

Welcome to an Experience in Spiritual Formation

“What do you want more than anything in the world?”



To Join Zoom Meeting, tap "Diver Icon" above or enter link below in your browser

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83706448641?pwd=laALeTbjqTkBOK19HtHCzjun2Jm9h1.1

Meeting ID: 837 0644 8641
Passcode: 254984

Check-In

- Share your **emotional weather** today
- And something **God is working on** in you

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.

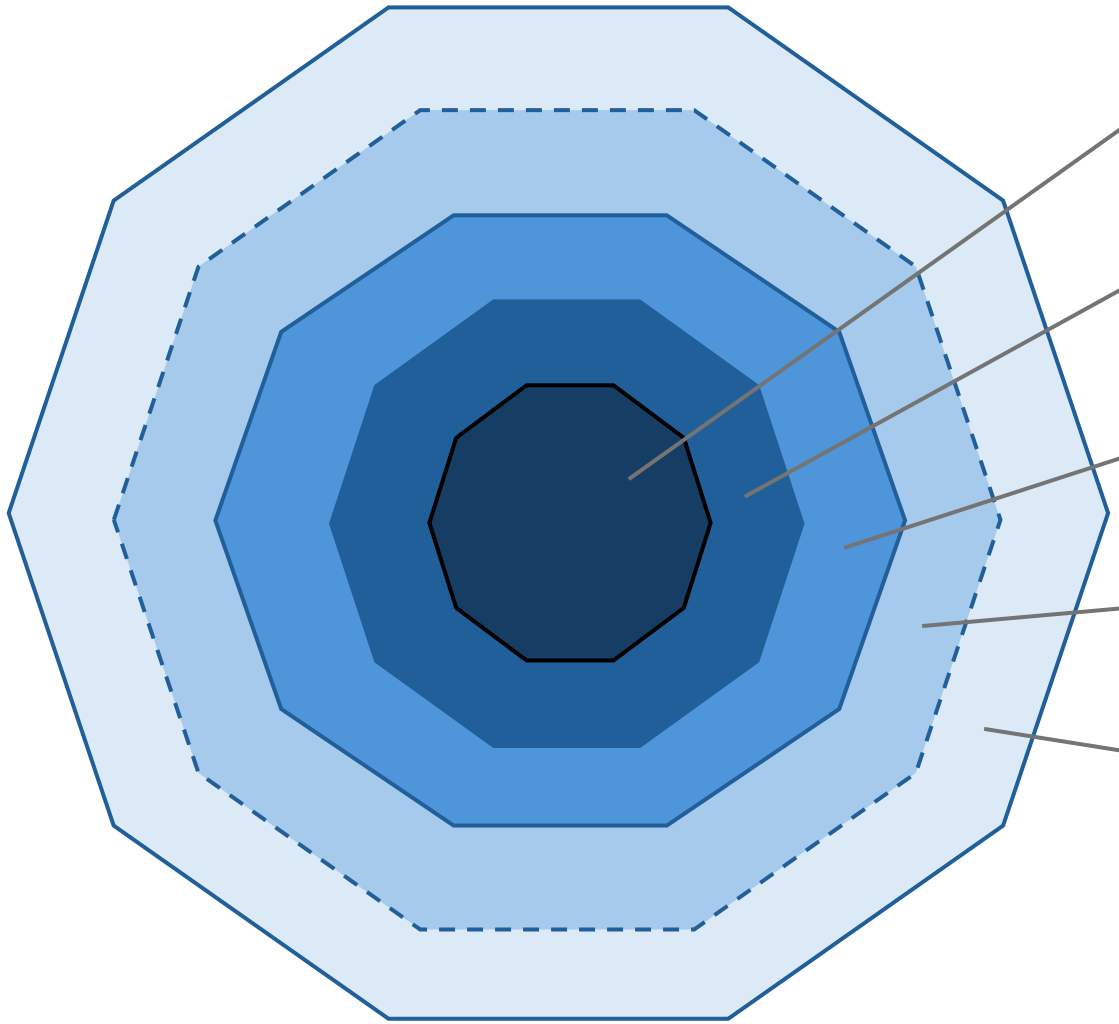
Kingdom Life



Wake up in the Kingdom, and 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



Establishment

Orientation

Service

The Wall - Transformation

Re-Engagement

Relationship Journey...

The Wall - Transformation



Habit Loops (Review)

*Every habit has a **cue**, a **routine**, and a **reward***

- The **cue** may be stress
- The **routine** could be **scrolling, controlling** or **angry reactions**
- The **reward** is **temporary relief**
- With each **habit loop** we experience **satisfaction of desire**

When **willpower is engaged** against the **stressor**,
it tries to **interrupt the routine**

- Instead of scrolling, controlling or blowing up - **you try a different behavior**
- But if the **reward** of temporary relief **doesn't constantly change**, the **unsatisfied desire remains**
- And eventually **willpower loses to desire**

