



**Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community**

**“Developing a Kingdom Life of Listening to God.”**



# Check-In

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Share your emotional weather today and your newest favorite scripture passage.

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.*

# Kingdom Building



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What did you do this week to help someone find or follow Jesus more closely?

# Learning the Kingdom Way



## Equipping for the Kingdom Way

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### **Teaching** - *This is the Kingdom Way*

- The truth leading to an understanding of the Kingdom Way pertaining to a subject or topic

### **Rebuking** - *You have lost the Kingdom Way*

- You are living apart from God in this matter

### **Correcting** - *This is the path back to the Kingdom Way*

- Re-align your life with this truth to be with God in this matter

### **Training** - *How to abide in the Kingdom Way*

- Ask for the Spirit's guidance and establish habits, tendencies, and patterns of daily life in the Kingdom Way by training for it and arranging your life around it

# Kingdom Life



**Wake up in the Kingdom,  
walk the day  
the Kingdom way,  
and soon discover you're  
living a Kingdom life.**

## **Ephesians 6:13**

*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

# Kingdom Life



## Living a Kingdom Life is Living a Larger Life

*"Hearing from God will never make sense  
except when it is set within a larger life of a certain kind."*

**A larger life is oriented and arranged around the name of Jesus**

**Colossians 3:17** (1 Corinthians 10:31)

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of  
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him*

**In this larger life God will both speak in specifics, and will also remain  
quiet to allow us to learn and grow**

- God will be **with me** even when he does not **tell me what to do**
- He is **developing within me** a knowledge of him **so deep** that **I would know** what he would **say** or **do** on almost any subject
- This is what it means to **become like him**

# Kingdom Life



## Preparing us for a Life of Initiative

Sometimes we **don't hear from God** because he is calling us to **responsible citizenship** in his Kingdom, and telling us,  
*"My will for you in this case is for you to decide on your own."*

### Galatians 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Individual human personality** is given its fullest expression;  
**an inner directedness**

### The Development of a Child

A **child** cannot **develop** into a **responsible, competent** human being if he or she is **always told what to do**. A child's **character** cannot be known - even by the child - until she is **turned loose to do what she wants**. It is precisely **what she wants** and **how she handles those wants** that both **reveal** and **make her** the person she is

Either we **become** God's **mature children, friends** and **coworkers**,  
or we are **something less**.

The background of the slide features a faint, light-colored image of a person performing a handstand on a table. The person is positioned in the center, with their hands on the table and legs raised in the air. The overall tone is light and airy, with a soft blue and white color palette.

# Dallas Willardisms on Hearing God

a table exercise

# Dallas Willardisms on Hearing God

*"What we do or do not understand, in any area of our lives, determines what we can or cannot believe and therefore governs with an iron hand our practice and action."*

# Dallas Willardisms on Hearing God

*"Faith is not opposed to knowledge; faith is opposed to sight. And grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning."*

# Dallas Willardisms on Hearing God

*"Our ability to recognize God's voice in our souls and to distinguish it with practical certainty from other competing voices is acquired by effort and experimentation - both on God's part and ours. It does not come automatically by divine imposition and command."*

# Dallas Willardisms on Hearing God

*"While God's communications come through experiences of many kinds, their detailed content or meaning always takes the form of the inner voice, a characteristic type of thought or perception."*

*"When I want to hear from God, I ask him to speak to me, and then as I go through my days, I listen for that voice or the thought that comes from him to help me understand things. I'm often in the midst of something else when the answer comes."*

