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# Kingdom Gardening

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Galatians 5:14-26









## Galatians 5:14b-15 NET

“You must love your neighbour as yourself.” However, if you continually bite and devour one another, beware that you are not consumed (or destroyed) by one another.



## Flesh - metaphor

the natural inclination of all humans to self-centred thinking and behaviour  
contrary to the character and will of God



## Galatians 5:19-21a NET

Now the works of the flesh are obvious:

sexual immorality, impurity, depravity, idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factions, envying, murder, drunkenness, carousing, and similar things.



Galatians 5:21b NET

I am warning you, as I had warned you before: Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God!



**inherit:** to come into possession of or receive

**klēronomeō:** acquire, obtain, come into possession of

Galatians 5:21

Those who practice such things will not *obtain* or *come into possession of* the kingdom of God



Mark 1:14-15 NET

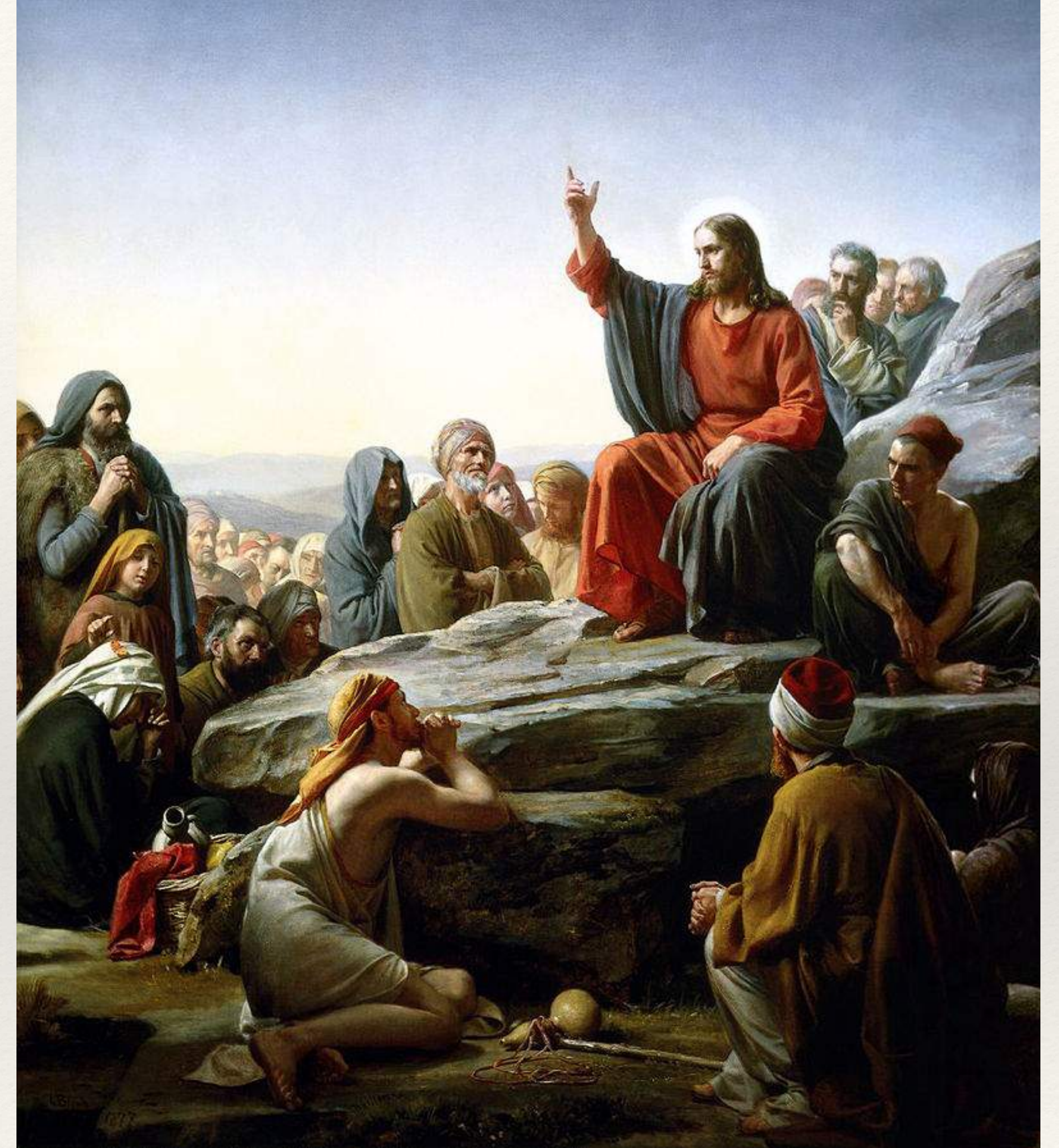
Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel (good news) of God. He said, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel! (good news)