Willpower addresses **behavior**
Transformation addresses **desire**



Get Real

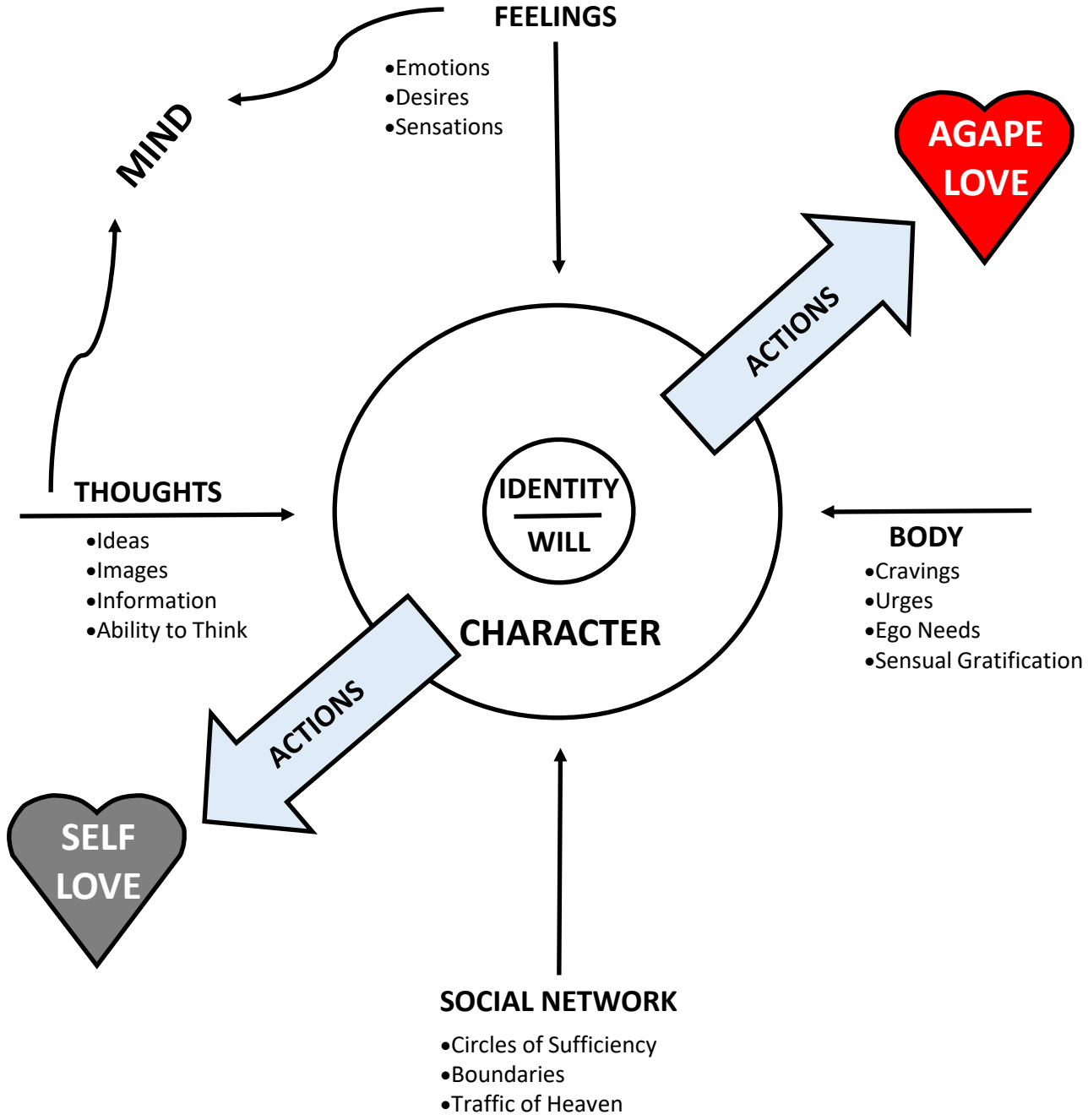
*"If you were **put on trial** for being a Christian, would there be **enough evidence** to **convict you**?"*

Matthew 15:10-11, 15-20

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"

Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still do dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean'.

