

What is your EXPERIENCE?

We can only come to know
the Voice of God by
EXPERIENCE.

What is your EXPERIENCE?

The voice of **others**, the still
small **inner voice**,
some **special event**, the
Bible or **circumstances**.

What is your availability for a God-experience?

Easter/Christmas - Crisis - Big Decision - Weekend - Daily

The Three Lights



Scripture: Responsible study and meditation on the Bible
Spirit: The various movements of the Spirit in our heart
Circumstances: The intelligent alertness to what is happening around us

- This is **not a formula** or **mechanism** for making decisions
- However, all three serve to **correct each other**
- The three together teach us **how to make spiritual judgments**

Listening to God is designed to **teach us judgment skills**

God's **directive word** is not **one** of the lights, or **all three combined**

But **His word** does usually come to us **THROUGH** the three lights

This is what is meant by **coming to know** the **voice of God** by
EXPERIENCE

Quality (tone, style)

Spirit (attitudes, characteristics)

Content (information, principles, history)

Weight (the weight of authority)



Benefits

Of a personal, dynamic, interactive & conversational relationship with God.

What is an abundant Kingdom Life on the Rock?

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”



The Foolish Man



Hears what God **says** and **DOES NOT** put it into **practice**

- The **life** he builds is **located** on **sand**
- **Rains** fall, **streams** rise and **winds** blow
- The **storm** beats against his life and **he falls with a great crash**

What do we **know** about **life** on the **sand**?

- God **speaks** His **ways** to **all people**
- **All people** have the same **opportunities** in life
- The **foolish** live lives **apart from God** because they **do not do** what He says
- **Storms** beat against the **lives** of **all people**
- All who **live** apart from God **fail God's purpose** for their life
- Life on the sand **ALWAYS** ends in **failure**

The Wise Man



Hears what God **says** and **PUTS IT INTO PRACTICE**

- The **life** he builds is **located** on **rock**
- **Rains** fall, **streams** rise and **winds** blow
- The **storm** beats against his life and **he stands tall and strong**

What do we **know** about **Life on the Rock**?

- God **speaks His ways** through an **ever-deepening** relationship
- The **wise** live lives in **alignment with God**
- The **storm** beats against the **wise** on the **Rock**
- The **wise** on the Rock **fulfill God's purpose** for their life
- **Kingdom ways** offer **opportunities in life**
- **Life on the Rock** is a Life of **Abundance** and **Joy**