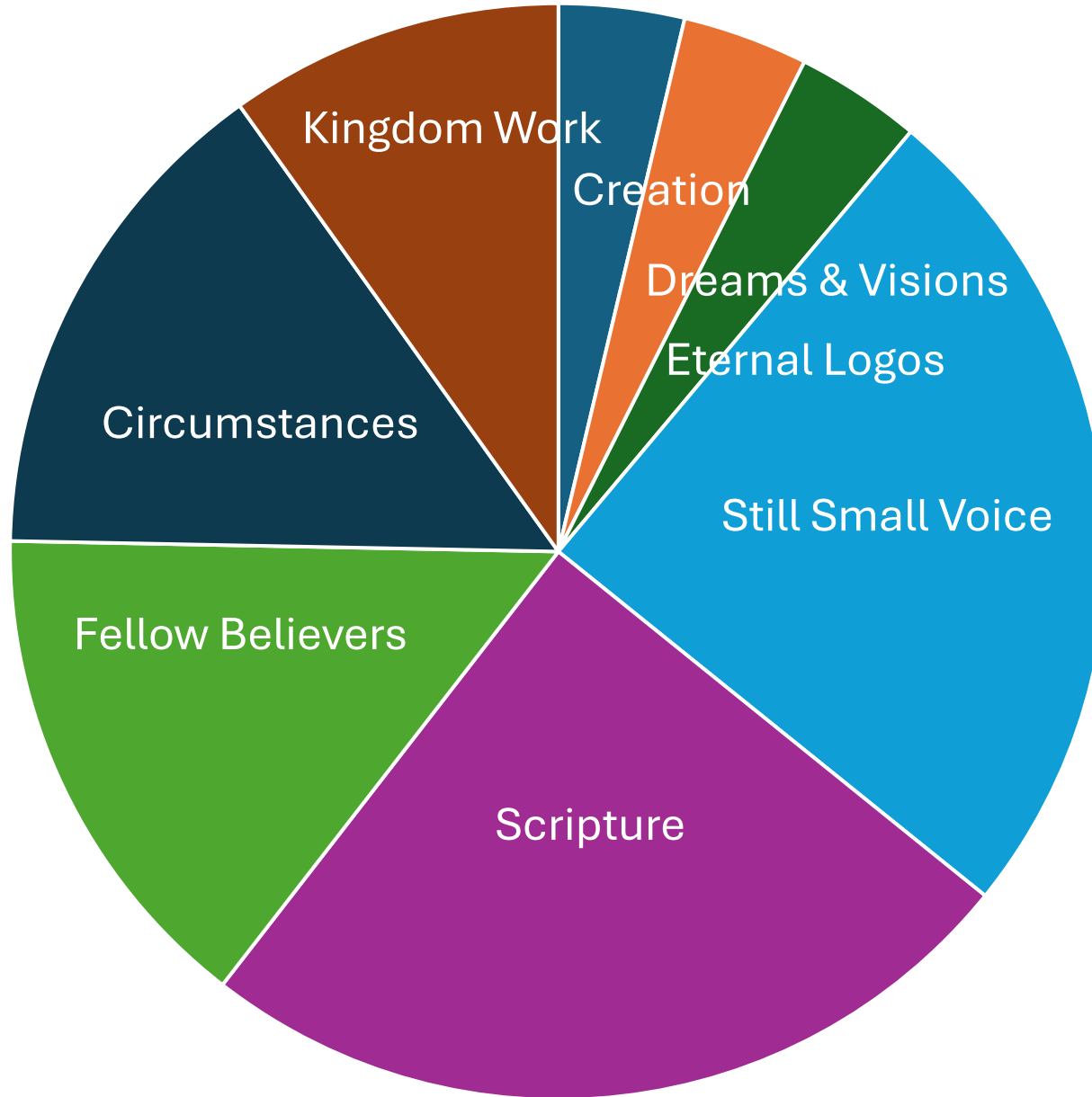
**Kingdom  
Life  
Listening  
to God**



# **1. Commit to live by the general counsel of God's Speaking**

- This is a **general agreement** and **decision** to **orient life** around obeying God
- Living your life **with God**, and not **apart from God**
- Acknowledging an **openness to** and **awareness of** all the **many ways God speaks**

# The Many Ways the Word of God Comes to Us



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

**Kingdom  
Life**

**Listening  
to God**



## **2. Immerse my life in agape love**

Following the Spirit, **we promote the good** in all people, **willing to sacrifice** and **refusing to place conditions** on our loving actions

**John 13:34-35** (*Love identifies believers to the world*)

**Mark 12:30** (*Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and neighbor as yourself*)

**1 Corinthians 13** (*Love is the most excellent way*)

**Kingdom  
Life  
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# **3. Become a student of specific principles in God's written word**

- God expects **hard study** and **diligent effort** from us in **applying anything in scripture**
- **Reading, studying, memorizing, reflecting**
- **Listening** and **applying** through **teaching, rebuking, correcting, training**

**Ezra 7:10** (*Ezra was devoted to the study and observance of the law of the Lord; led a great spiritual revival based on Torah-based worship; known for compiling the Old Testament and establishing rabbinic law*)

**John 5:39** (*study the scriptures to learn about Jesus and to find life*)

**2 Timothy 2:15** (*Study to show yourself approved by God; a workman; unashamed at handling the word of truth*)

Kingdom  
Life  
Listening  
to God



# 4. Pay attention to my heart's response to anything God says

The heart includes the following:

*Identity, Will, Character*

*Thoughts, Emotions, Body, Relationships*

What is our **initial reaction**?