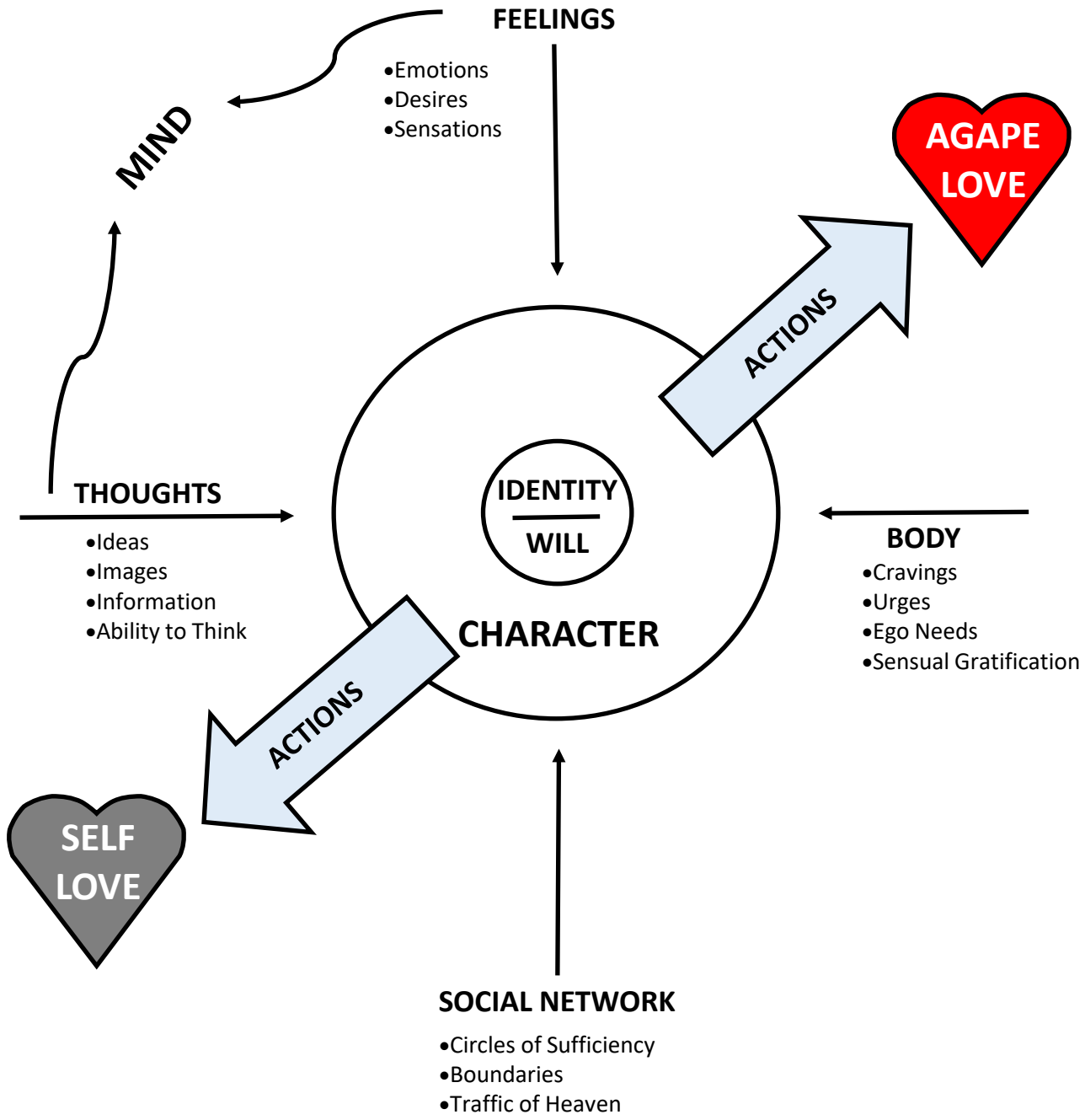


Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws

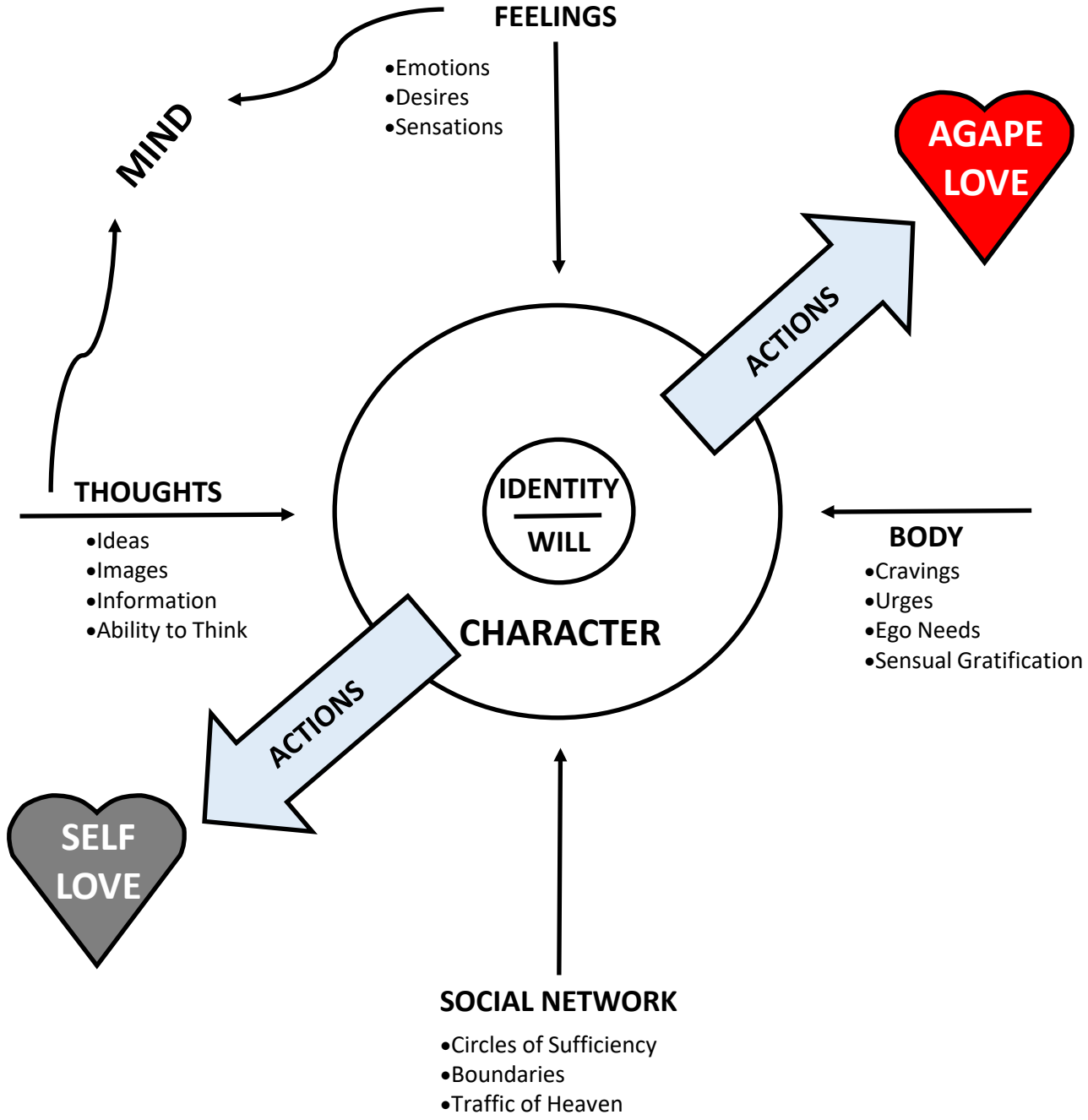


John 3:1-9

(3:3) In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.“

(3:5-6) Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit”.

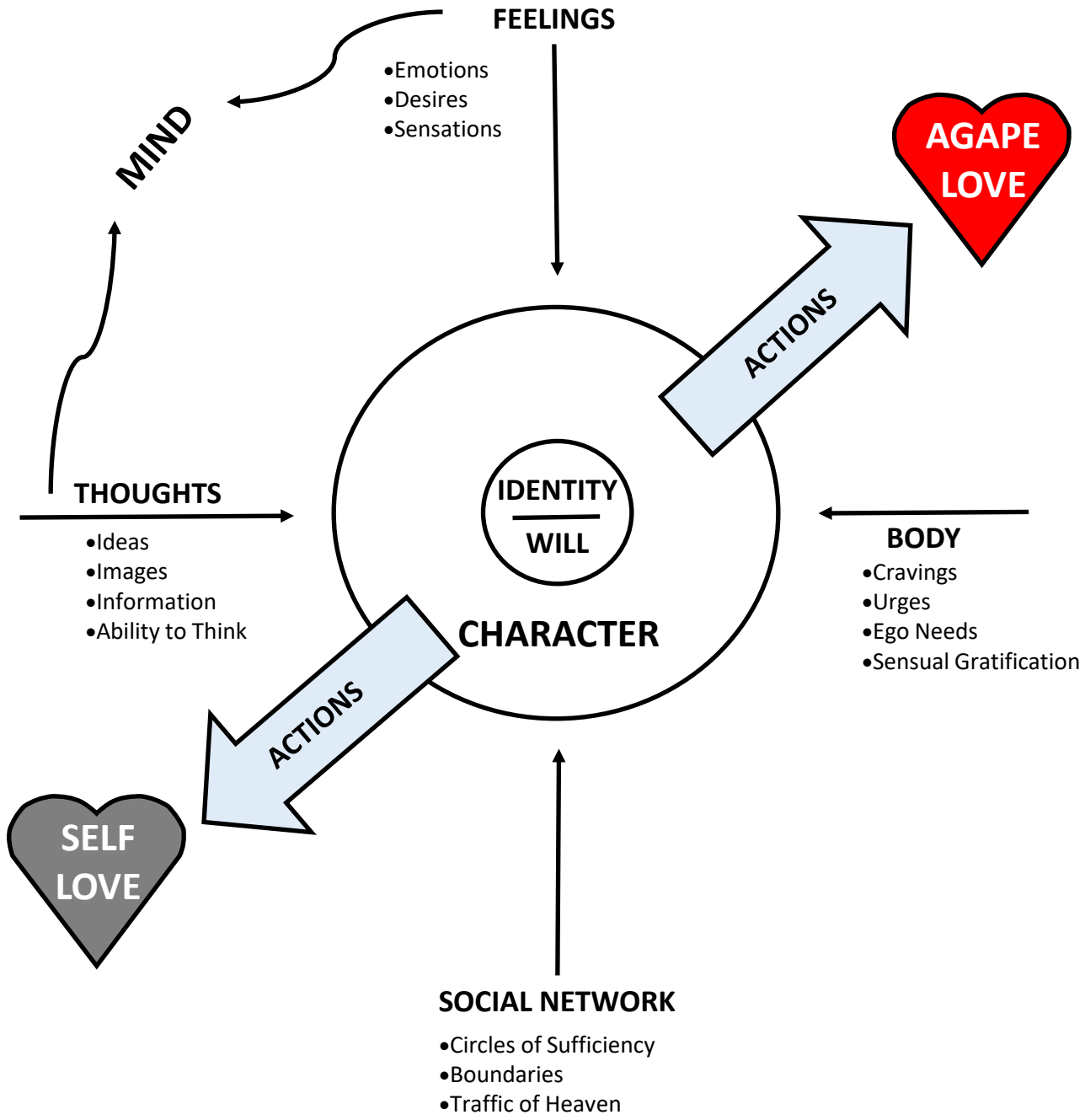
(3:7-8) You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.



Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



Relationship Journey...

ADDRESSING DESIRE



What do you want...?

ORDERED DESIRES vs **DISORDERED DESIRES**

- Desires are **God-given** and intended to be **satisfied** at the **deepest level** by **God**
- Satisfying a desire some **man-made way** creates **disordered desires**, resulting in **expectations**, **frustration**, **emptiness**, **anger**, and eventually **hopelessness**
- When we desire a **lesser good** over a **greater good**, or desire something **destructive** to us as if it were **good** for us, **we produce disordered desires**
- And we hear our **inner voice** say, **"I want what I want when I want it!"**

Relationship Journey...

ADDRESSING DESIRE



What do you want...?

"What do you want more than anything in the world?"

- *To travel to every continent on the planet before I die*

"What is the deeper desire or longing of your heart below that?"

- *Possibly a search for meaning or significance, or to escape from some question I cannot answer*

"In the Kingdom only God gives deep meaning and significance."

- *Traveling for the purpose of meaning or significance is a disordered desire*
- *There is nothing wrong with traveling – it just doesn't satisfy a deep desire for meaning or significance*

"Spirit, please satisfy my deep desire and need for meaning and significance, and help me re-order my surface desires into alignment with your desire for me."

Finding God as the **ultimate fulfillment** of a **God-given desire** is the **beginning** of **transformation.**

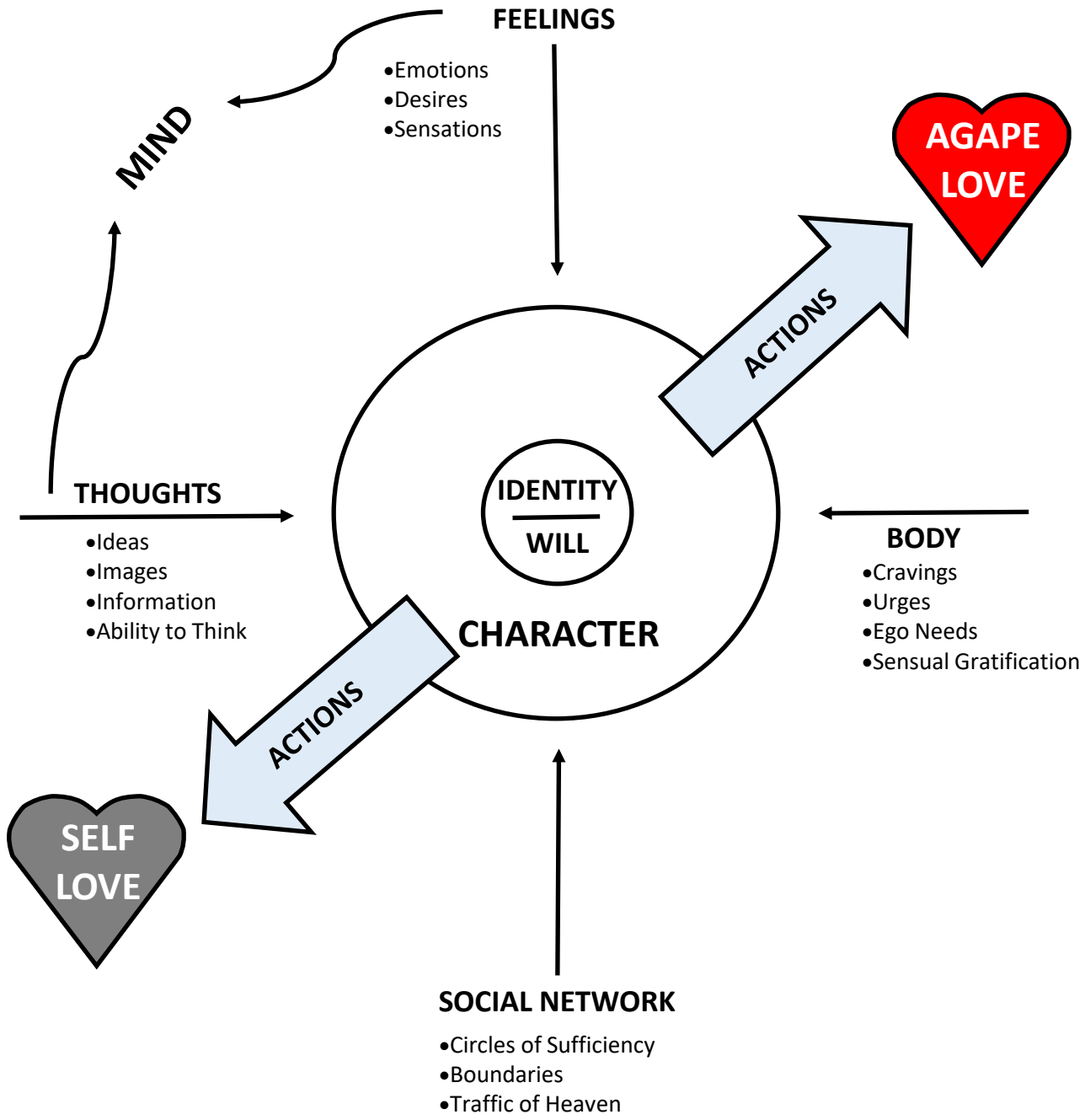
Jesus and the Transformation of the Disordered Desire of Lust

Matthew 5:27-30

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."



A disordered desire for illicit sex can mask deeper desires

Intimacy and Connection:
- A deep longing to feel close to others and overcome intense loneliness

