



Desert Stream Spring Conference  
“Pursuing Truth in Love”  
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## The Cross and Discipleship

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:27

### What is a Disciple?

- One who is with Jesus, learning to be like Him.
- Learning from Him how to lead my life as He would lead my life if He were I.
- His apprentice in Kingdom Living.
- The easy way of living.

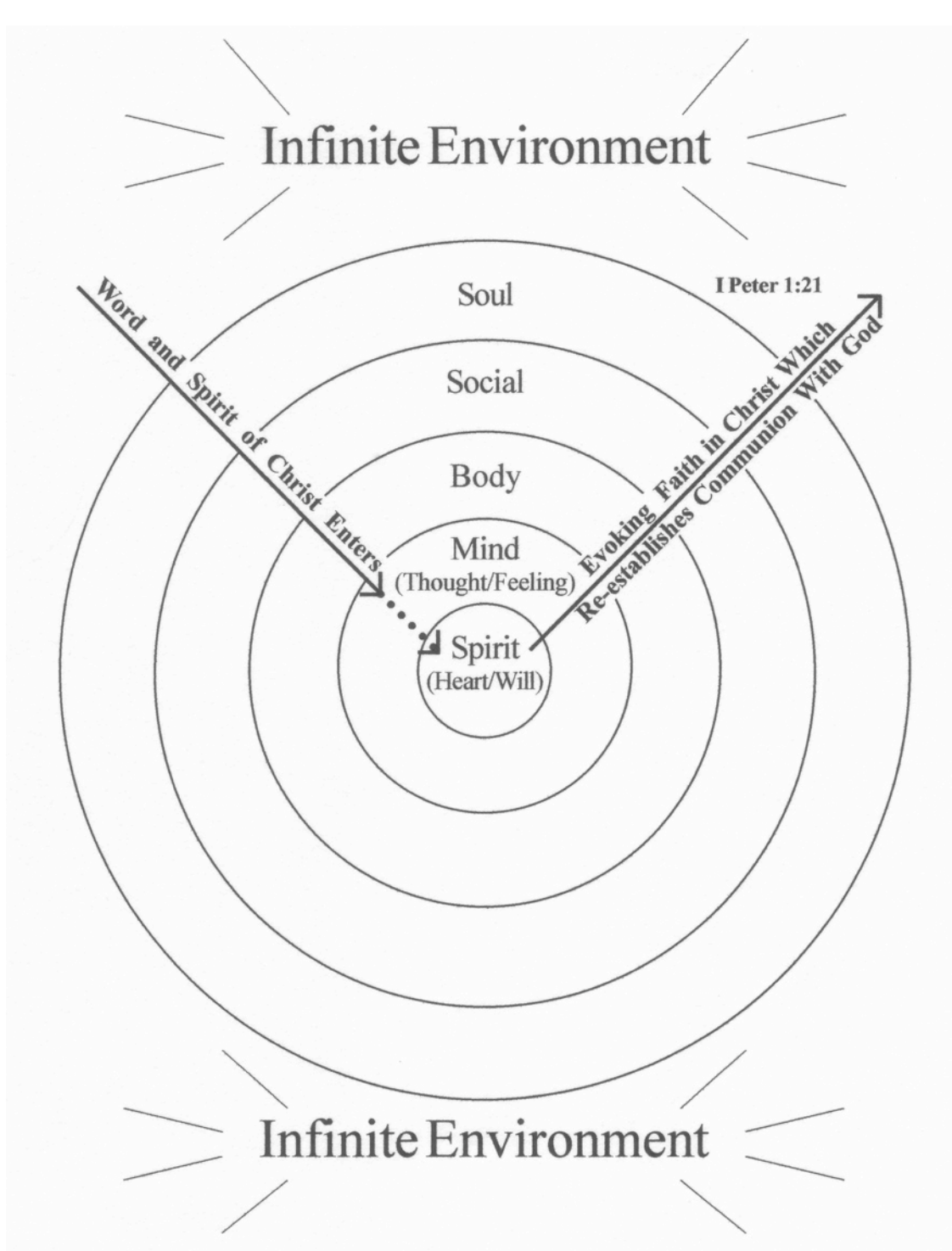
### What is Your Cross?

- Your cross – the one that you decide to carry after Christ – is your posture of not making getting your way primary, and certainly not essential, to your life.
- Obviously not a literal cross, but similar to the effect of a literal cross.
- Not the Burger King way.