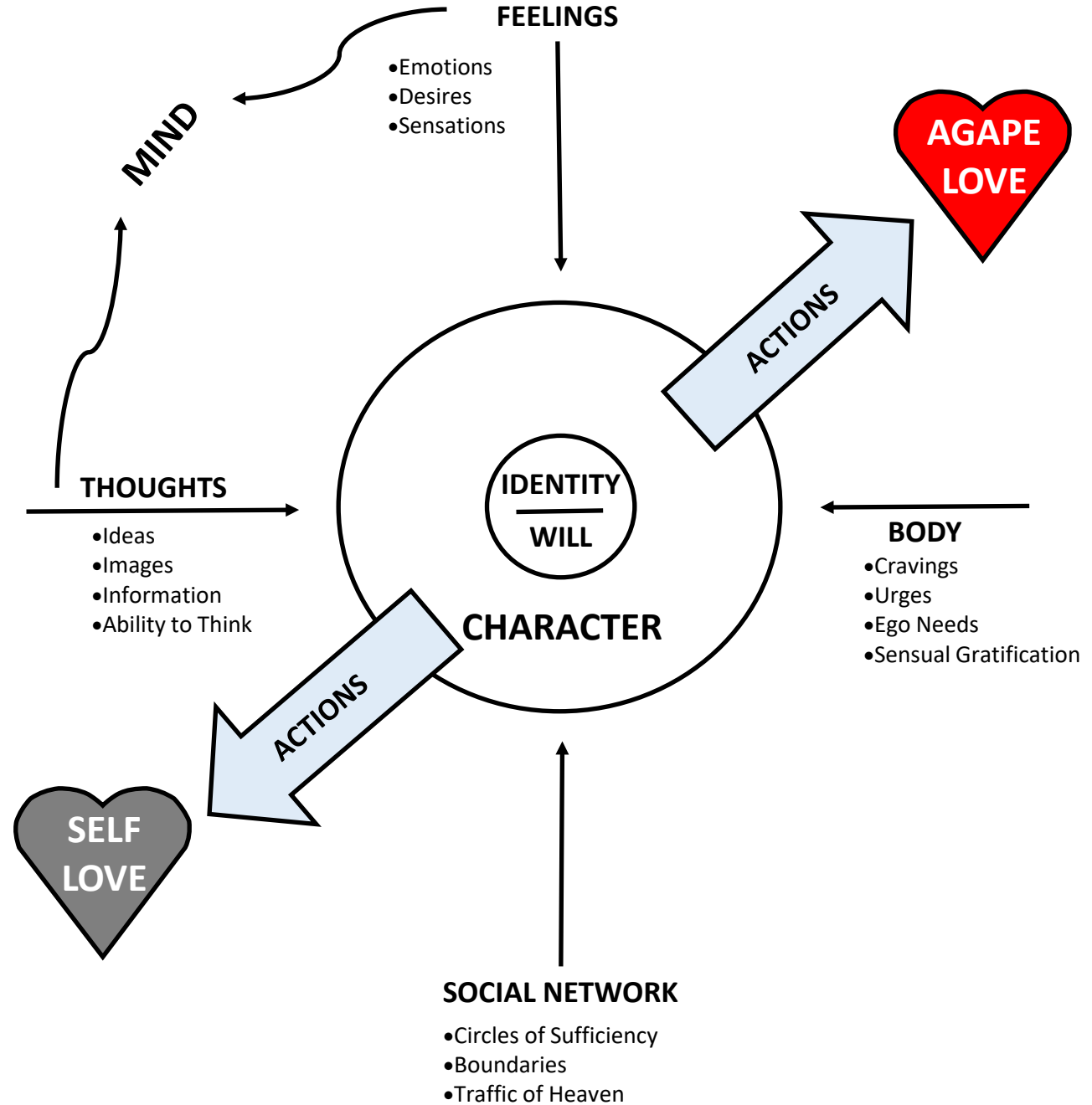
Do we ever **shut down** hearing from God?

Where are we **obedient** or **disobedient**?

