

Rewards Worth Living For

~ Nathan Hochstetler ~

Philippians 3:13b-14 (NIV) Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

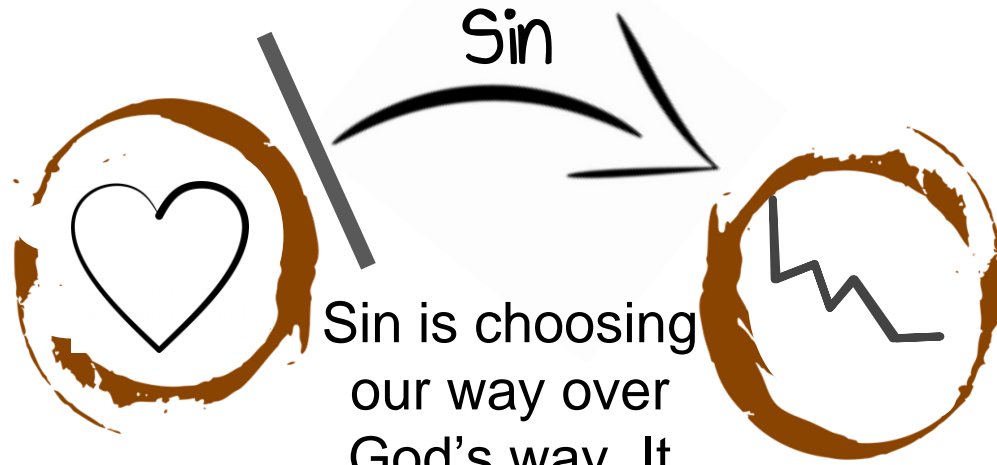
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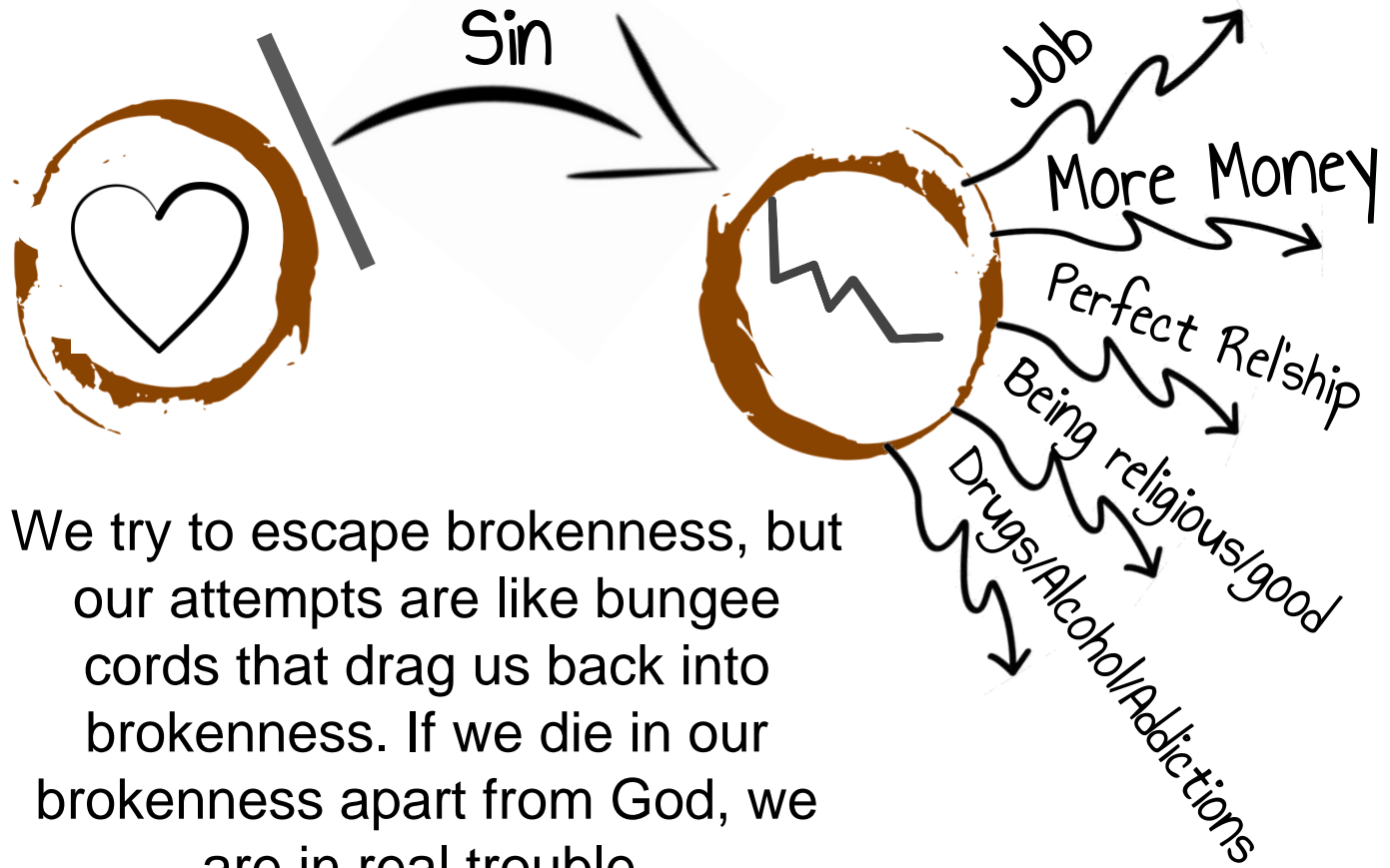
We live in
a broken world