Benefits of Life on the Rock



Daily Conversation with the King of Kings

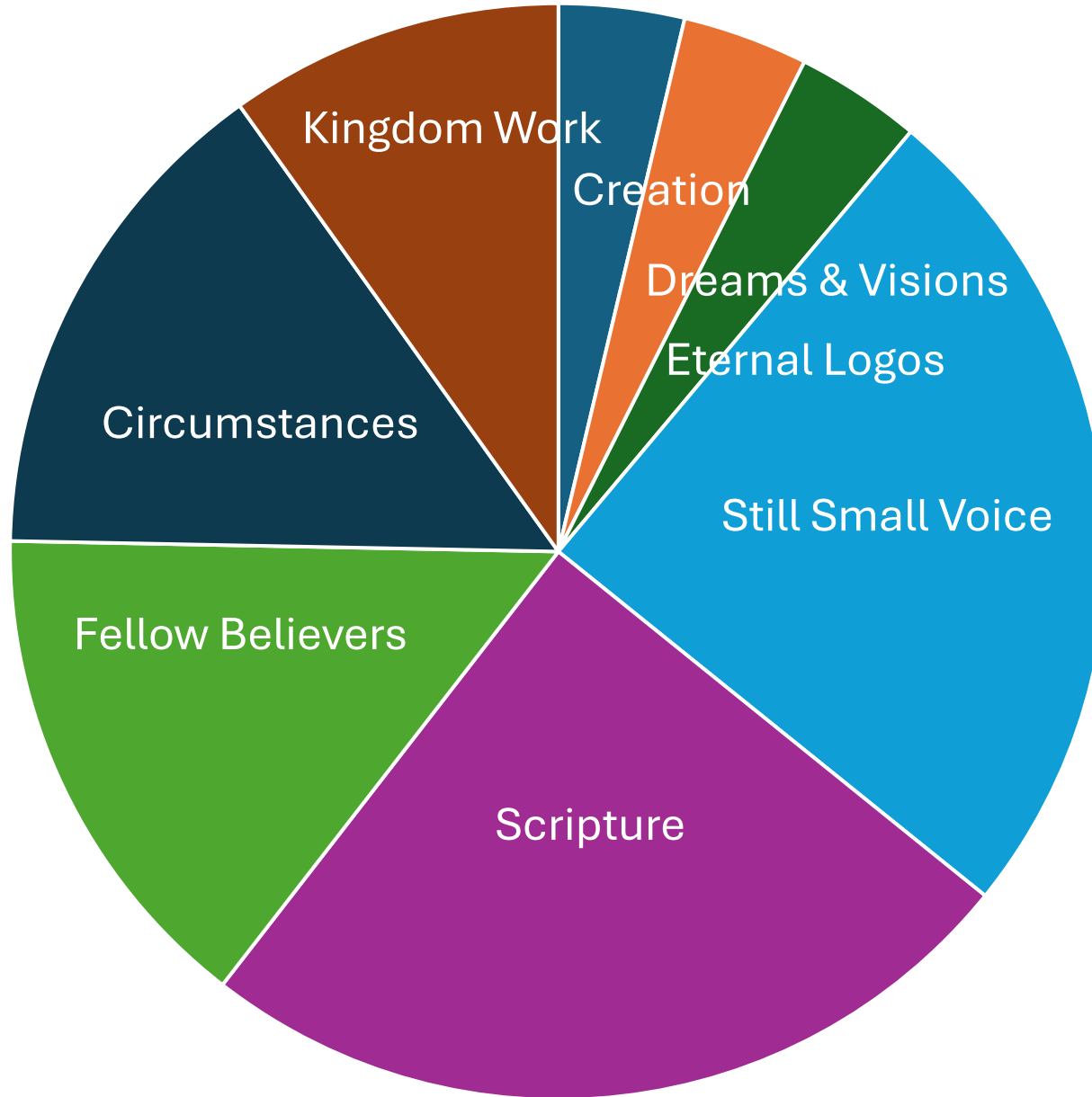
Knowing **Kingdom Ways** requires an **intimate connection**

- We are **His church** and he **talks to us**
- We are the **Kingdom of the spoken to**
- Our **chief benefit** is daily **personal, dynamic, and interactive conversations** with the **King**

We must hear God speak

- It is not enough to **read** or **study** the scriptures **alone**, interpret our **circumstances alone**, listen to **others** talk about God **alone**, or catalog a few dozen **spiritual experiences alone**; the chief benefit of **waking up in the Kingdom** is being in **constant communication** with the **King** about all those things and more

The Many Ways the Word of God Comes to Us



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

Benefits of Life on the Rock



Protection from False Teaching

The way we identify a false teaching is by knowing the truth so well, we recognize anything not true

- Gnosticism in the early church = Christ + anything else (works, Jewish tradition)

We must also be careful of thinking we know too much to be wrong

- **John 9:24-33** - The Pharisees questioned Jesus' healing of a blind man because it was done on a Sabbath
- The Pharisees thought they knew Jesus was a sinner (apart from God) because **they knew** the scripture and **they knew** how to interpret it

Benefits of Life on the Rock



A Quality of Life like those in Scripture

Experience and a healthy understanding of God's **speaking** can alone make the events of the Bible real to us, including the **possibility** that God would **work in our lives** the same way

- **1 Samuel 16:1-13**
 - *The selection of David as King over Israel*

Not mere impressions, impulses or feelings, but clear and concise plain communication

- **1 Chronicles 14**
 - *God speaking to David about specific battle plans*
- **2 Peter 1:21**
 - *Men & women through their thoughts and perceptions of what they had come to recognize as the character and voice of God, were carried along by the Holy Spirit and wrote the inspired word of God*



Kingdom Life on the Rock



Matthew 7:24-27

A home where you can live without anxiety or worry

**A beautiful garden of plants and shrubs with an orchard of trees
all producing amazing flowers and fruit**

Identity

Friendships

Grief/Loss

Conflict

Thought Life

Generosity

Worth & Value

Marriage

Health

Injustice

Recreation

Wounds

Neighbors

Work

Joy

Success

Pleasure

Money

Benefits of Life on the Rock



Confidence, Comfort and Peace

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Benefits of Life on the Rock



Why would this blessing produce confidence, comfort, and peace?

