



**Welcome to an Experience in Spiritual Formation**

*“It’s all about the relationship.”*



# Check-In

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Share your emotional weather today and  
which word best describes your relationship  
with God right now...

*Personal ... Dynamic ... Interactive ... Conversational*

# A Kingdom Person



## REVIEW:

**Following Jesus is having a very specific kind of relationship with him**

- Personal
- Dynamic
- Interactive
- Conversational

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.*

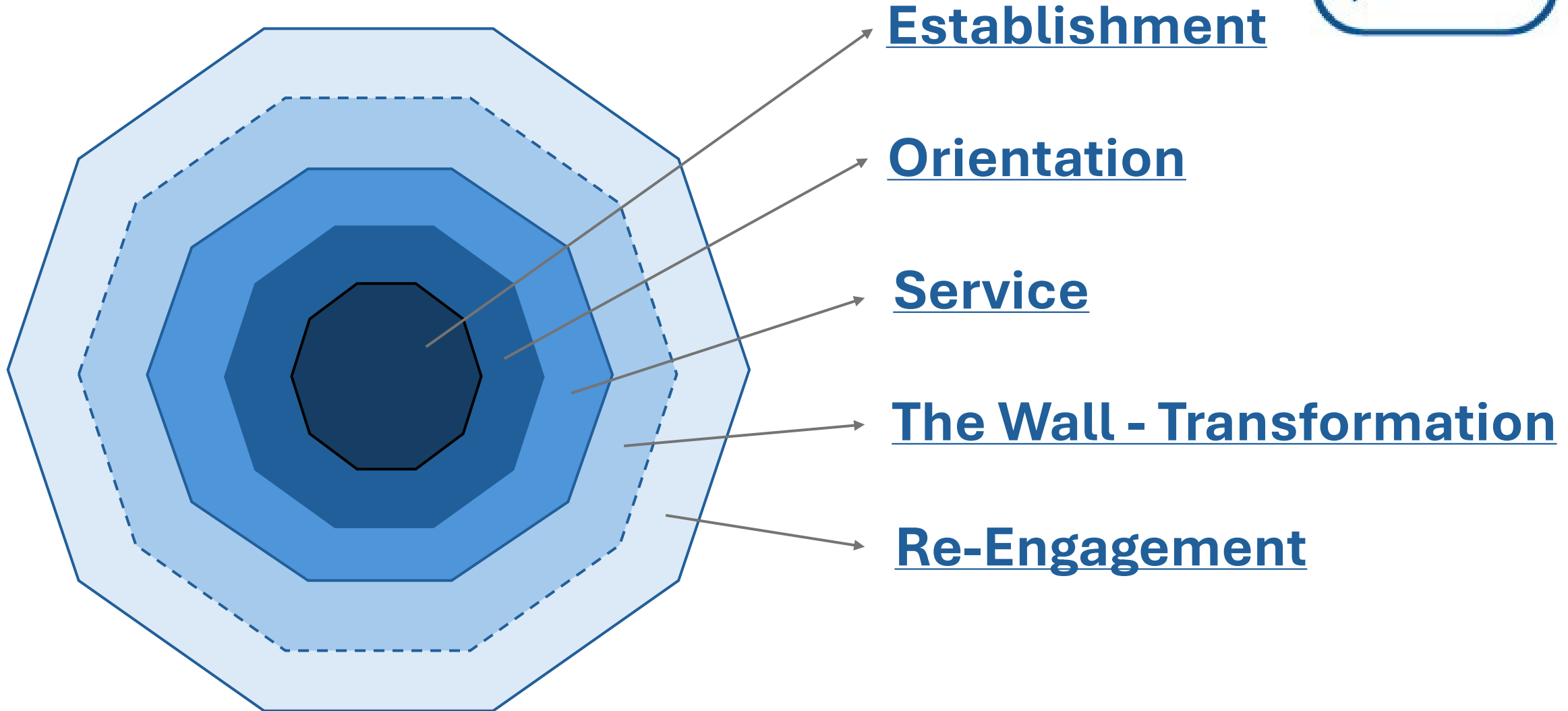
# Kingdom Life



**Wake up in the Kingdom,  
and then walk the day  
the Kingdom way**

- There is a Kingdom Way to do everything
- Exertion of my will indicates a Kingdom choice
- I am becoming on the inside a transformed person
- My character grows more Christlike every day

# Relationship Journey - Following Jesus



# Relationship Journey...

## *ESTABLISHMENT*



**John 1:12:** *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

- This verse shows that family adoption into God's household starts by believing in Jesus and receiving Him