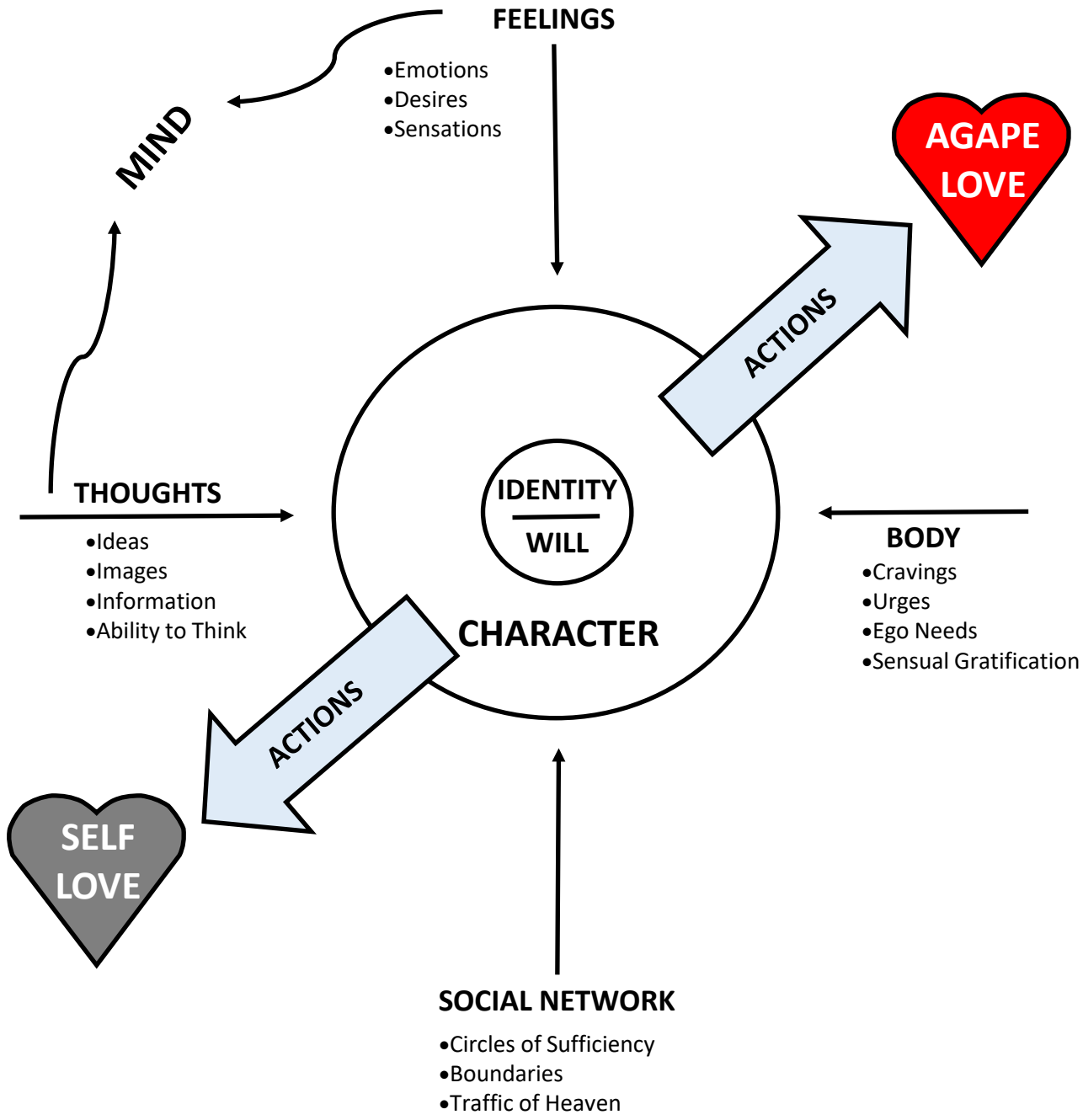
Validation and Worth:
- The need to feel desired, attractive, or important through the attention of another person

Safety and Control:
- A way to create a predictable, self-soothing world when life feels overwhelming

Numbing and Relief:
- A desperate urge to escape stress, anxiety, sadness, or past trauma

James 1:14-15

But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.



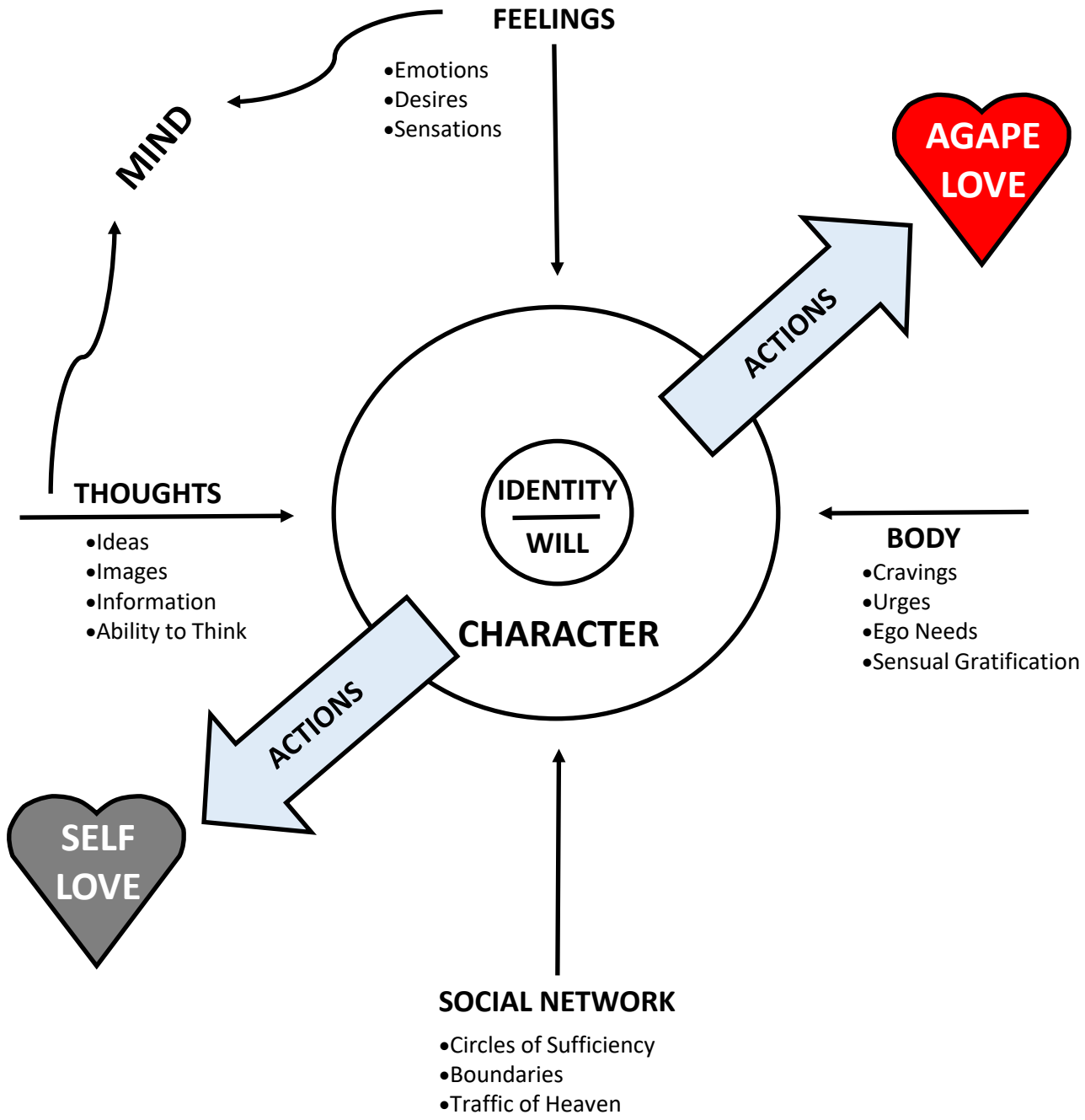
Kingdom Rhythms (Spiritual Disciplines) Re-Order Disordered Desires