Because “**THE BLESSING**” is what takes place every day in your **Circle of 4**

- You are found to be sufficient; you matter to God; you have worth & value
- This creates **CONFIDENCE**

You are accepted as you are, no matter what you've done

- Your Lord knows what you are feeling when you experience pain
- This creates **COMFORT**

The Lord is not warring with you or attacking you, and He doesn't pull away from you and distance Himself

- With Him you will always be enough
- This creates **PEACE**

**Practice the Lectio Divina using the
“Blessed Man” teaching
from Psalm 1:1-6**

Lectio Divina is "*divine reading*" and is less about a traditional analytical or inductive study, and more about slowing down to take time to listen to God speak to you through a passage of scripture. Use the outline below and be sure to write your responses in your journal as you go.

Read

What word or phrase strikes you?

Reflect

What is God telling you in this passage?

Respond

What do you want to say to God?

Rest

After resting, how do you apply the passage into your life?

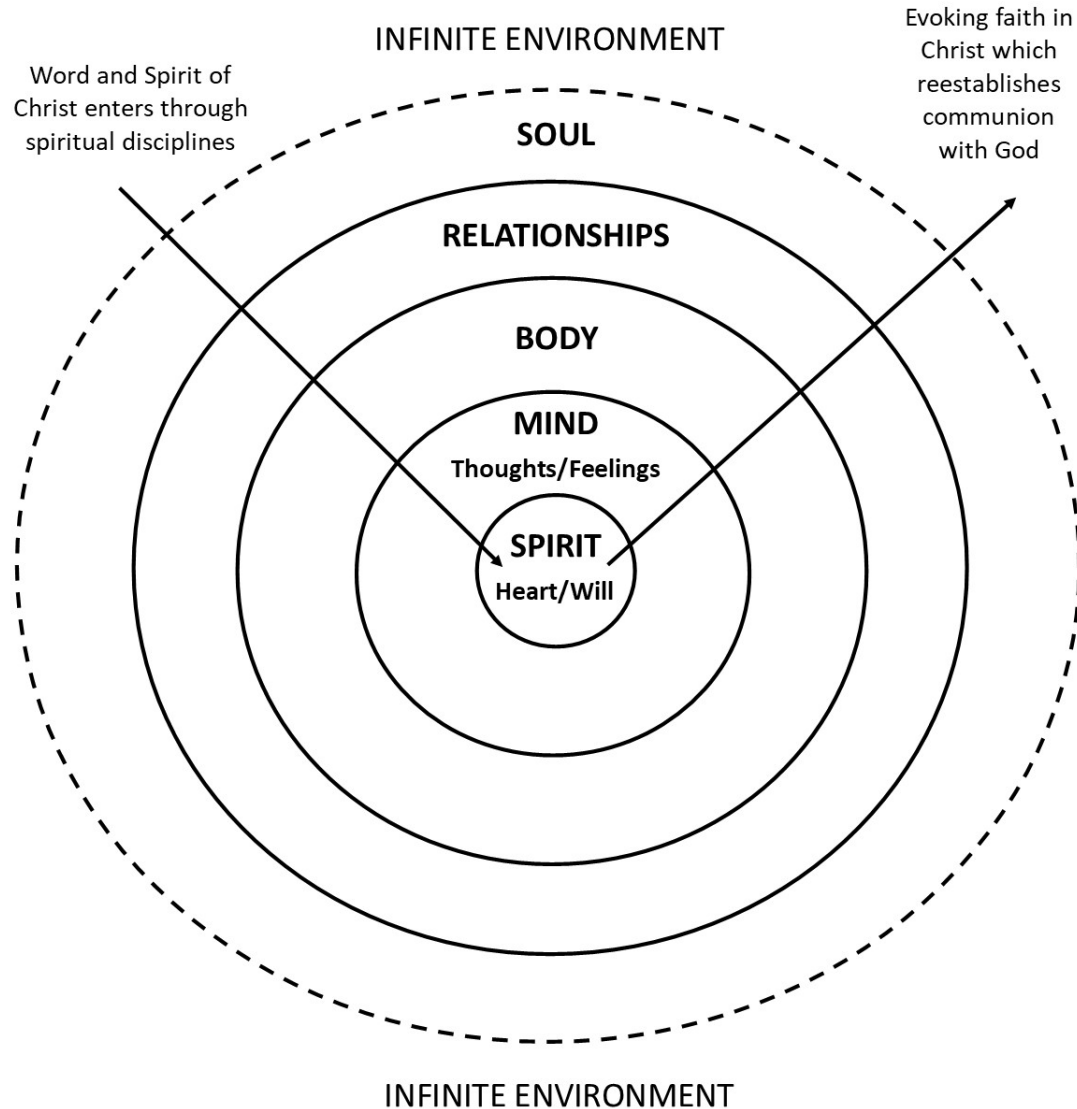
An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. In the background, there are large, branching coral structures. The overall scene is serene and peaceful.