God's original
design was
perfect

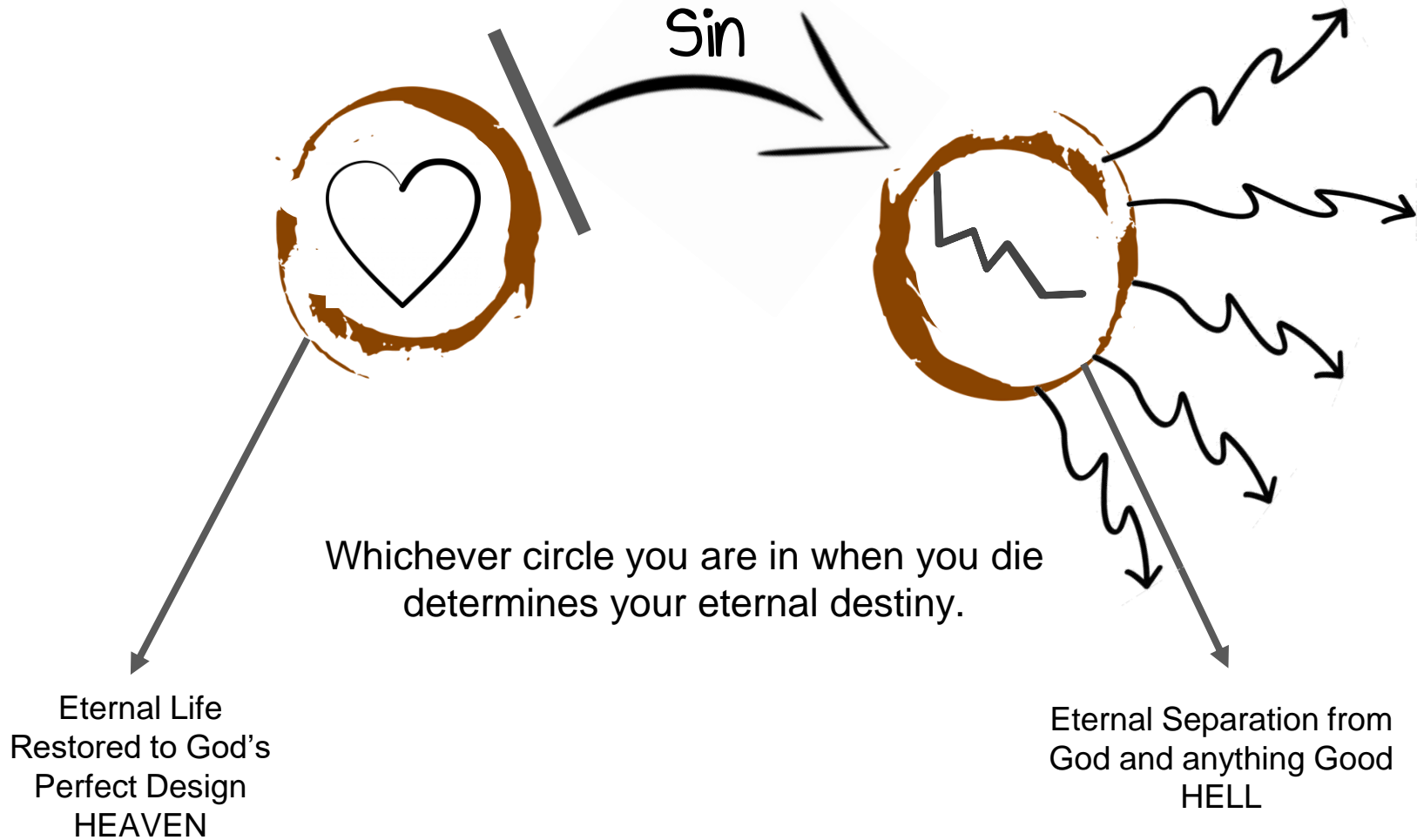


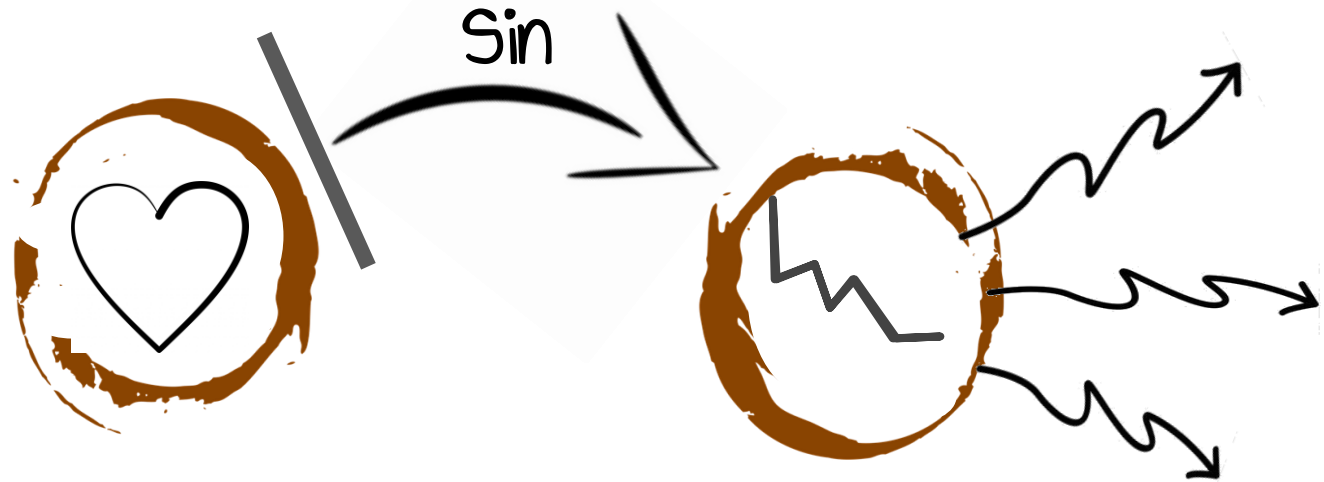


Sin is choosing
our way over
God's way. It
leads to
separation from
God and
brokenness.