Matthew 4:17, 23 NET

From that time Jesus began to preach this message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom,

- your kingdom come
- seek first his kingdom
- parables
- proclaim the kingdom of God
- spoke about the kingdom of God
- proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God



“They are mistaken who think the Kingdom of God means Heaven. It is rather the spiritual life, which is begun by faith in this world and daily increases according to the continual progress of faith.”

John Calvin

The Gospel According to St. John, 1555

“The kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is king!”

Rick Warren

Forward to The Kingdom Life, 2010

What about biting and devouring?



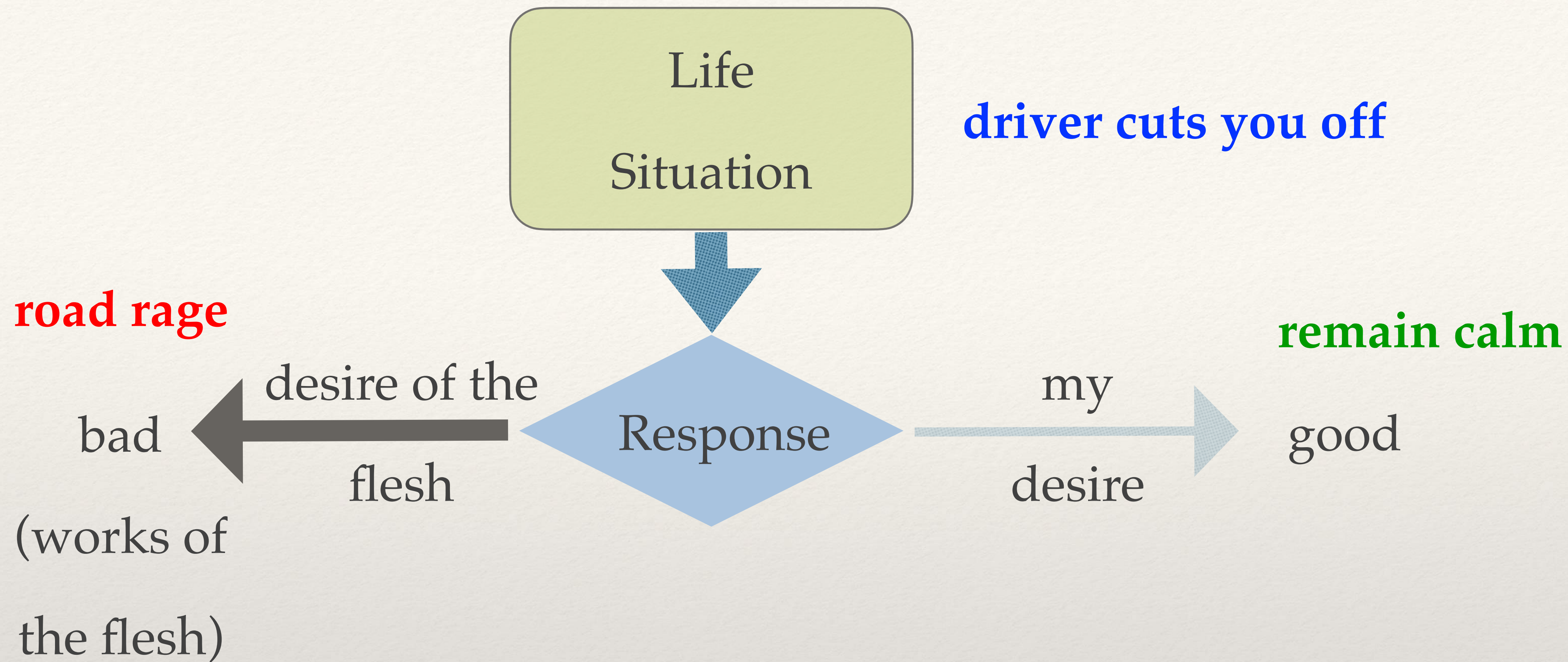


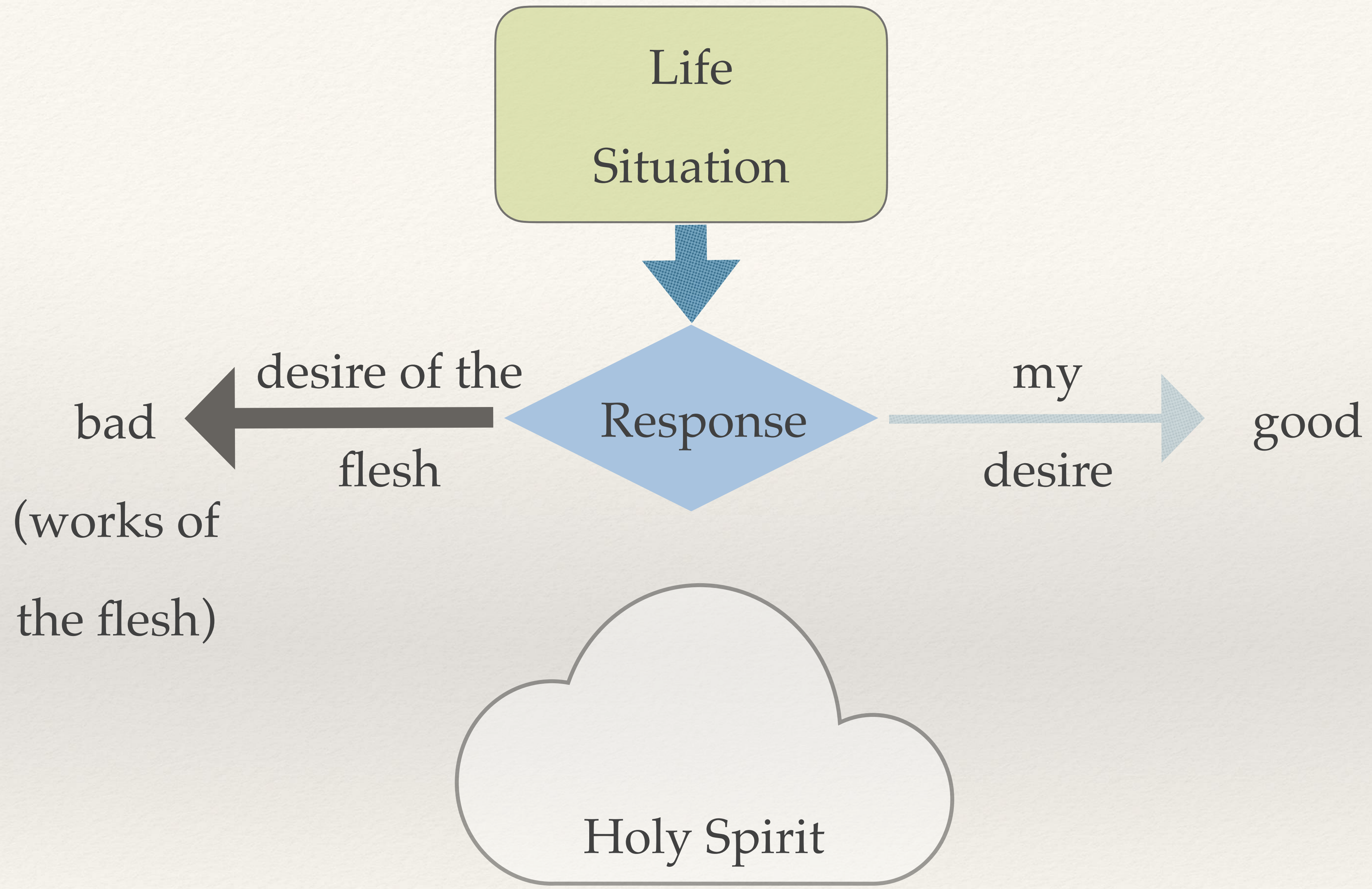
## Galatians 5:16-18 NET

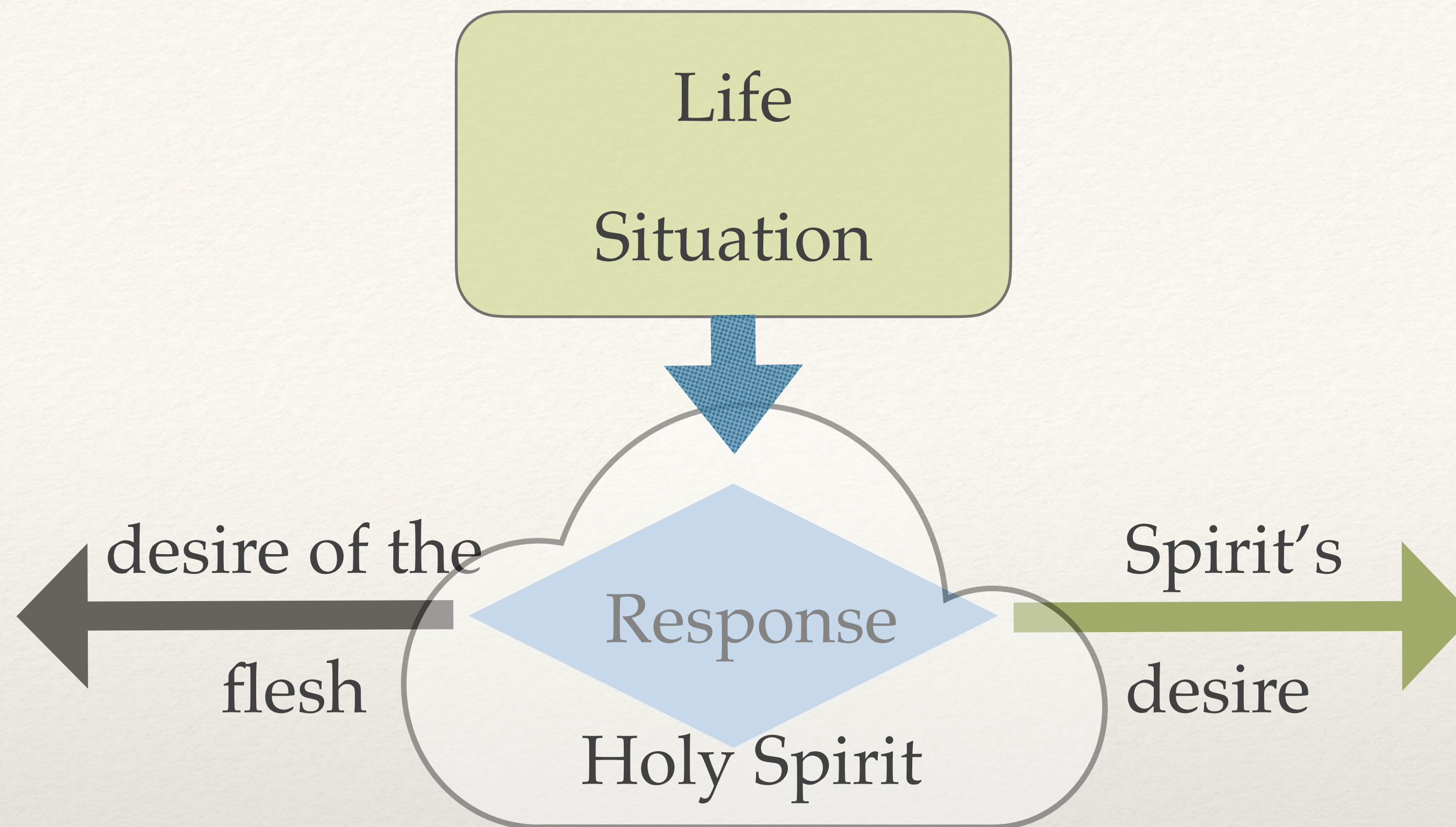
But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 7:18-19 NLT

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.