**Romans 10:9:** *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

- This explains the dual role of inner trust and open confession in turning to God

**Ephesians 2:8–9:** *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."*

- This clarifies that a relationship with God cannot be earned by good deeds; it is received by grace

**James 4:8:** *"Come near to God and he will come near to you."*

- This promises that the moment a person takes a step toward God, God responds by drawing close

# Relationship Journey...

## *ESTABLISHMENT*



# *Truths about a starting a relationship with God*

- Salvation is not merely a **legal** or **future ticket to heaven** after you die, but an **ongoing, interactive** life with Jesus Christ **right now**
- Salvation is not simply **accepting Jesus** as a **Savior from guilt** without embracing Him as **Lord and Teacher**
- **Romans 8:16:** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

# Relationship Journey...

## *ESTABLISHMENT*



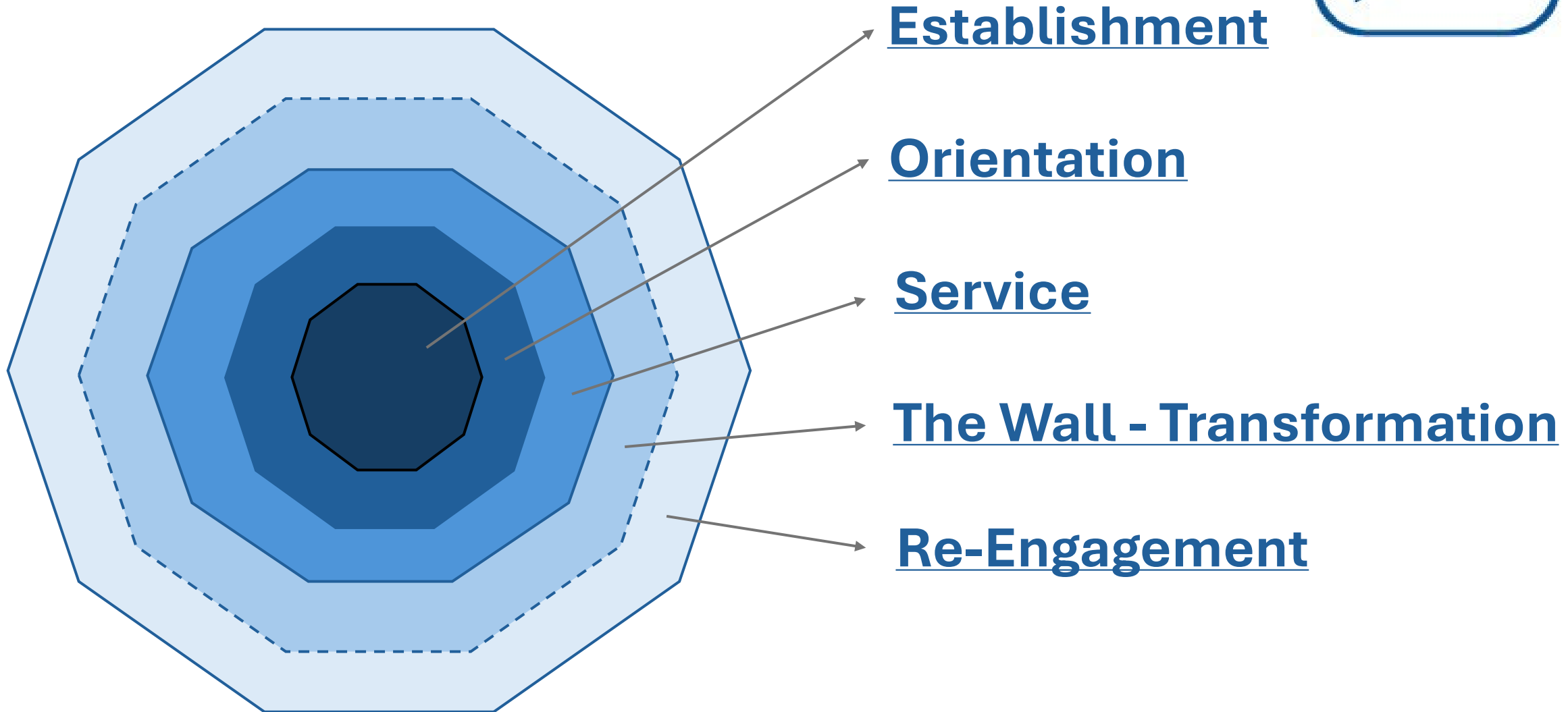
# Get Real!