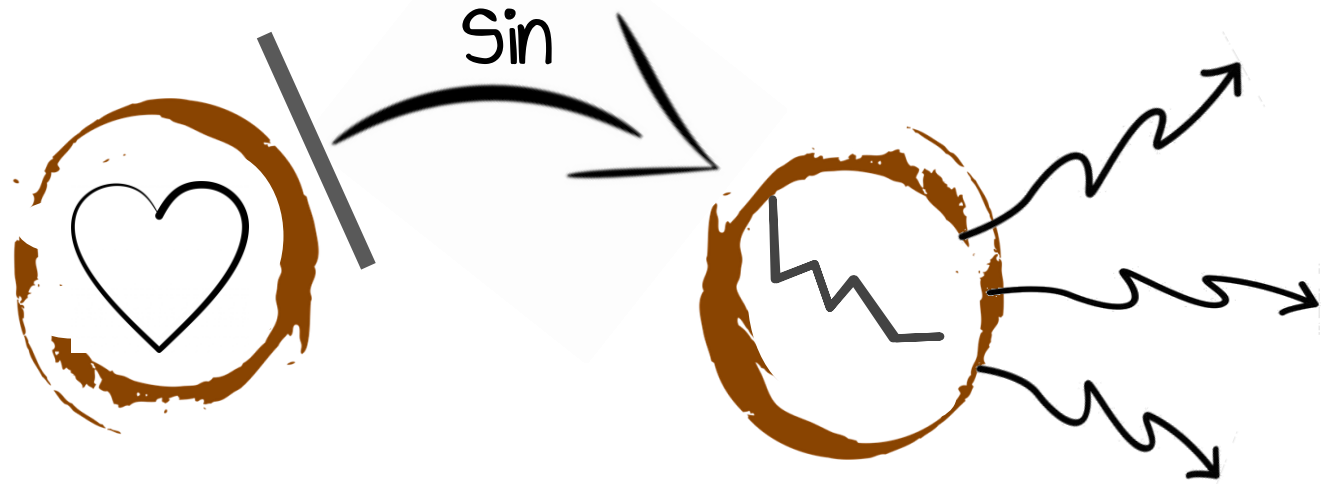
We try to escape brokenness, but our attempts are like bungee cords that drag us back into brokenness. If we die in our brokenness apart from God, we are in real trouble.





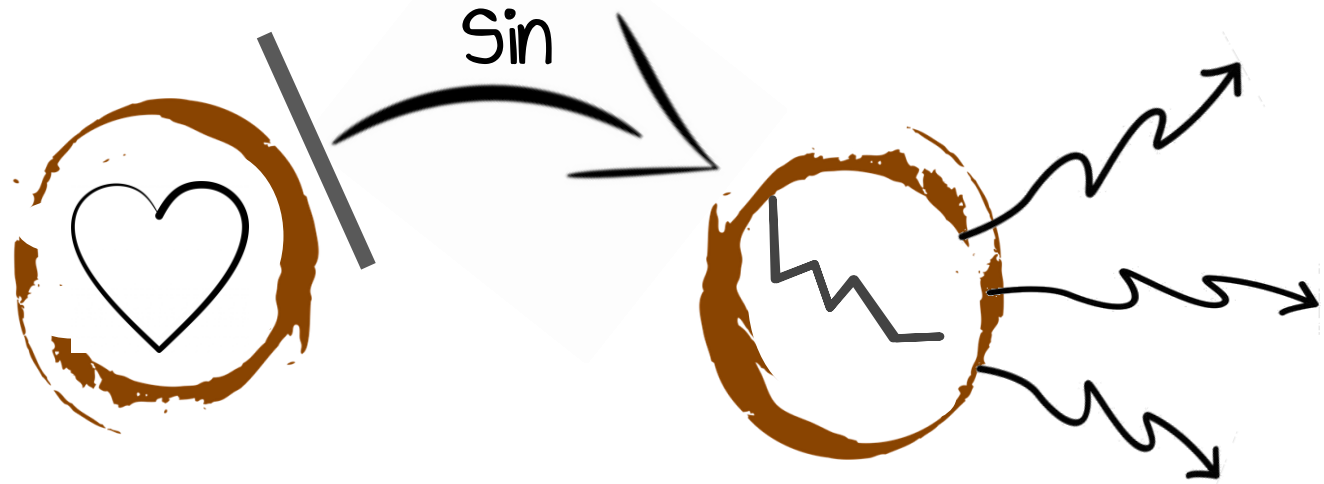
Because He loved us, God sent his Son Jesus to rescue us from sin, brokenness and eternal separation in Hell