Intimacy and Connection:
- Practice conversation in your Circle of 4
- Scripture meditation on God's love for me

Validation and Worth:
- Wake up in the Kingdom every morning
- Practice solitude, silence and gratitude

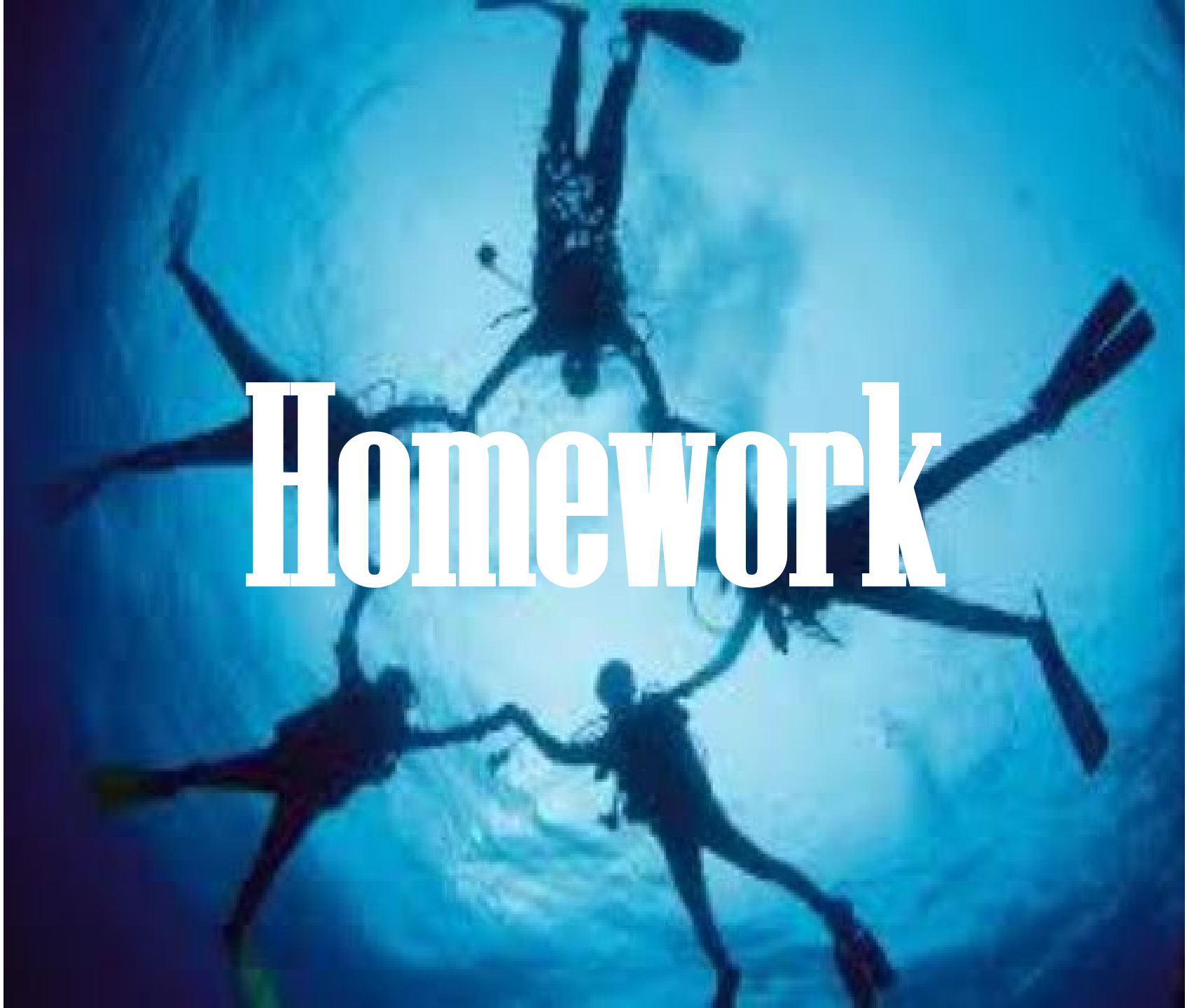
Safety and Control:
- Learn to sit with disappointment
- Pray the prayer of relinquishment

Numbing and Relief:
- Journal a prayer of lament
- Describe the pain
- Solitude / Silence to quiet the noise and identify what you are truly feeling