Homework

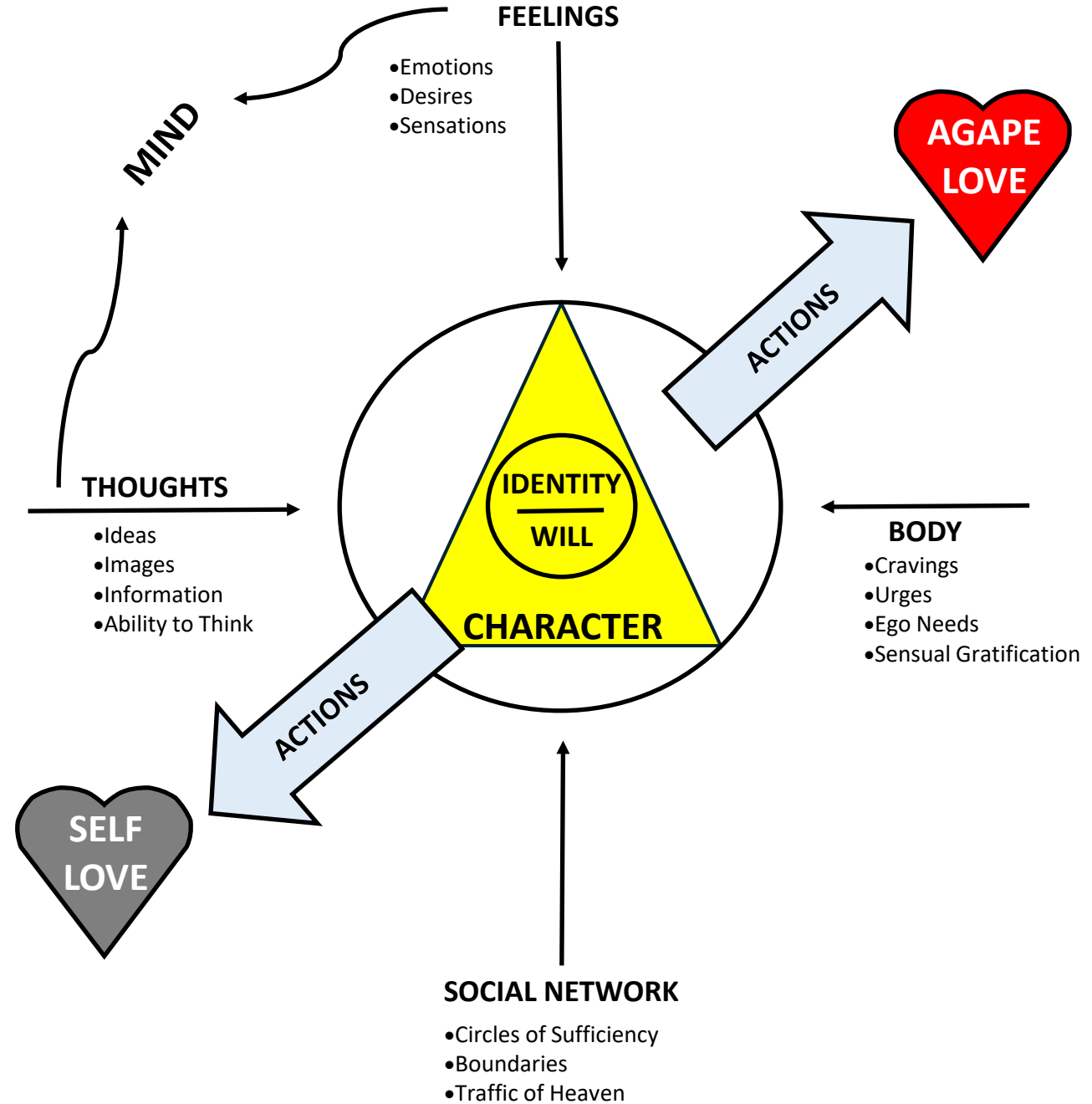
The Entire Human Self

The Whole Picture

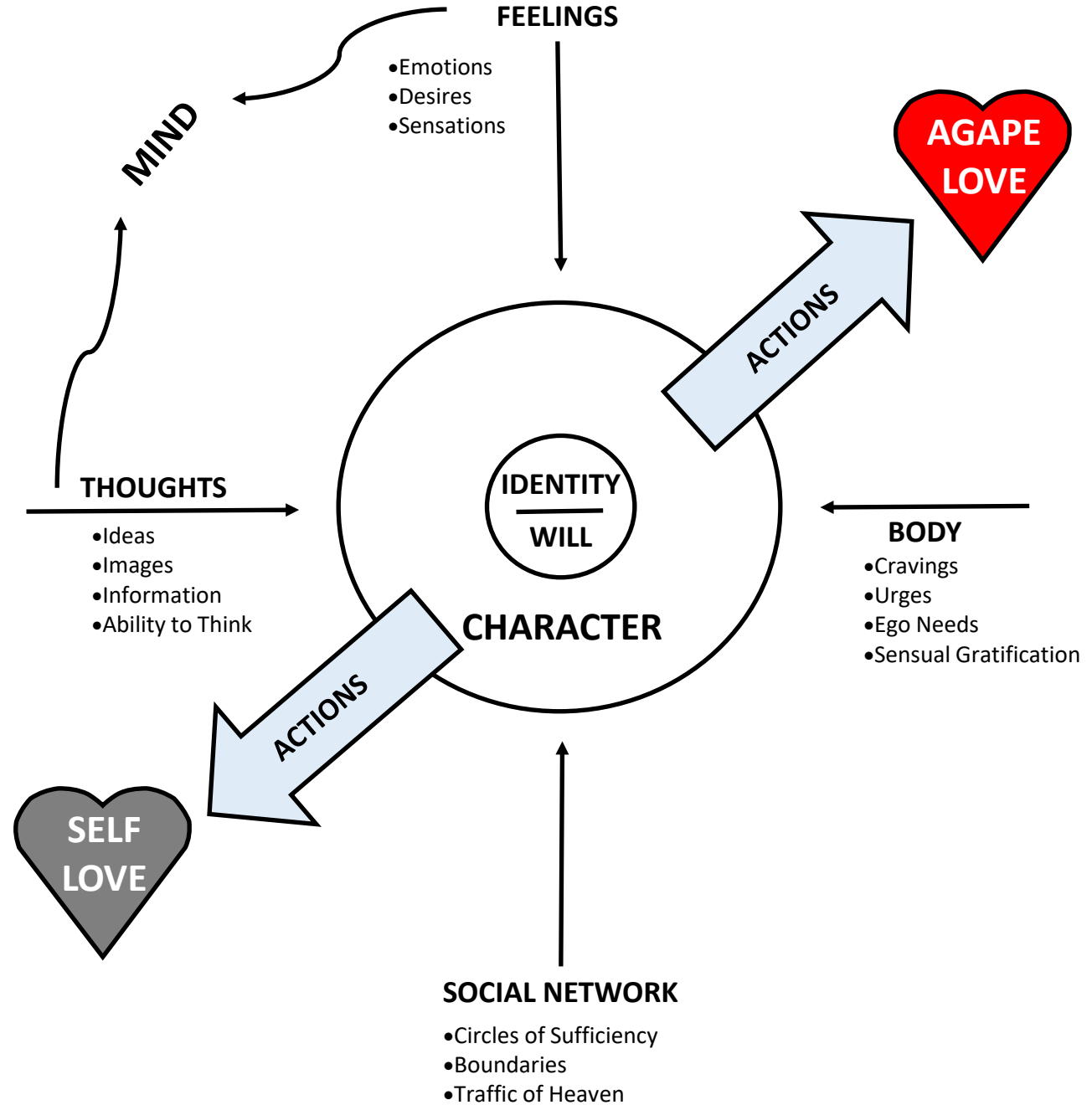
Spiritual
Formation
*in the
Kingdom
of God*



Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



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