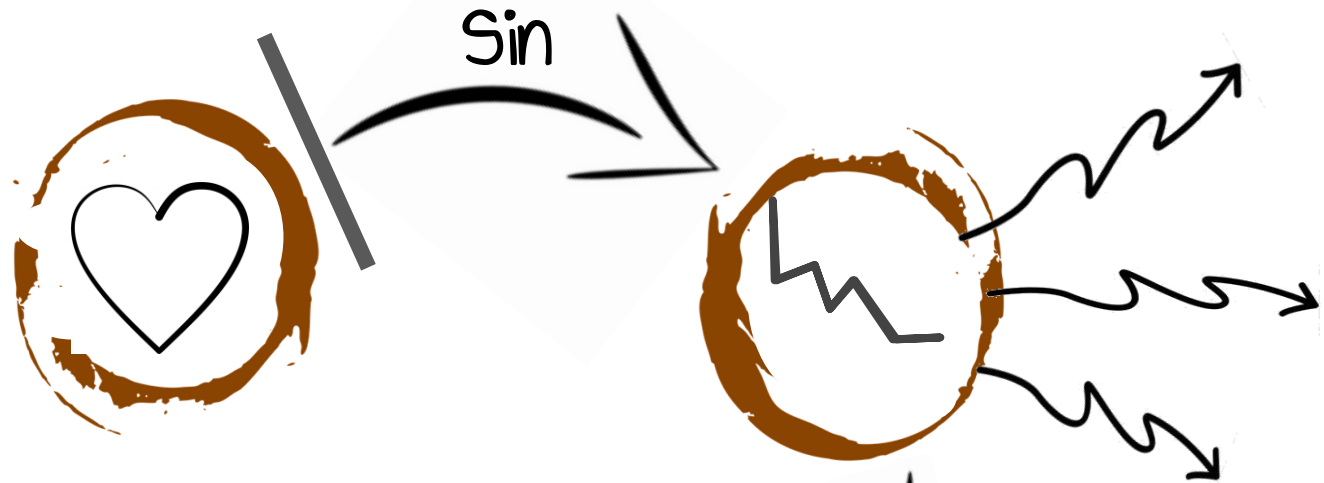


Jesus lived the perfect life as God intended, then died on the cross for OUR sin

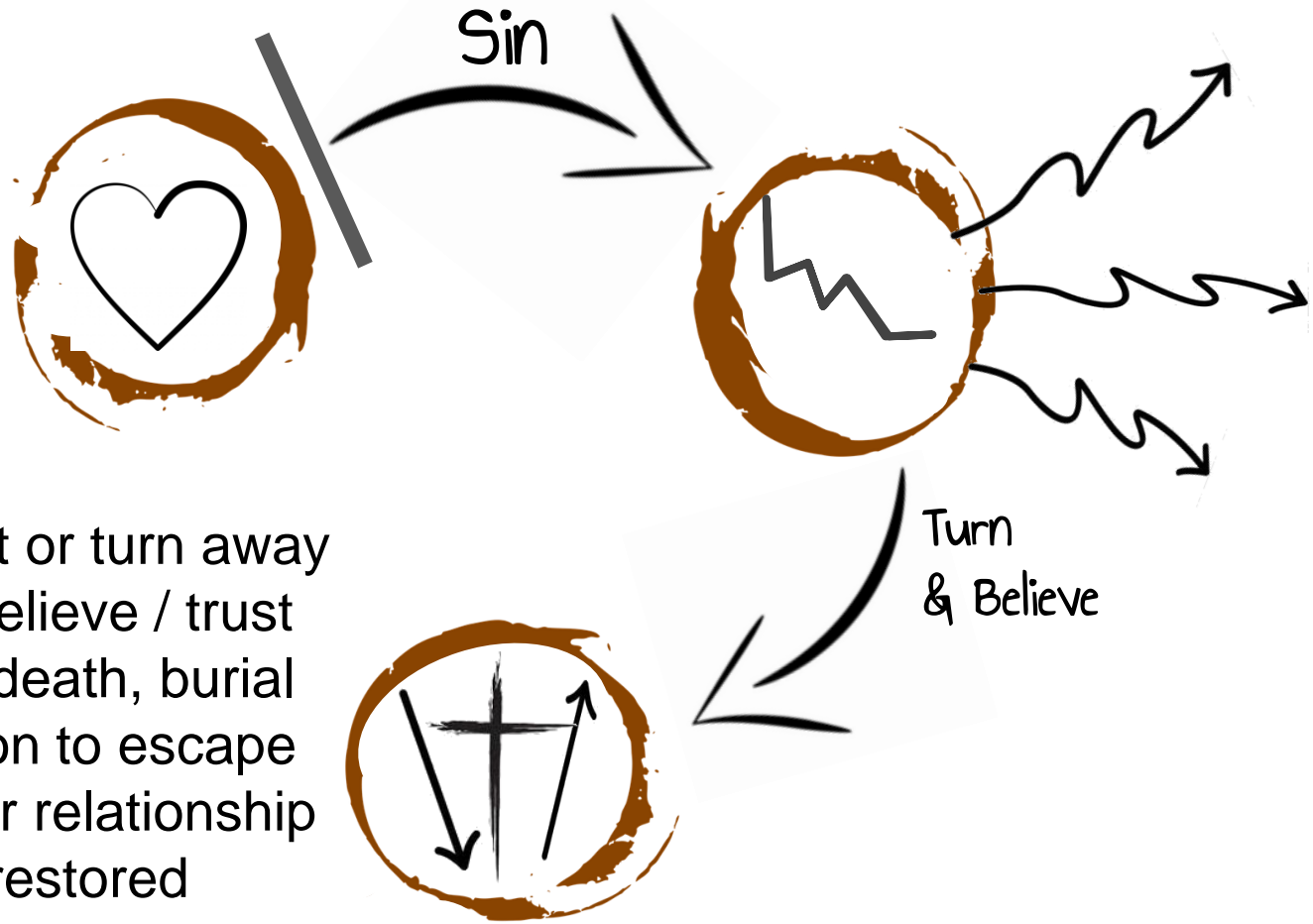




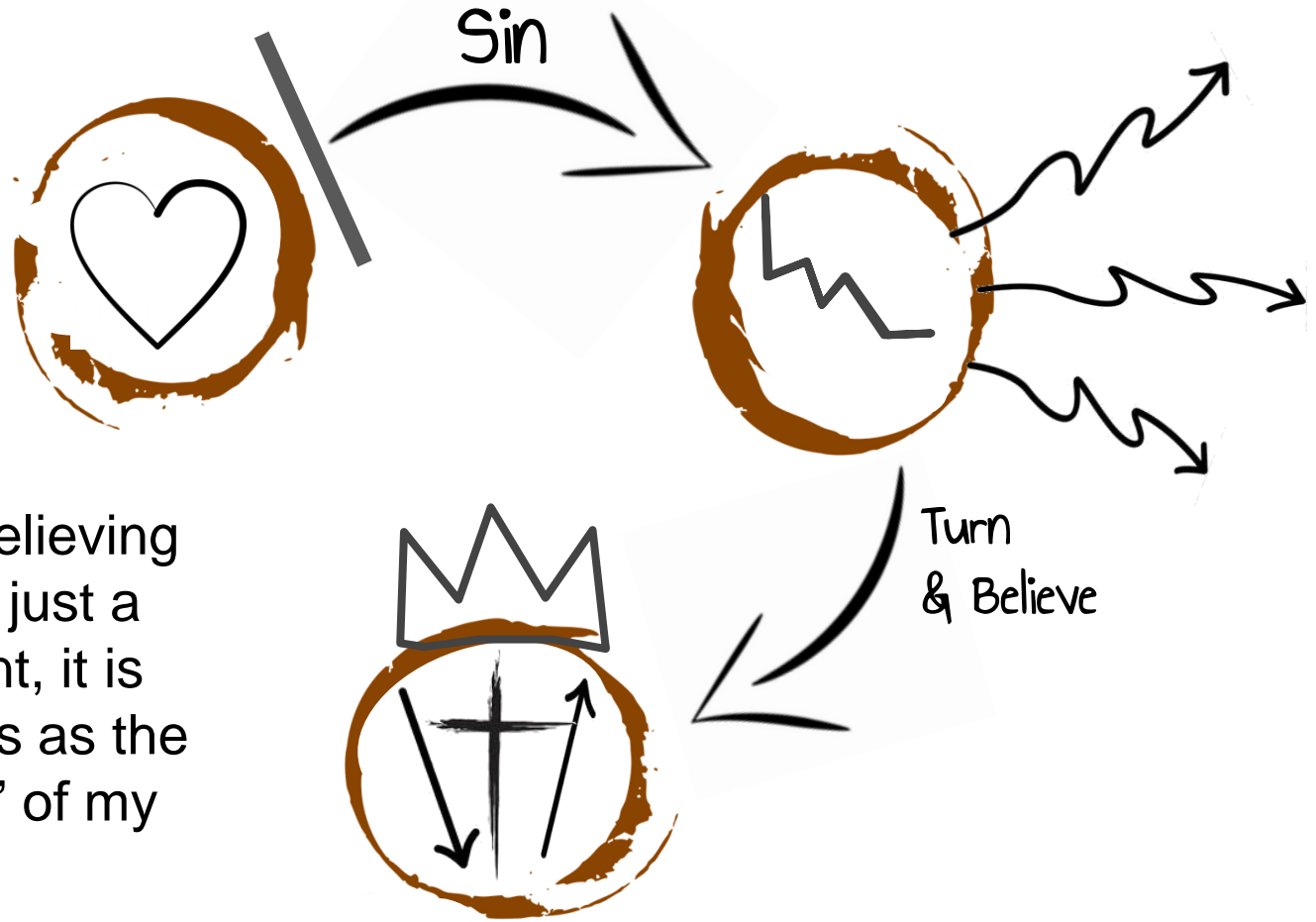
Three days later He
rose from the dead
having paid the penalty
for our sin and
conquering death itself



Jesus made possible the only way out of the world broken by sin and into a restored relationship with God