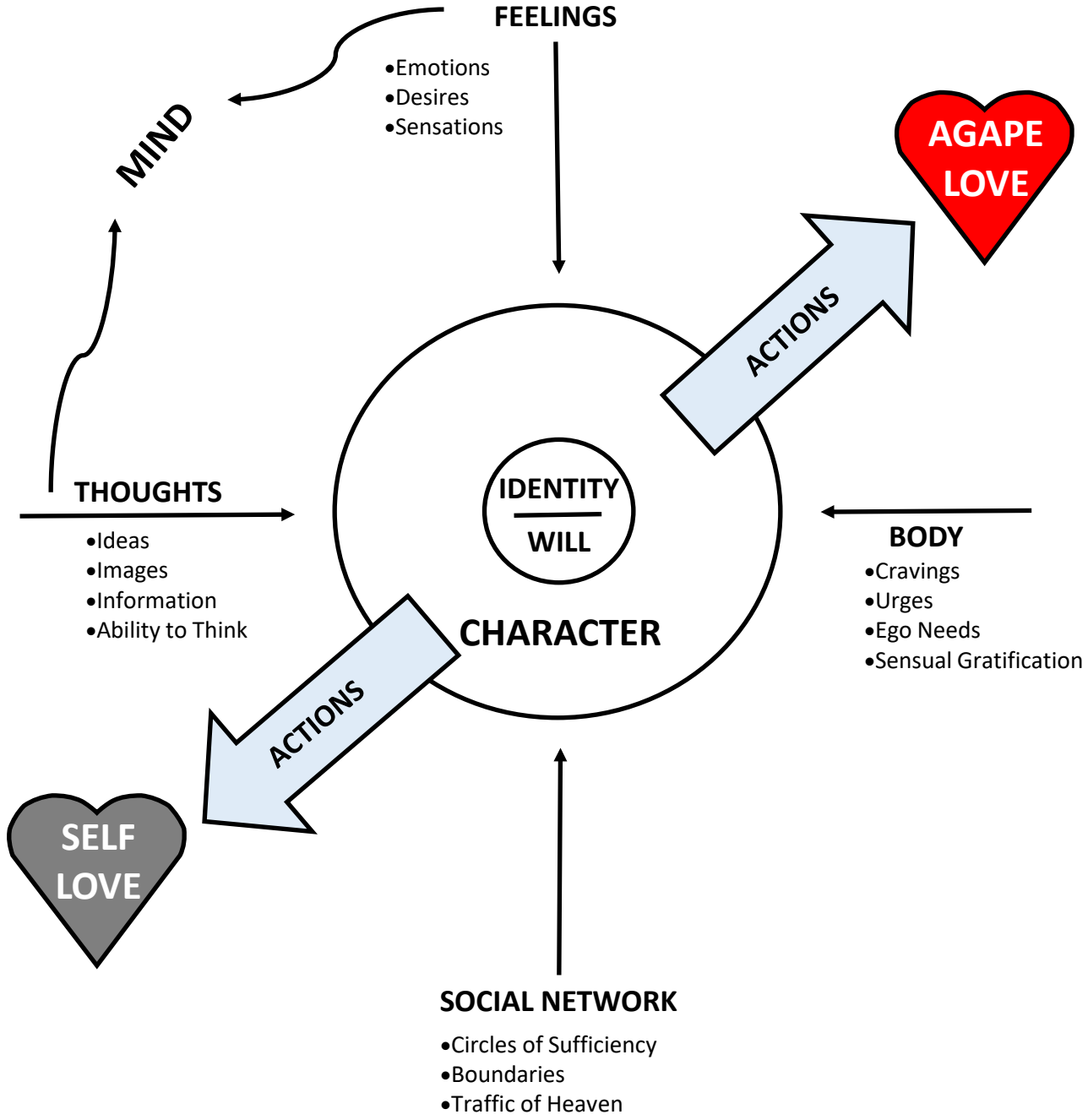
Deep Desires and Longings of the Heart

- Identify where your **relationship** with God has **hit a wall**
- Ask the **Spirit** to show you the **disordered desire** causing the **wall experience**
- **Follow the desire** to its **deepest point**, and identify the **God-given desire** only God can satisfy
- Ask him to **show you** how **he wants to satisfy** that **desire** and **longing** in you