*Table Group Activity*

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Go around the table with each person sharing your 30-second story about how your relationship with God began

# Relationship Journey - Following Jesus



# Relationship Journey...

## *ORIENTATION*



## Parable of the Sower/Soils

Matthew 13: 1-9

## Jesus Questioned about Parables

Matthew 13:10-17

## Jesus' Explanation of the Parable

Matthew 13:18-23

# Relationship Journey...

## ***ORIENTATION***



## Parable of the Sower/Soils

Matthew 13: 1-9

- Jesus goes to the seashore
- Crowds gather around while he teaches
- He climbs into a boat as a stage for teaching
- Farmer sowing seed
- Four types of soil
  - *The path and birds*
  - *The shallow soil*
  - *The crowded soil*
  - *The good soil*

# Relationship Journey...

## ORIENTATION



## Jesus Questioned about Parables

Matthew 13: 10-17

- Disciples ask, “**Why Parables?**”
- Jesus gives three reasons
  - *Disciples can hear truth*
  - *Unbelievers will be confused*
  - *Prophecy will be fulfilled (Isaiah 6:9-10)*
- **Your eyes are blessed** because they see, and **your ears** because they hear!
- Many **prophets** and **righteous people** have been waiting a long time to experience what you’re experiencing in me

# Relationship Journey...

## ORIENTATION



## Jesus Explanation of the Parable

Matthew 13: 18-23

- The **seed** is the **message about the Kingdom**
- A **crop** represents **expansion** of God's rule and **experiencing the expected results**
- **Four types of soil**
  - *The path and birds – Satan stealing message*
  - *The shallow soil – no root/message dies*
  - *The crowded soil – message choked out*
  - *The good soil – Kingdom fruit produced!*
- What is the **receptivity** of your **heart** to the message of the Kingdom?
- Are you **arranging** your **entire life** around the **message of the Kingdom?**

# Relationship Journey...

## ***ORIENTATION***



## **Re-Orienting Your Life**

*Arranging everything around the Relationship*

**There are multiple ways to improve  
the quality and receptivity of your soil / heart.**

- ***Categories of your everyday life***
- ***Dimensions of your inner person***

# Relationship Journey...

## ***ORIENTATION***



# Get Real!

*Individual Activity*

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**Re-Orienting Categories of Your  
Everyday Life One at a Time**