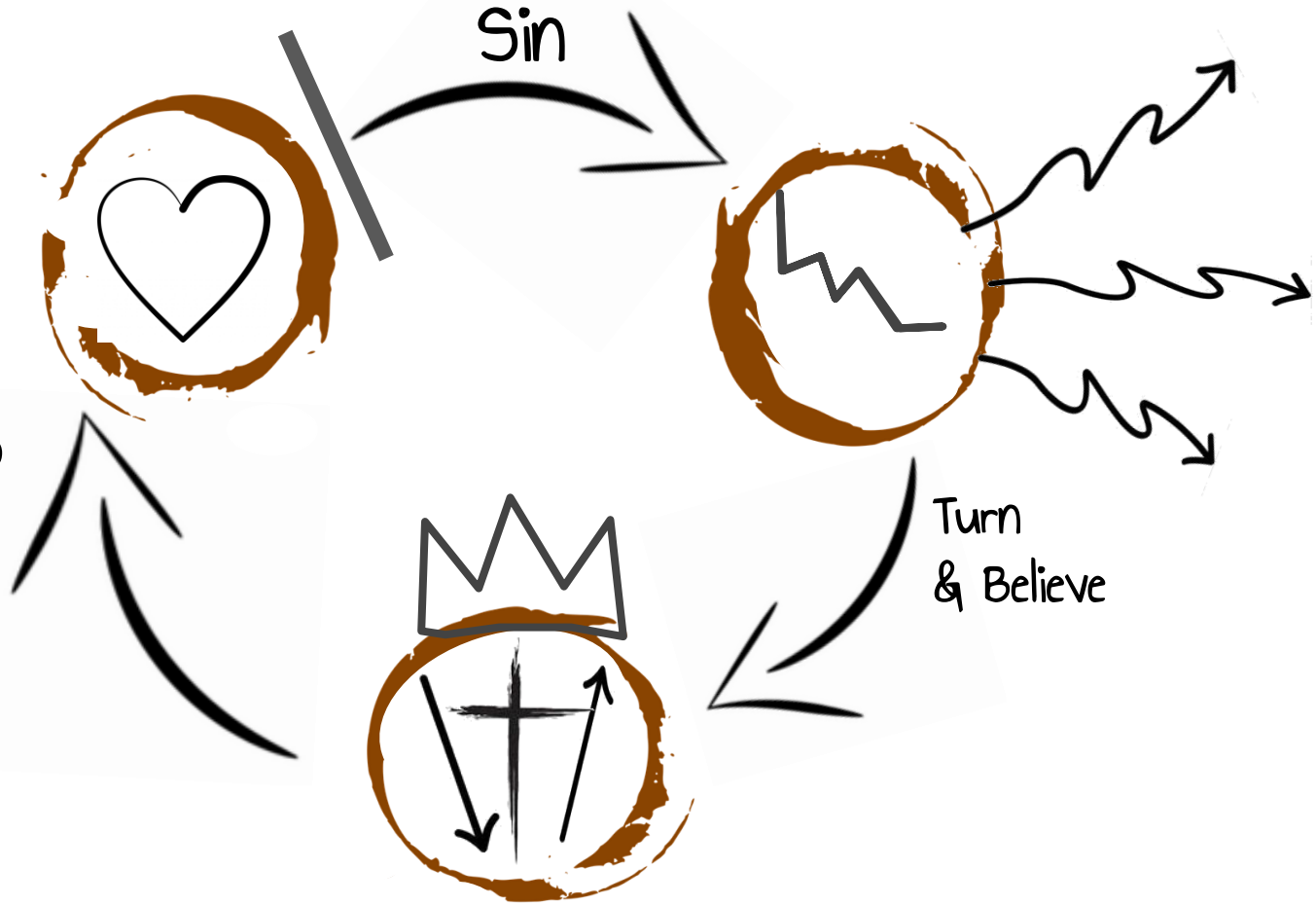


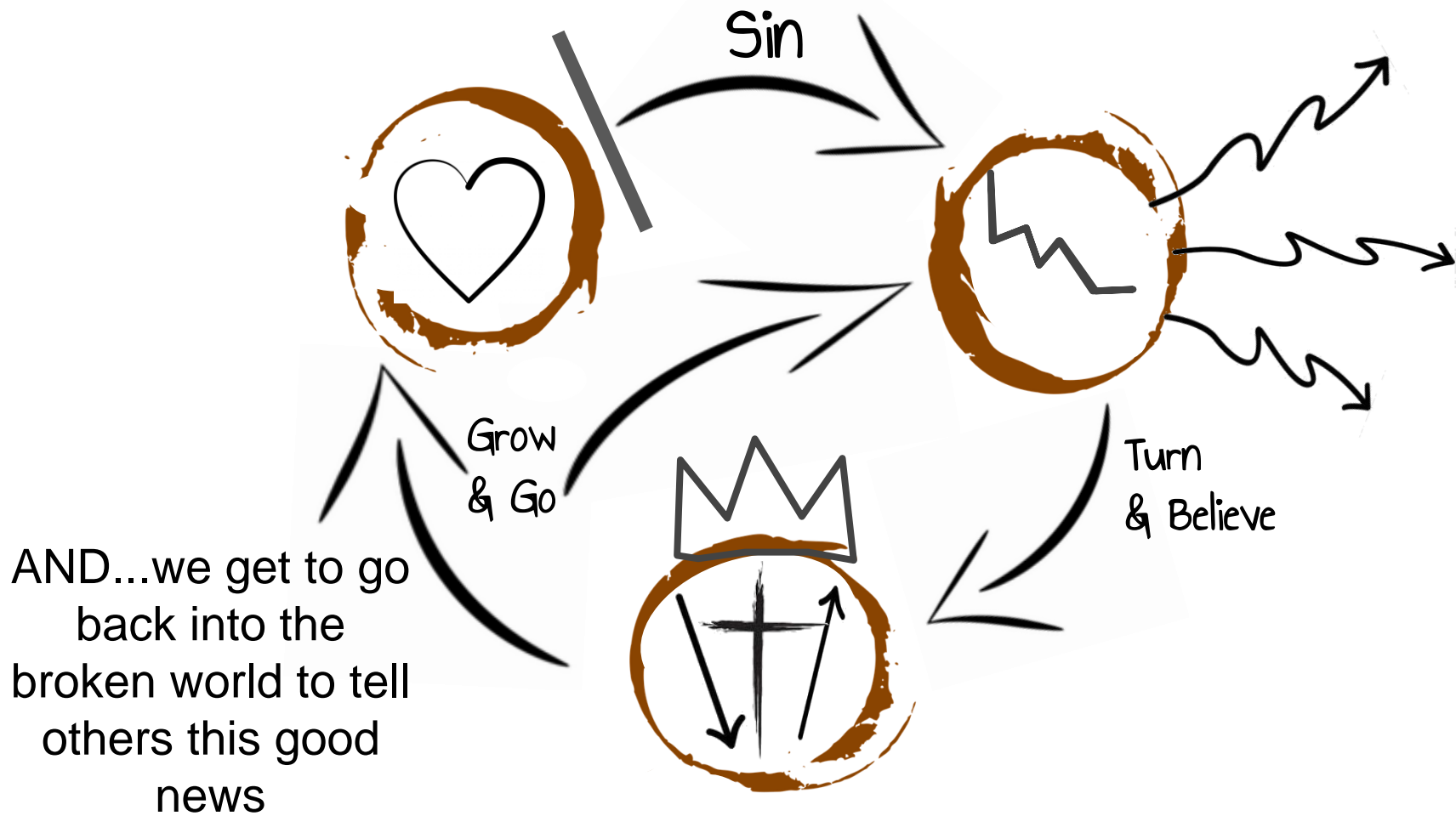
When we repent or turn away from sin and believe / trust only in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection to escape brokenness, our relationship to God is restored