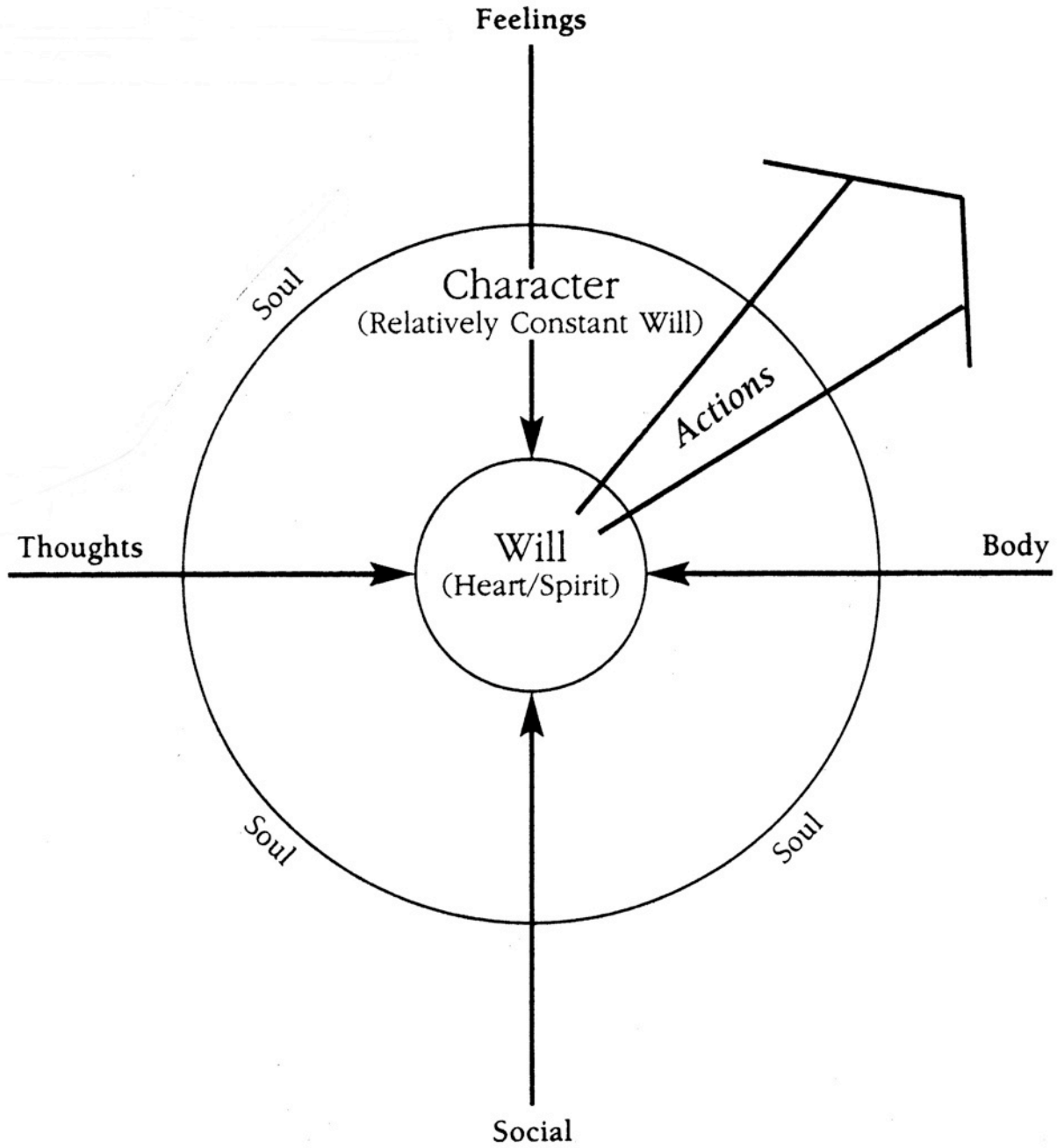
### The Outcome of the Cross

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:30-31  
**Joyfully, and with strength!**

**The Whole Person:**



**Where Action Comes From:**



## Two Subordinations

### Improper

- Body
- Soul
- Mind (Thought/Feeling)
- Spirit
- God

### Proper

- God
- Spirit
- Mind (Thought/Feeling)
- Soul
- Body

## The Life of the Flesh

- The Burger King life is the life of the flesh: Have it YOURRRRRRRRRR Way!
- Flesh consists of our natural human abilities – what we can do without special divine interaction.
- Not evil in itself, but death when made our ultimate point of reference. (Rom. 8:4-8)

## Scriptures on Flesh

I John 2:15-17  
Galatians 5:17-21  
Colossians 3:5-9

I Peter 2:11  
Romans 8:4-8

## Flesh and Your Kingdom

- Your kingdom is the range of your effective will. It is of flesh if natural abilities are what you are trusting.
- God's kingdom is the range of His effective will into which Jesus invites you as His disciple.

## Addiction and the Flesh

- The addicted person has conceded to feeling the right to rule over the will.
  - How fleshly lusts war against the soul:
    - They are servants who have usurped the place of the proper master of the human self.
- Feeling takes the place of will.

## **Gospel and Salvation**

- The Gospel: You can now take your kingdom into His by placing your confidence in Jesus. (Matt. 4:17)
- Salvation: Being caught up in the life Jesus is now living on earth. (Col. 3:1-4)
  - Interactive relationship with the Father and the Son (John 17:3)

## **The Cross Sets Aside the Flesh**

- The cross as God's act (Col. 2:11-15)
- The cross as your choice (Luke 14:27)
- "We enter through the wounds of His humanity into the depths of His divinity."
- The cross sets aside the flesh as our life.

## **Our Two Wills**

- Vital Will – Patterns of willing oriented to attractive objects without reference to other possible willings or life as a whole: practically identical with desire.
- Reflective Will – Here will is oriented toward what is good for the person as a whole, not toward the merely desired.
- "Good" is not the same thing as "the desired."

## **Redeeming the Will**

- Apprenticeship to Jesus in His kingdom restores the will to service for God and what is true, good and beautiful.
- The body, now the servant of the spirit or will under God.
- Remember the proper and improper subordination (previous slide).

## **Three Dimensions of Discipleship**

- Learning to do what Jesus said in scripture
- Learning to obey Him in the non-commanded details of actual life and business
- Learning to exercise His power—"training for reigning"
  - Prayer
  - Speaking and acting under authority

## **The Reliable Pattern of Kingdom Growth**

- Vision
- Intension
- Means

### **Means**

- Proclamation
- Ministry
- Teaching
- Disciplines– planning for spiritual transformation

All that Jesus taught, we can do –  
from the heart out. (Matt. 5:20)

### **Relational Wholeness**

- Relations purged of rejection and attack as we walk with Jesus in His kingdom
- And freed up from the weight of wounds
- Conducted in the power, hope and joy of Jesus' life in us (Rom. 15:13)

*“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus  
have crucified the flesh with  
its passions and desires.”*

Gal. 5:24