### Romans 8:5-6 NLT

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

Those who practice such things will **not** inherit the kingdom of God.

Those who practice such things **will** inherit the kingdom of God.

works of  
the flesh  
possible

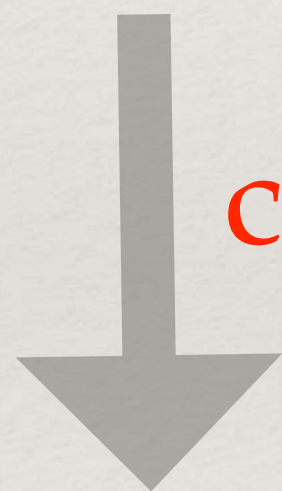
← desire of the  
flesh

Life  
Situation



→ Spirit's  
desire

fruit  
possible



choice

bad

choice



good

## Galatians 5:22-23 NET

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit.

Persecution



desire of the  
flesh

Spirit's  
desire

hostility  
anger  
self-preservation

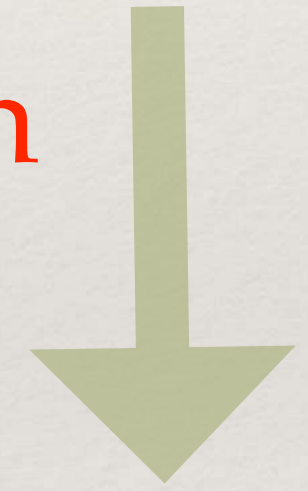
love  
peace



smash their  
windows

bad

sit down  
at meal



good

Romans 12:9, 14, 17, 20 NLT

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

Imprisonment  
for Jesus

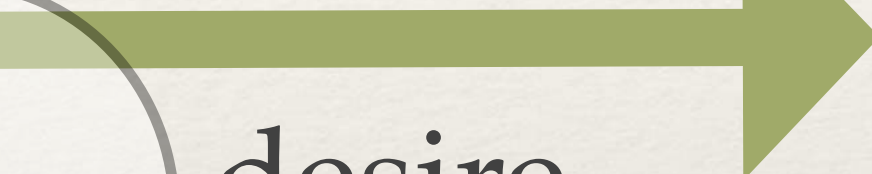


desire of the  
flesh



anger  
cursing

Spirit's  
desire



joy  
praise

yelling for justice



bad

singing hymns