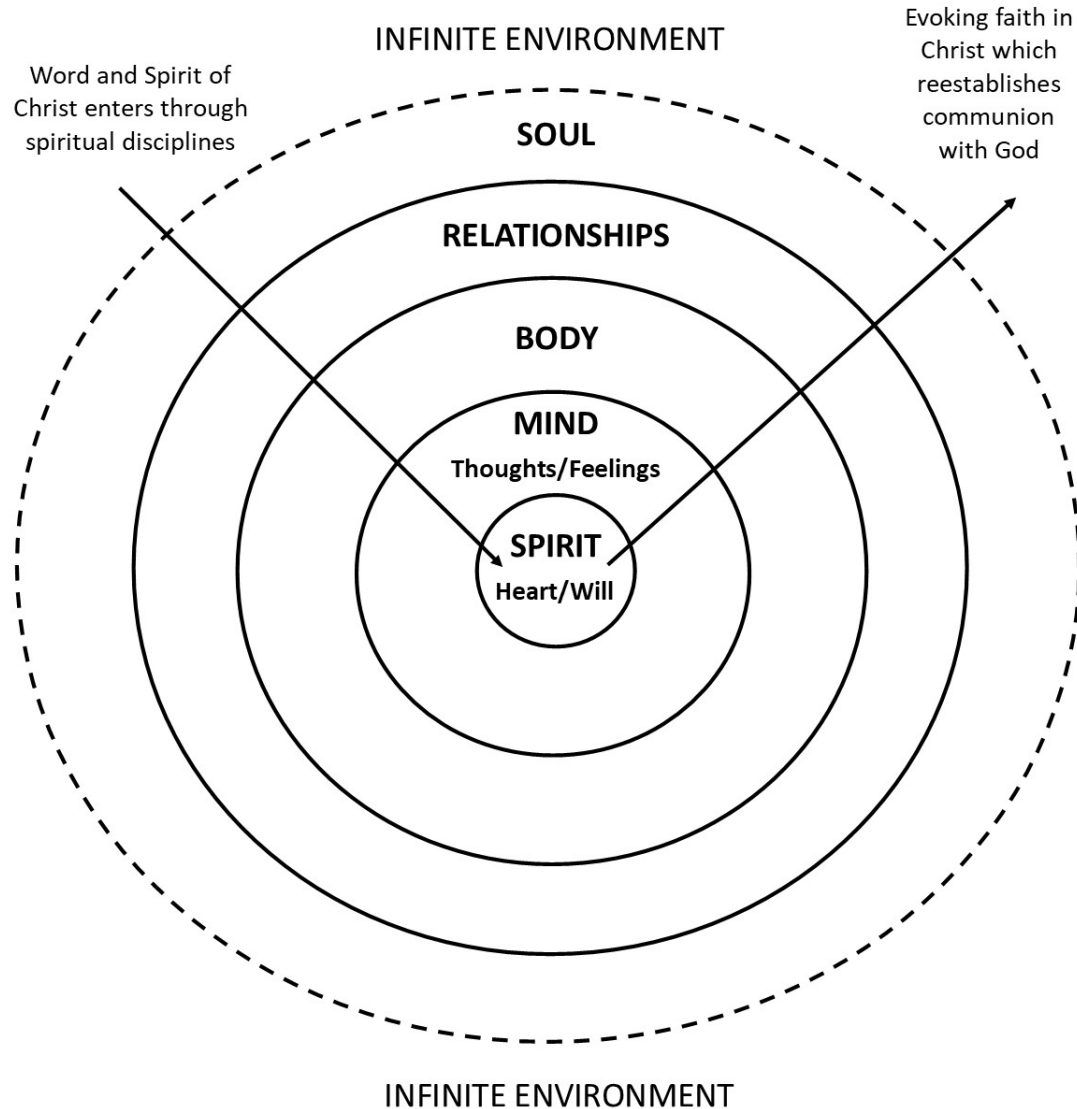


# Dimensions *of your Inner Person*



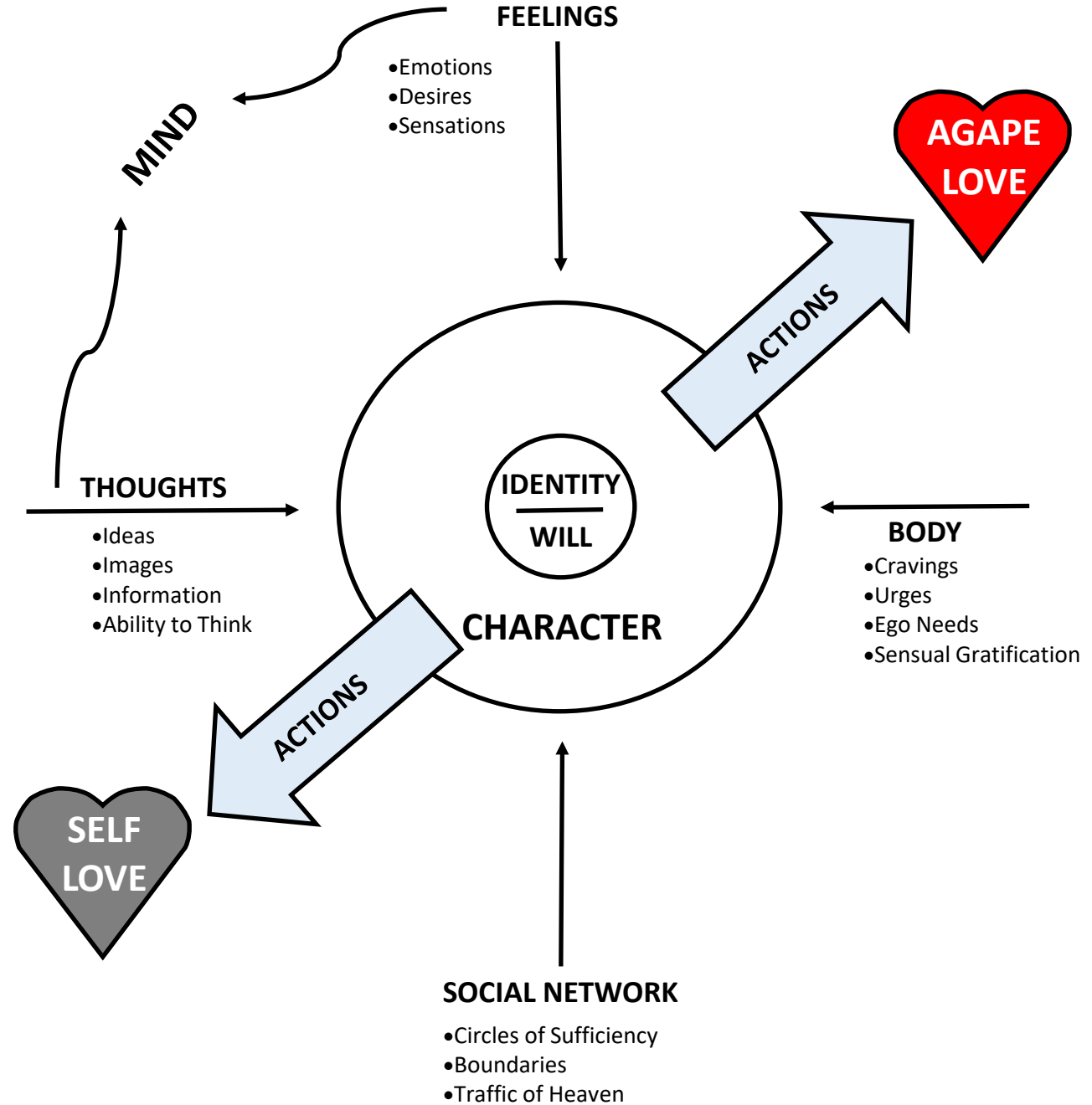
## The Entire Human Self

*The Whole Picture*

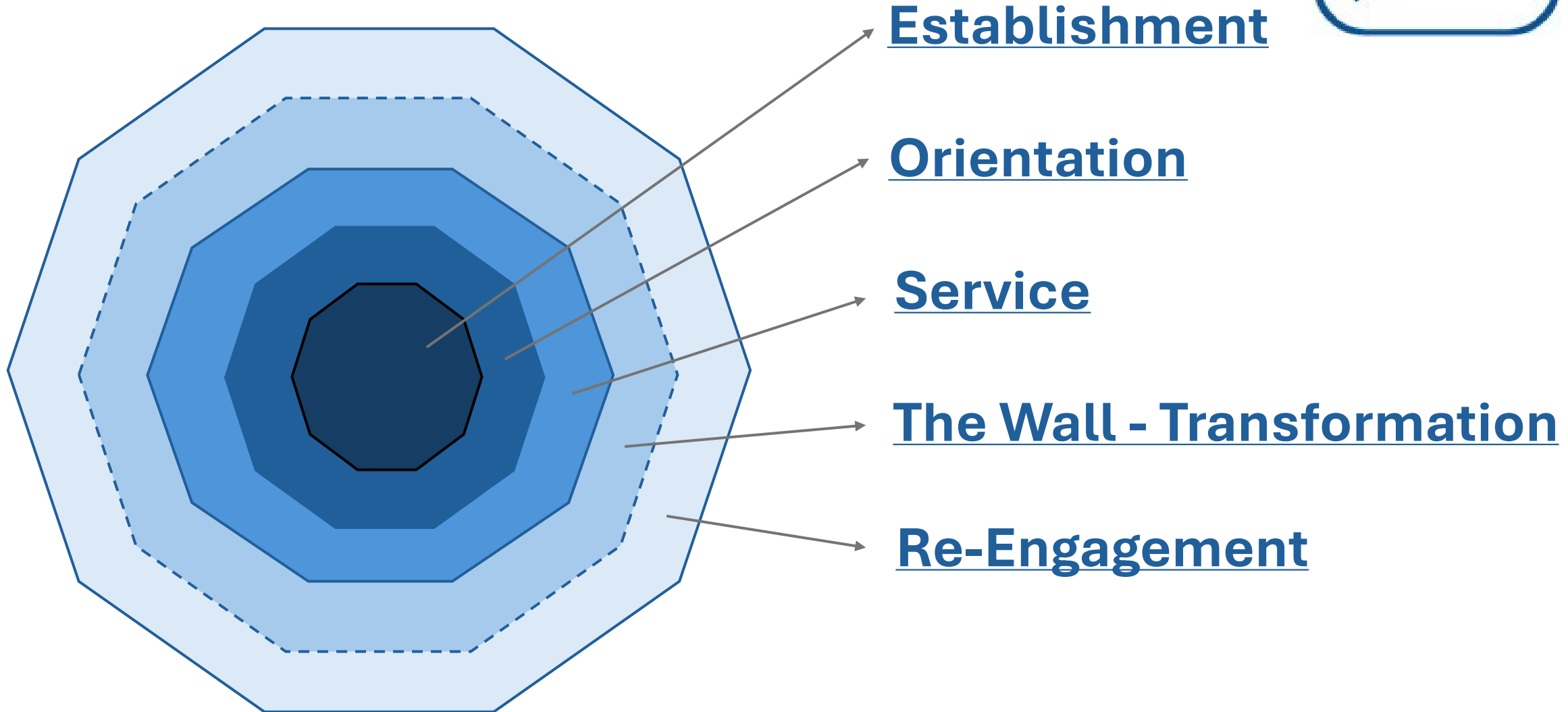


# Spiritual Formation

*in the Kingdom of God*



# Relationship Journey - Following Jesus



# Relationship Journey...