Most people **KNOW** more of God's will than they **PRACTICE**

**Luke 15:17** (*Prodigal who "came to himself" and decided to go home*)

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



**Kingdom  
Life  
Listening  
to God**



# **5. Converse with God about literally everything**

- **Nothing is too insignificant** to bring to **God's attention**
- As we become aware of our **thoughts, emotions, desires, urges and sensations**, we discuss them with God

**Philippians 4:6-7** (*Don't worry about anything but instead pray about everything*)

**1 Peter 5:7** (*cast all your cares upon him because he cares for you*)

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** (*Pray without ceasing*)

Kingdom  
Life  
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to God



## 6. Listen carefully and deliberately for God

- Paying close attention to what we hear
- Journaling, meditating, reflecting, and receiving it with gratitude
- God does not **speak for our amusement**, but to make some **real difference** in our lives
- Seek to **implement** what you've **heard** from God

**John 10:27** (*My sheep hear my voice...they follow me*)

**Psalms 37:7** (*Be still before the Lord*)

**James 1:19** (*Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger*)

**1 Samuel 3:10** (*Speak Lord, for your servant is listening*)

# **Kingdom Life Listening to God**



- 1. Commit to live by the general counsel of God's Speaking**
- 2. Immerse my life in agape love**
- 3. Become a student of specific principles in God's written word**
- 4. Pay attention to my heart's response to anything God says**
- 5. Converse with God about literally everything**
- 6. Listen carefully and deliberately for God**

## Review the 6 steps to a Kingdom Life of Listening to God

- Choose one you are not proficient at practicing
- Spend the week spotlighting it
- Arrange your week around it, establishing new habits and patterns

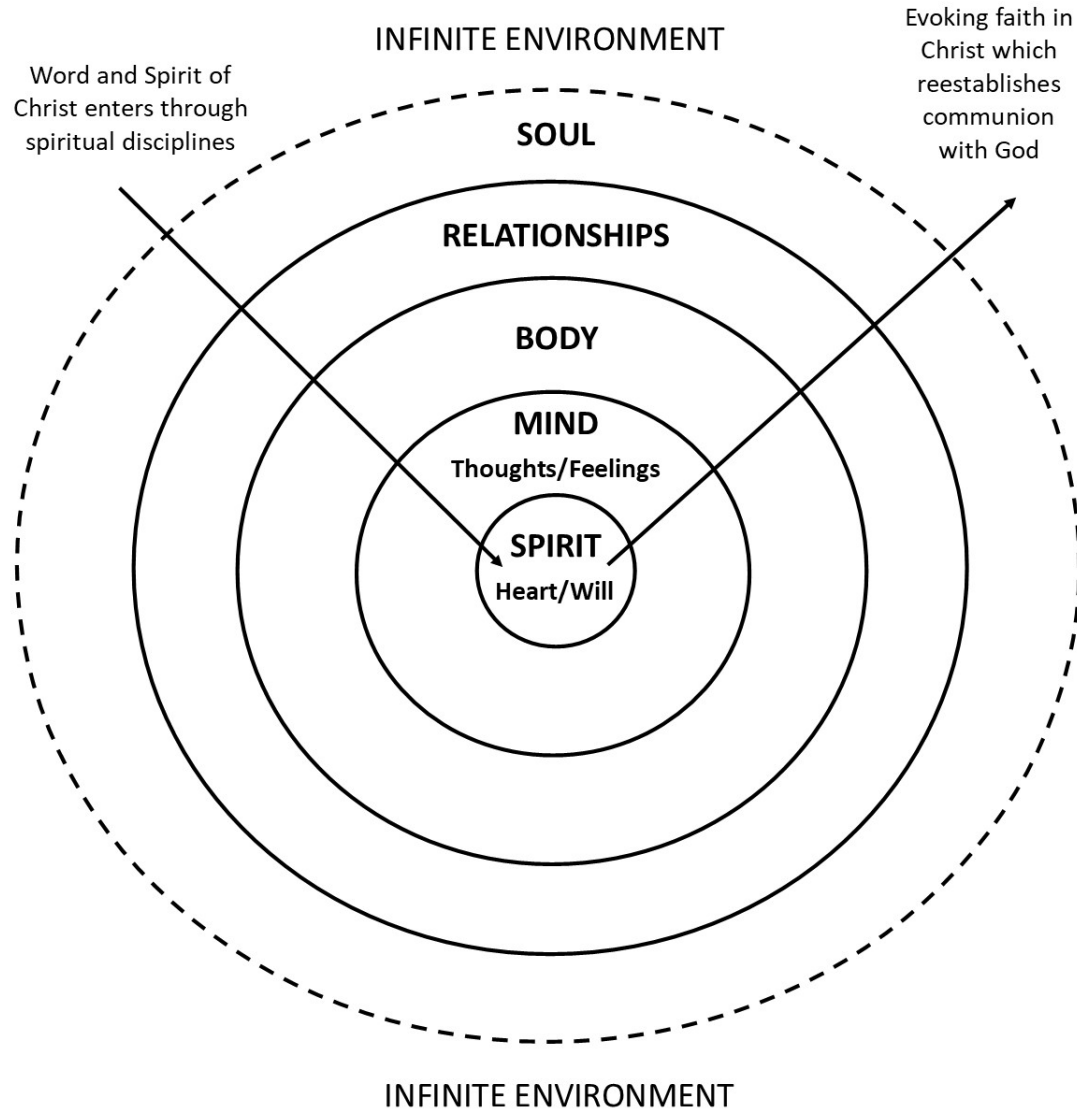
An underwater photograph showing several divers in a blue, slightly hazy environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The word "Homework" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