Turning and believing is more than just a mental assent, it is choosing Jesus as the king or “boss” of my life

We become a
“new creation”.
The Holy Spirit
lives inside us
and helps us to
GROW in
God’s ways
and to live a
life that is
pleasing to
Him



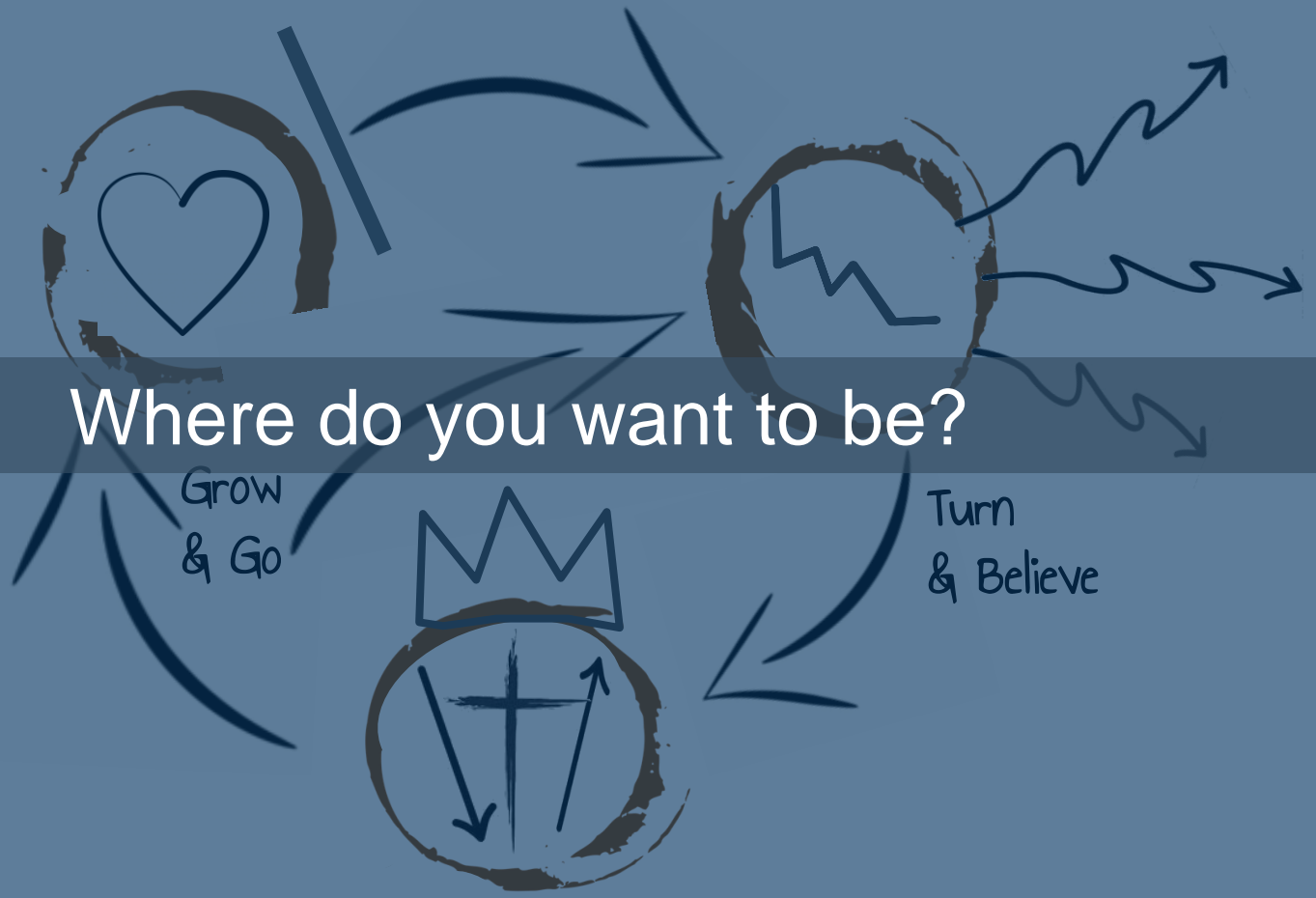


Where are you in this picture?
Separated from God or Surrendered to Jesus?

Grow
& Go

Share
& Believe

Where do you want to be?



What is keeping you from taking the next step?



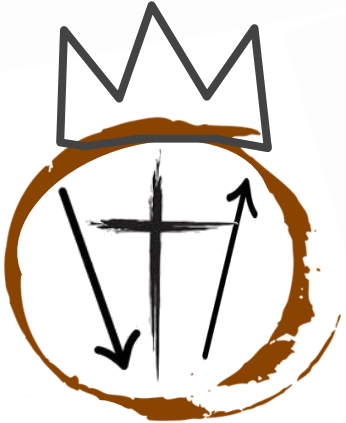
Turning & Believing
gives us the
foundation we need in
eternity to even have
rewards.