## *SERVICE*



**“Jesus, which is the greatest  
commandment in the law?”**

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Love God – Love People**

# Relationship Journey...

**SERVICE**

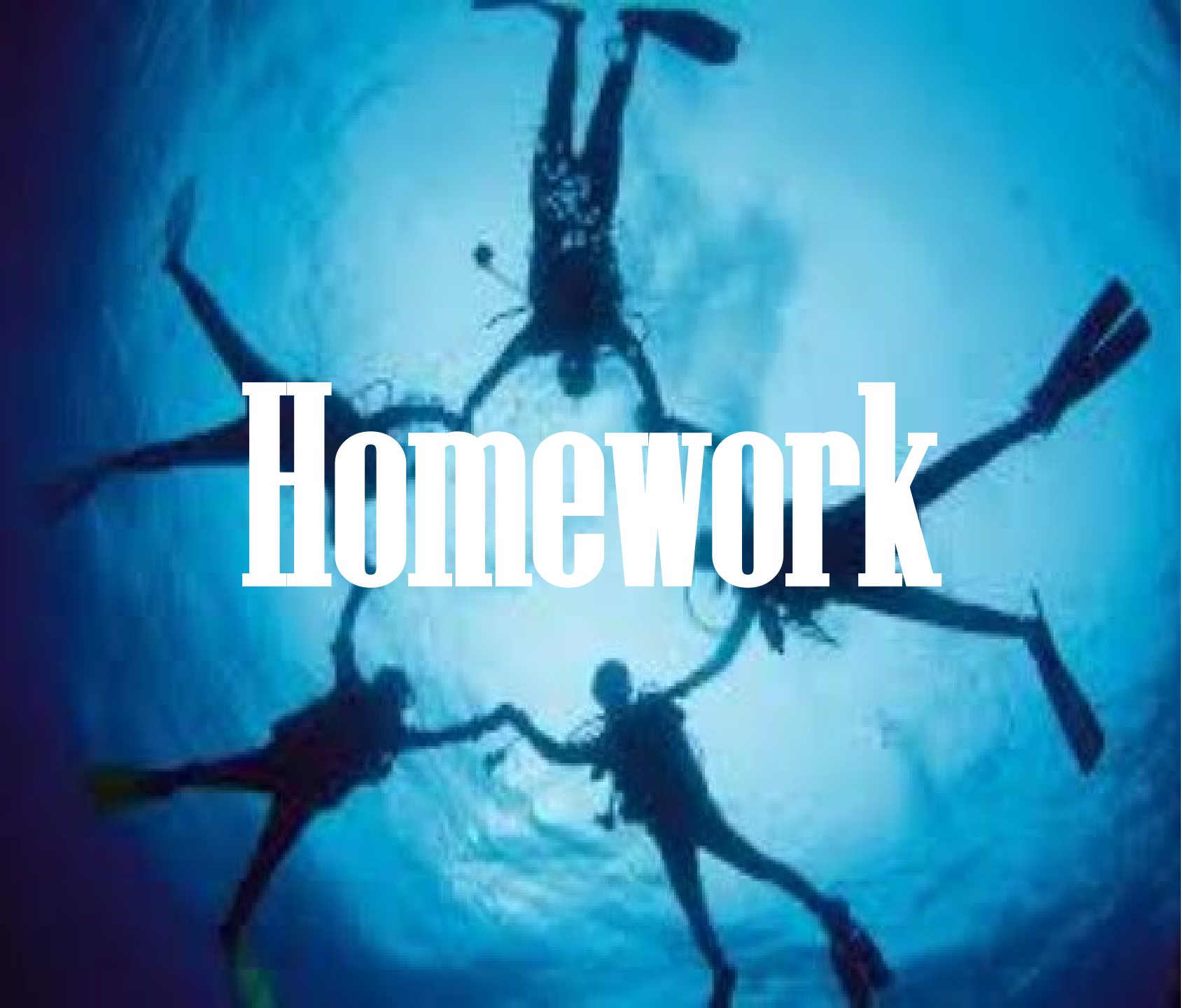


***Love is unconditionally  
and sacrificially desiring  
good for the one loved.***

- **What is good for God?**
  - To be worshiped by me
  - To become like him
  - To be a good partner to God
- **What is good for people?**
  - To be accepted as a child of God, made in the image of God
  - To be made to feel sufficient - you matter; enough in the Kingdom