# Homework

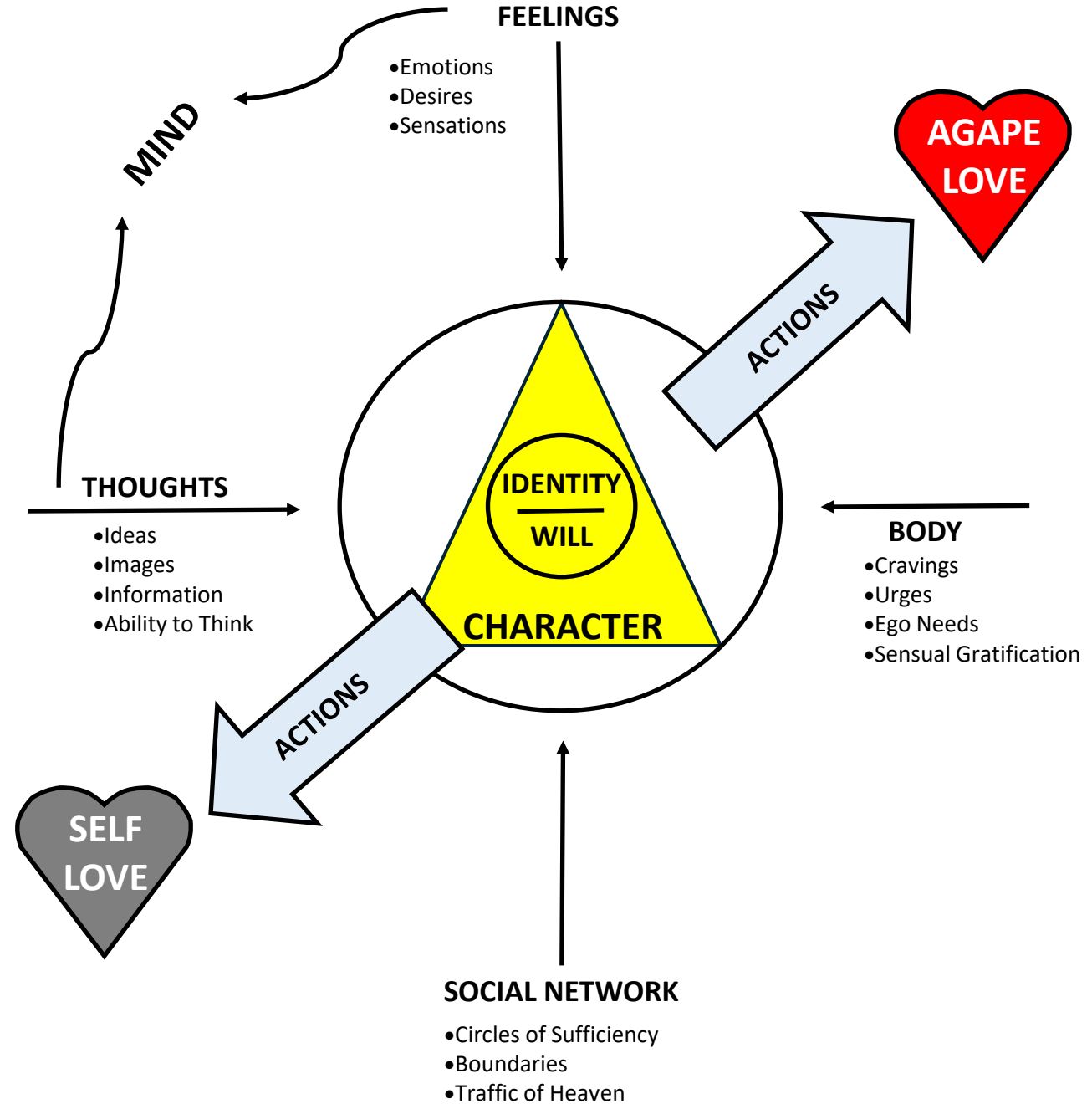
# The Entire Human Self

*The Whole Picture*

Spiritual  
Formation  
*in the  
Kingdom  
of God*



# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*