Sin

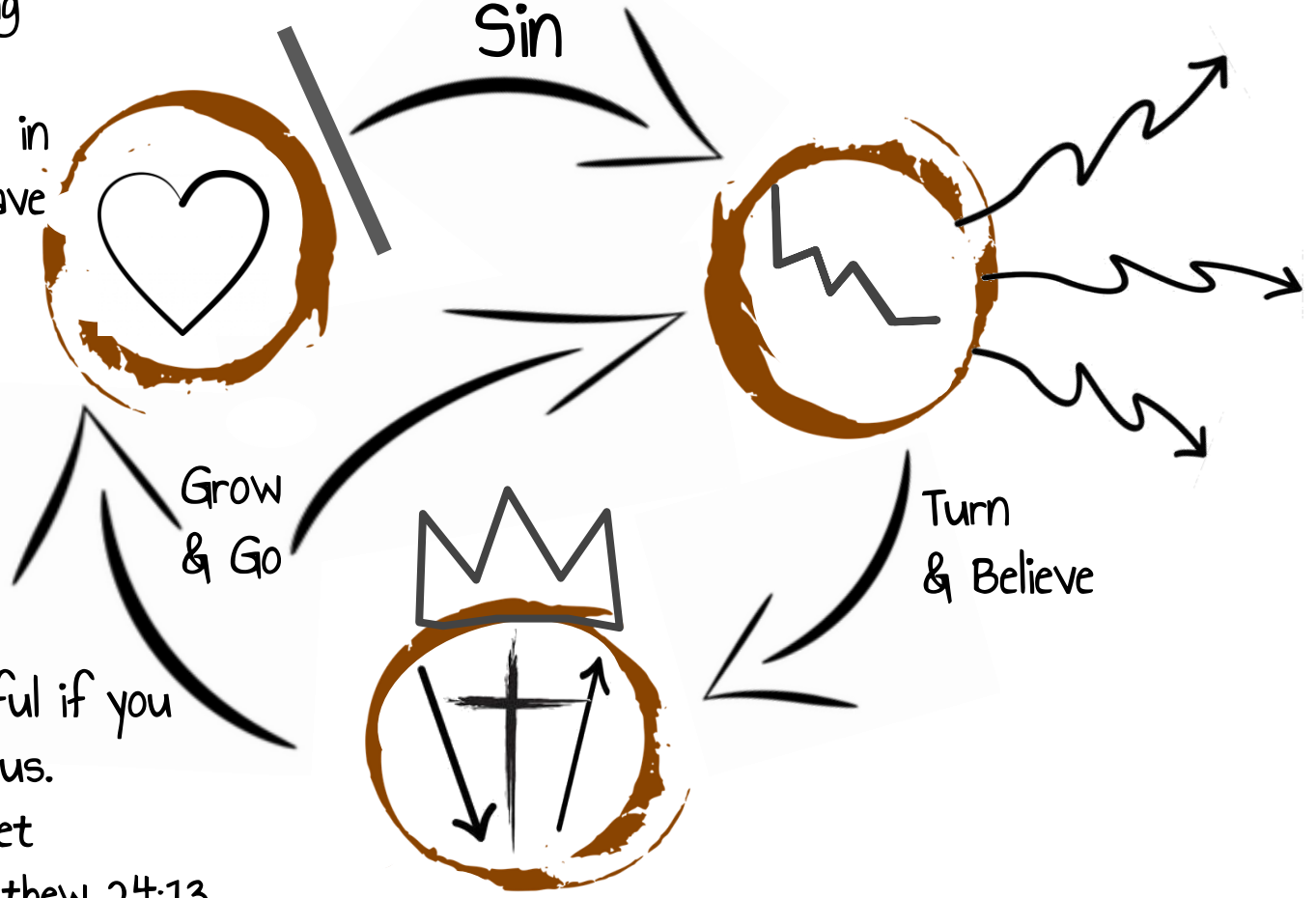


Turn
& Believe



Grow
& Go

Rewards only useful if you
stay in Jesus.
Don't forget
2 John 1:8-9 & Matthew 24:13



Jesus is the Only Foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (ESV) - For no one can lay a **foundation** other than that which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ**. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw- each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Treasures in Heaven

Mat 6:19-21 (ESV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1) Earnestly Seek Him

Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1) Earnestly Seek Him

John 16:32-33 (NIV) 32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2) Prayer and Fasting

Matt 6:6, 17-18 (NIV) But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, **who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.** ... **17** But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, **who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.**

3) Compassion for the Vulnerable

Matt 25:37-40 (NIV) "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' **40** "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' ... **46** they [the wicked] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

3) Compassion for the Vulnerable

Matt 22:34-40 (NIV) Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. **35** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" **37** Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

4) Love You Enemies

Luke 14:13-14 (NIV) 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14** and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

4) Love You Enemies

Luke 6:35 (NIV) But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4) Love You Enemies

Matt 5:43-48 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

4) Love You Enemies

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) “But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.”

5) Quality Work for Employer (Jesus)

Col 3:23-24 (NIV) 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

5) Quality Work for Employer (Jesus)

Matt 5:11-12 (NIV) 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

6) Faithfulness in the Midst of Trials

James 1:2-4, 12 (NIV84) **2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **4** Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **12** Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him

6) Faithfulness in the Midst of Trials

James 1:5-8 (NIV) **5** If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. **6** But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

7) Faithfulness to the Truth

2 John 1:7-9 (NIV) **7** I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. **8** Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. **9** Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

7) Faithfulness to the Truth

Gal 5-19-21 (NIV) sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of
rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy;
drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before,
that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

ACTIONS JESUS REWARDS

- 1) DILIGENTLY SEEK GOD
- 2) PRAYER AND FASTING
- 3) COMPASSION FOR THE VULNERABLE
- 4) LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
- 5) QUALITY WORK FOR YOUR EMPLOYER (Jesus)
- 6) FAITHFULNESS IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS
- 7) FAITHFULNESS TO THE TRUTH