## Analyze your Heart Condition

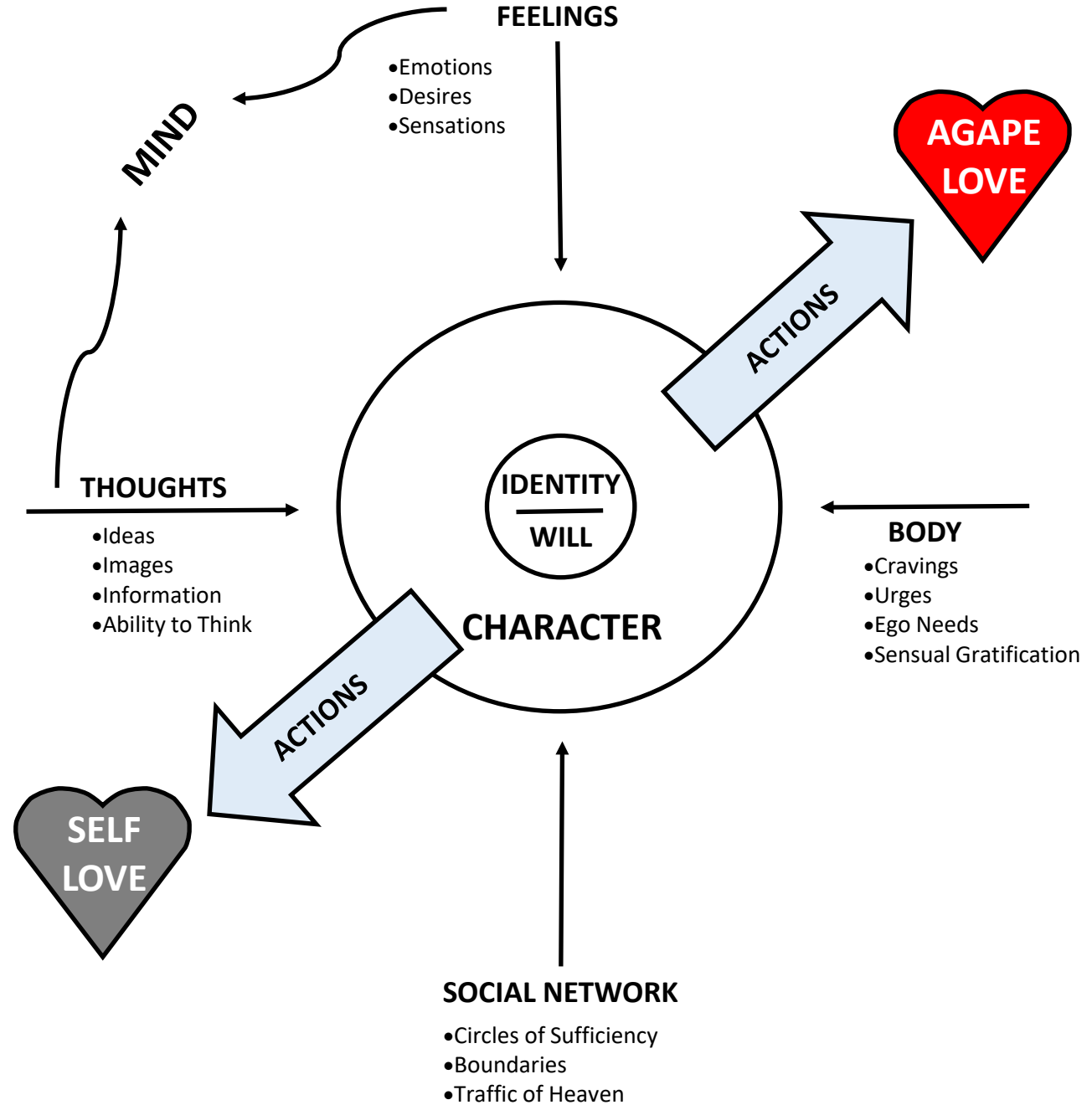
- Re-read **Matthew 13:1-23** all week long and **ask the Spirit** to make the meaning **clear** to you
- **Ask the Spirit** to give you **ideas** for **improving** the **quality** of your **soil/heart**

An underwater photograph showing several divers in a blue, slightly murky environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, creating a sense of depth and movement. The word "Homework" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font, centered horizontally and partially obscuring the divers.