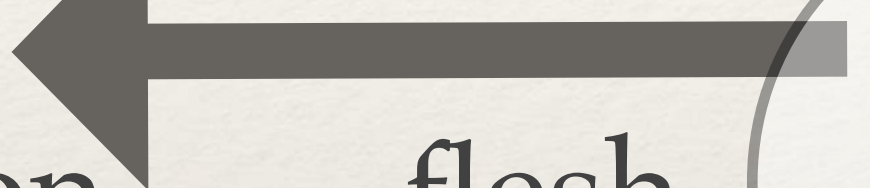


good

Unexpected  
Freedom



desire of the  
flesh



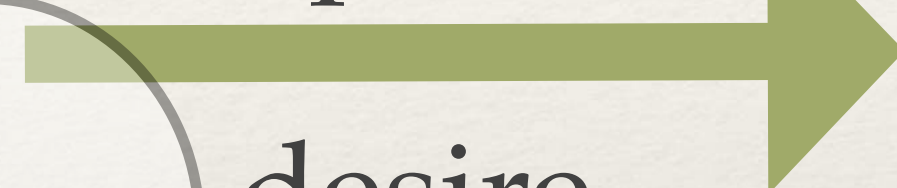
escape  
self-preservation



run and hide

bad

Spirit's  
desire



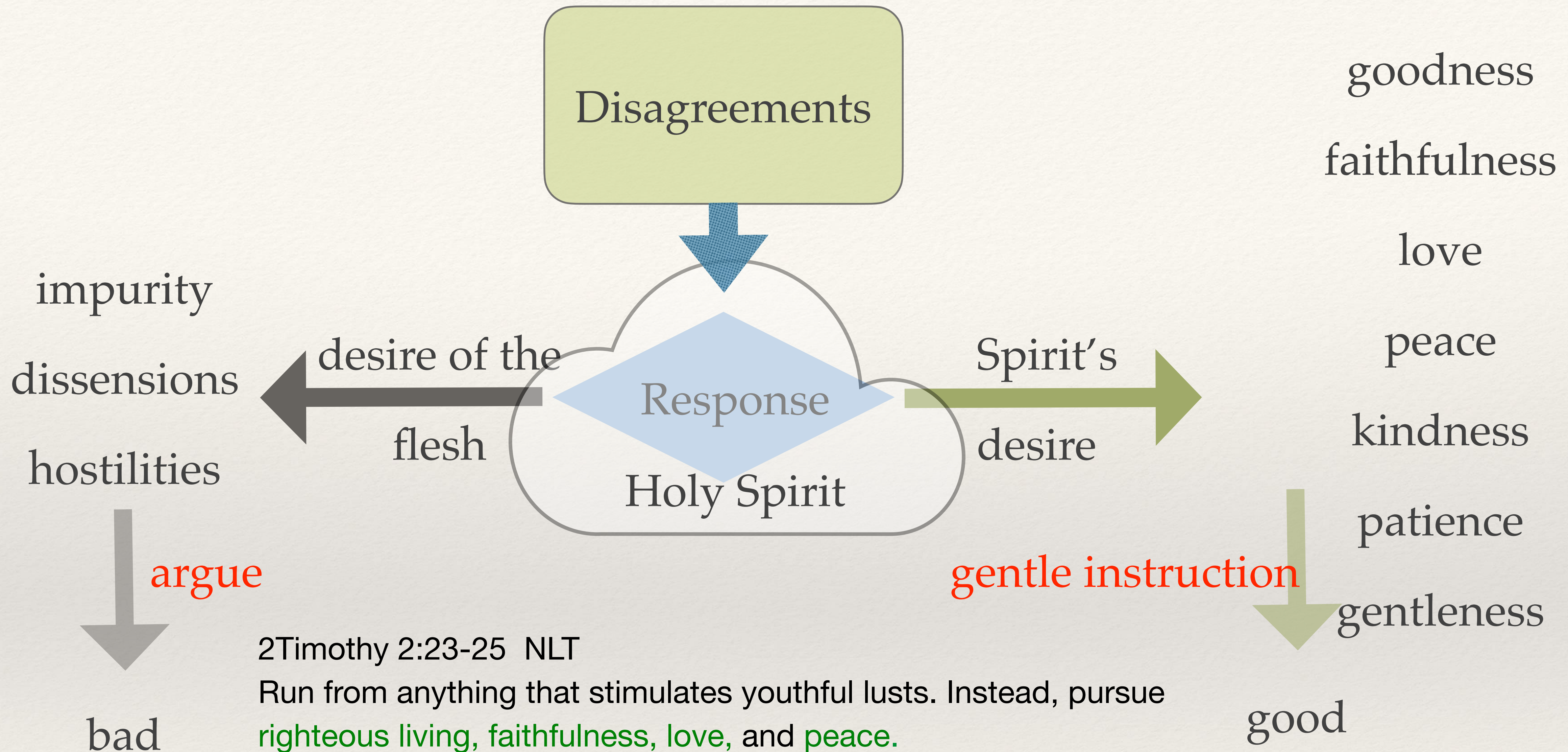
love  
peace

joy



stay and help

good



2Timothy 2:23-25 NLT

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace.

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth.

1Peter 3:8-12 NET

Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult, but instead bless others because you were called to inherit a blessing. For

the one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from uttering deceit.

And he must turn away from evil and do good;  
he must seek peace and pursue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the Lord's face is against those who do evil.

Galatians 5:26 NET

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another,  
being jealous of one another.

# Choose Fruit