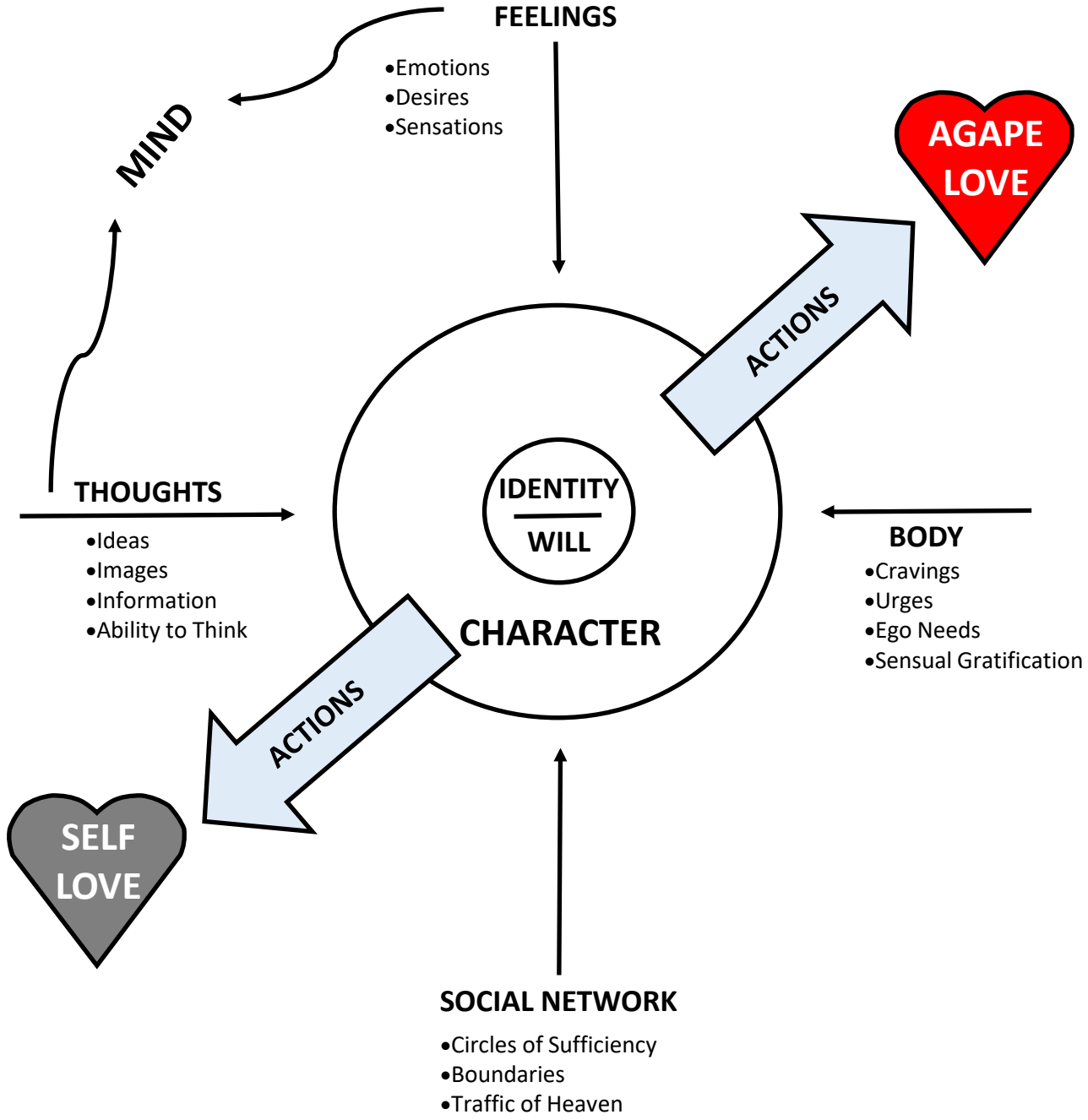
Spiritual Formation

in the Kingdom of God



Spiritual Formation

in the Kingdom of God



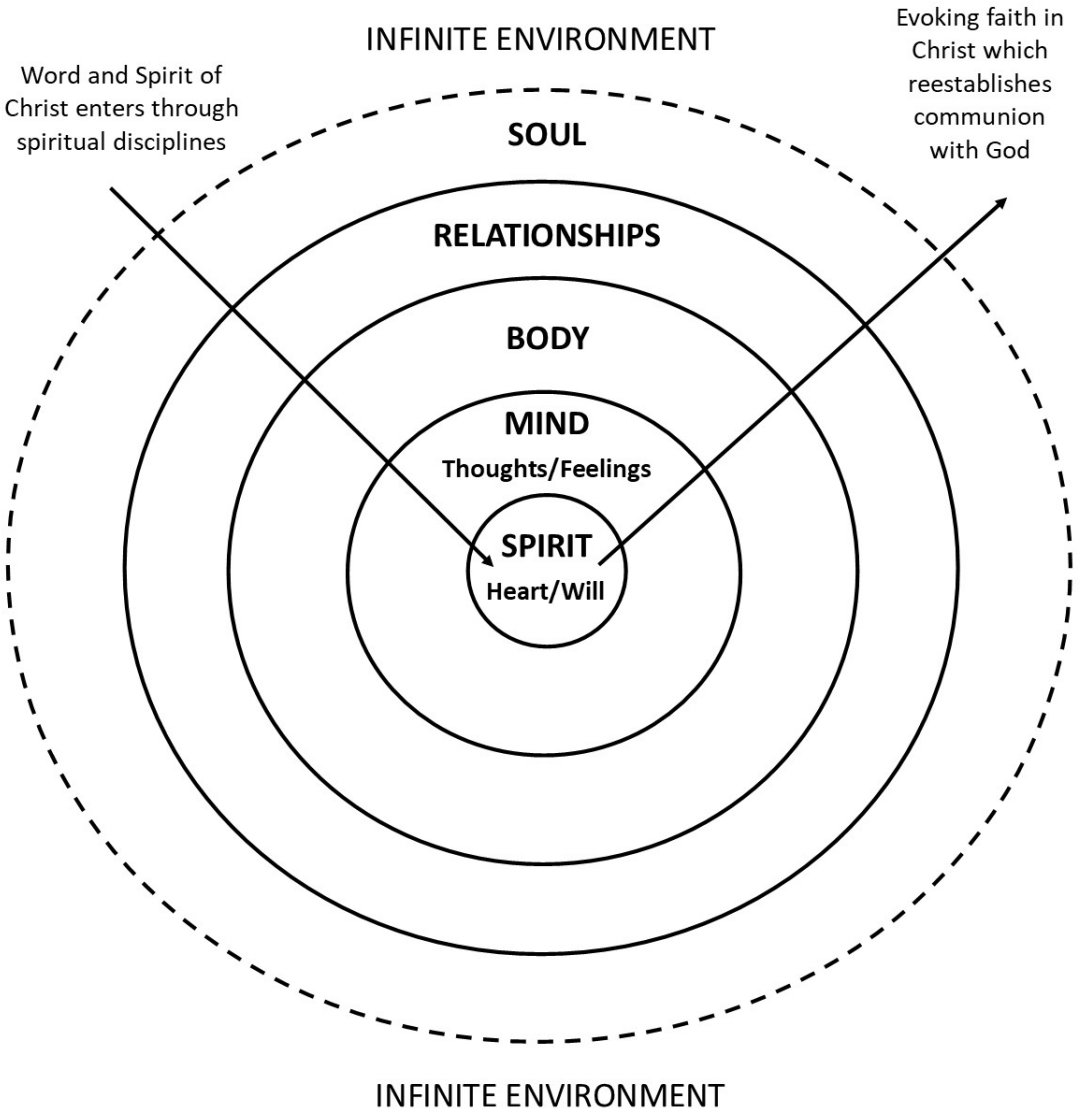
Dimensions

of your
Inner Person

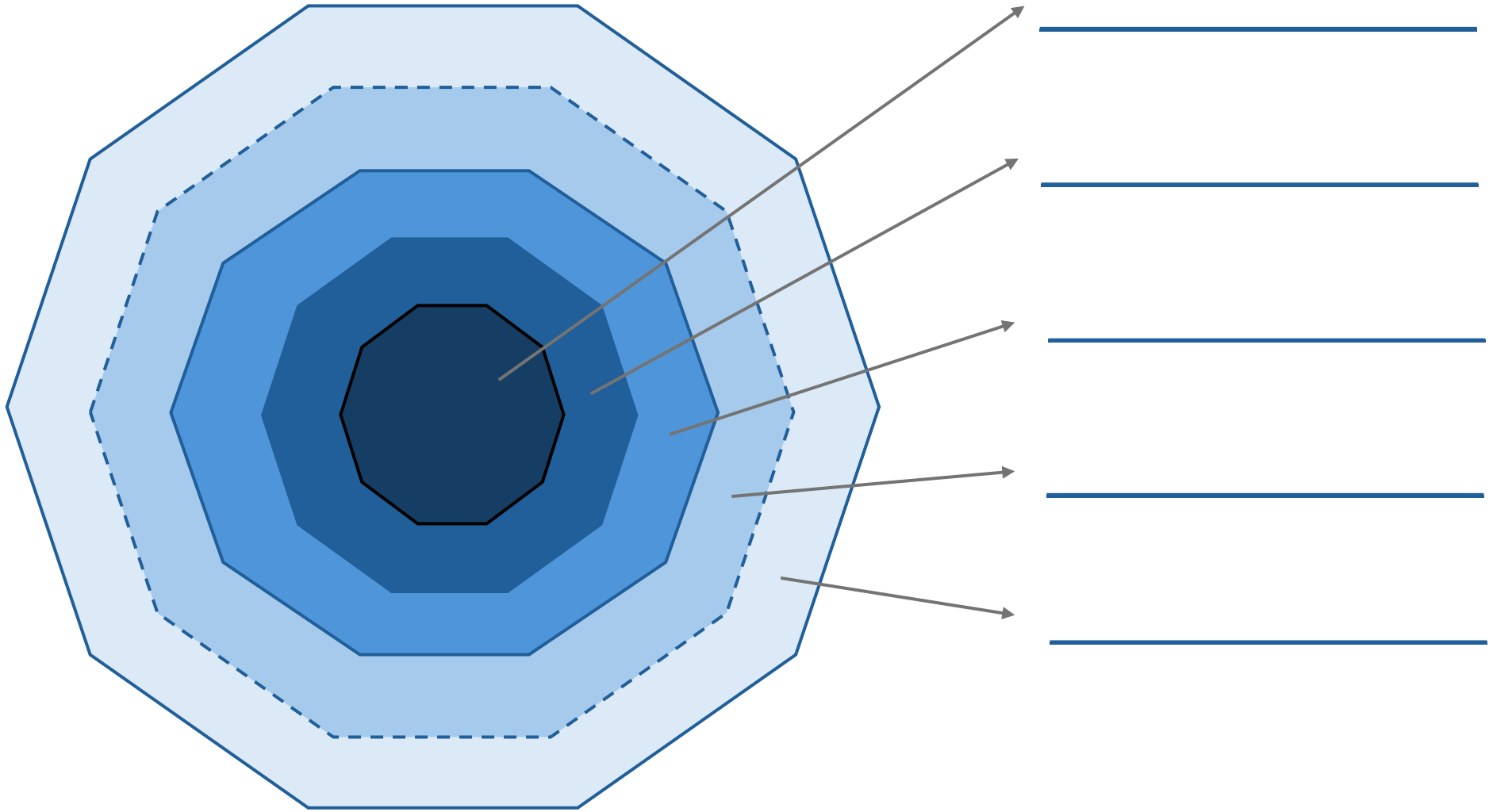


The Entire Human Self

The Whole Picture



Relationship Journey - Following Jesus



Relationship Journey...

ORIENTATION



Re-Orienting Your Life
One Category at a Time