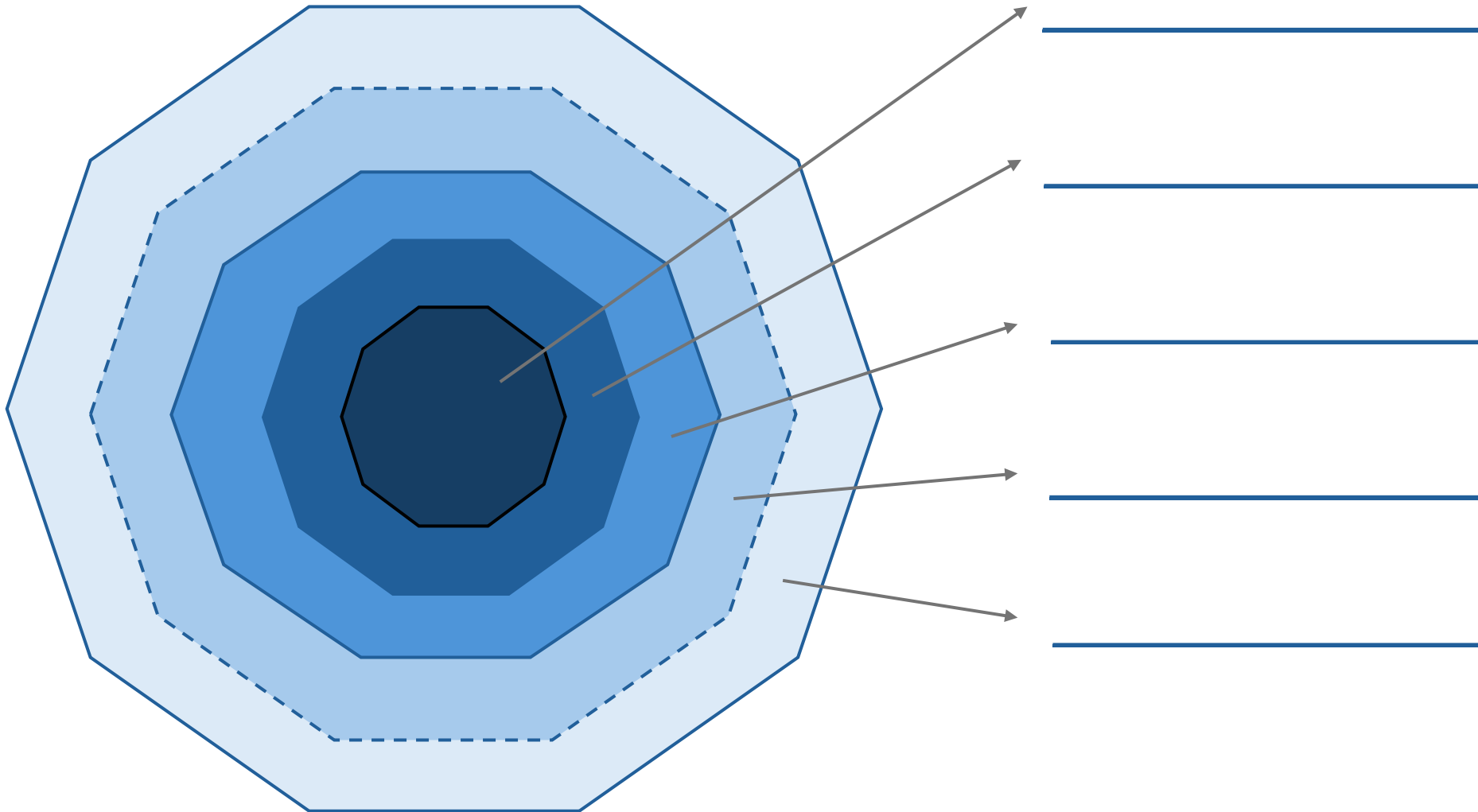
# Homework

# Spiritual Formation

*in the  
Kingdom  
of God*



# Relationship Journey - Following Jesus



# Relationship Journey...

*ORIENTATION*



Re-Orienting Your Life  
One Category at a Time

