

Living Word Bible Class

- *1Ti 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
- *James 1:22 But demonstrate yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

SLB-029

11-26-06

The Spiritual Life Techniques (SLT):
Phase I Techniques Continued -
Reliance (New) and
Regeneration (Expansion)

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- We are exploring the Basic Spiritual Life Techniques with a series of words beginning with the letter “R”.
- We will consider them within the context of the 3 Phases of the Spiritual Life:
 - Phase I: Salvation = Regeneration
 - Phase II: Life on Earth = Rest (The SPIRITUAL LIFE)
 - Phase III: Life in Heaven = Resurrection

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase I: Salvation
- Regeneration
 - Recognition = understanding
 - Repentance = assent
 - Reliance = trust

SLT: Phase II: Earthly

- Rest
 - Righteousness
 - Residence
 - Recovery
 - Resistance
 - Reckoning
 - Renovation
 - Rehearsal
 - Reciprocation
 - Reverence
 - Revelation

Rest - NOT WORK!

Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase III: Heavenly Life
 - Resurrection
 - Reward
 - Reign

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase I: Salvation
- Regeneration
 - Recognition = understanding
 - Repentance = assent
 - Reliance = trust

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Recognition *noun*
- a learning process that relates a perception of something new to knowledge already possessed.
- Theological definition: The point at which the unbeliever is “convinced” by the Holy Spirit that he is unable to meet God’s Standard, and requires Christ, who is able, as his Substitute.
- *And when He [the Comforter] is come, He will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 16:8)*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition (3 Potential Arenas)
 - 1. An awareness of an absence of a relationship with God.
 - 2. Conviction of sins: an awareness of particular wrongs done against God and/or others.
 - 3. Conviction of God's Perfection: a sense of one's complete inability to meet the standard of God's Righteousness and one's consequent need of the new birth (John 3:3).

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- John 16:8-11
 - *When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about these things: about missing the objective, about being right with God, and about judgment.*
 - *The Helper will prove that people have missed the objective, because they don't believe in me.*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Metanoeo - Meta = change; and Noeo = mind.
- To change your mind.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- In the NT there are 150 declarations that the lost are to depend ONLY on believing or Faith.
- Yet millions of Legalistic Christians(?), attempt to coerce those whom God calls, into their box, requiring some religious activity to stamp the process of salvation “legitimate” in their eyes.
- Their legalistic religionism negates the Grace of God, and deny untold numbers their salvation.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- There are numerous additions to the simple but accurate Faith, Believe, Trust, or Rely means to salvation:
 - 1. Believe and Pray
 - 2. Believe + Ritual
 - 3. Believe and Confess before men
 - 4. Believe and Confess your sins

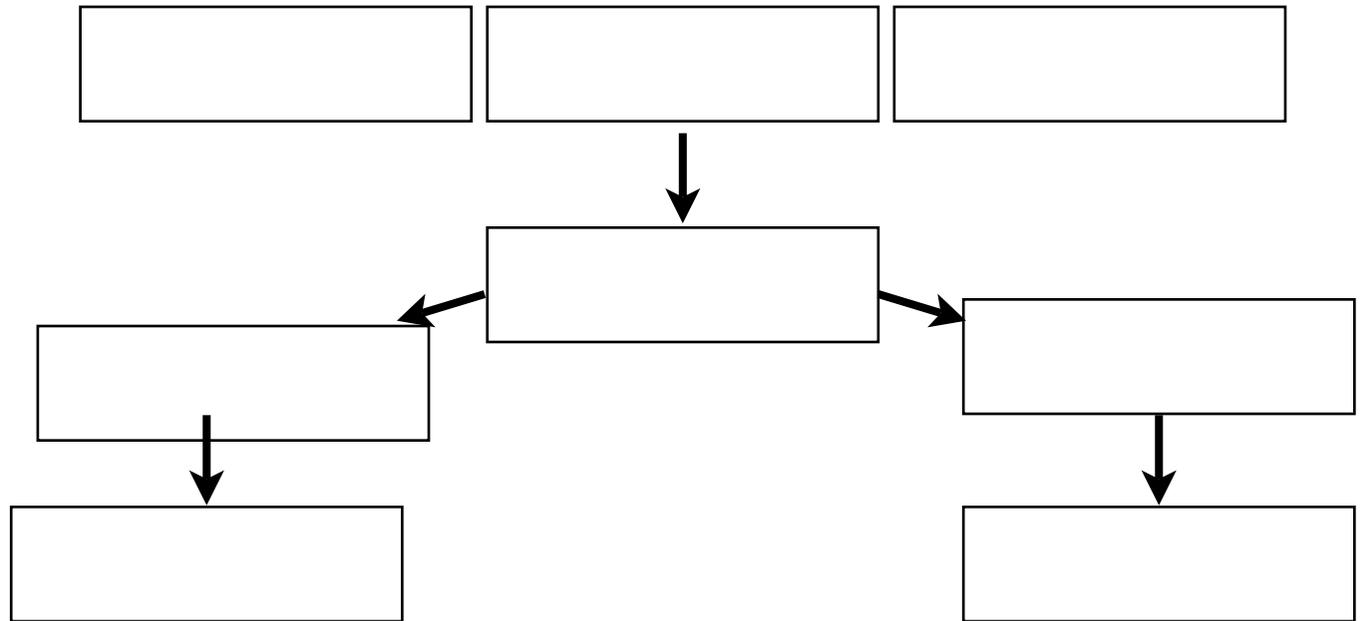
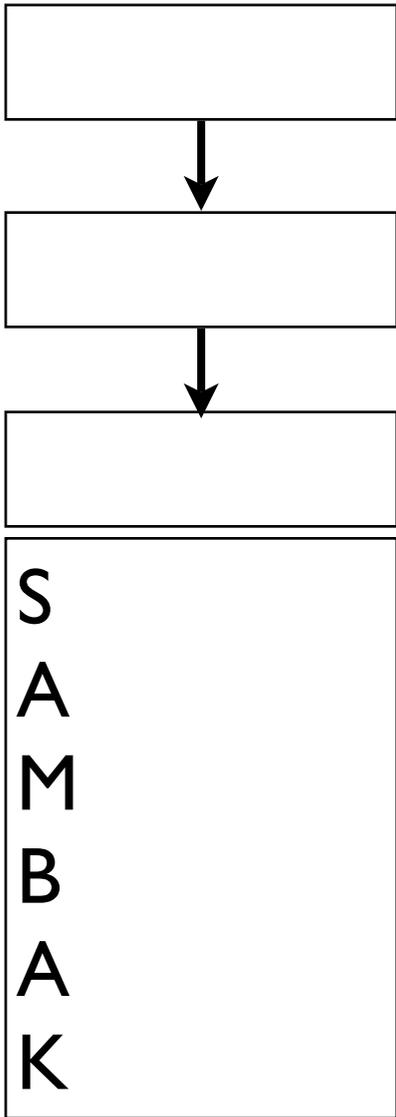
SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 5. Believe and Repent of your sins
- 6. Salvation by emotional experience
- 7. Salvation through the Church
- 8. Salvation by Commitment

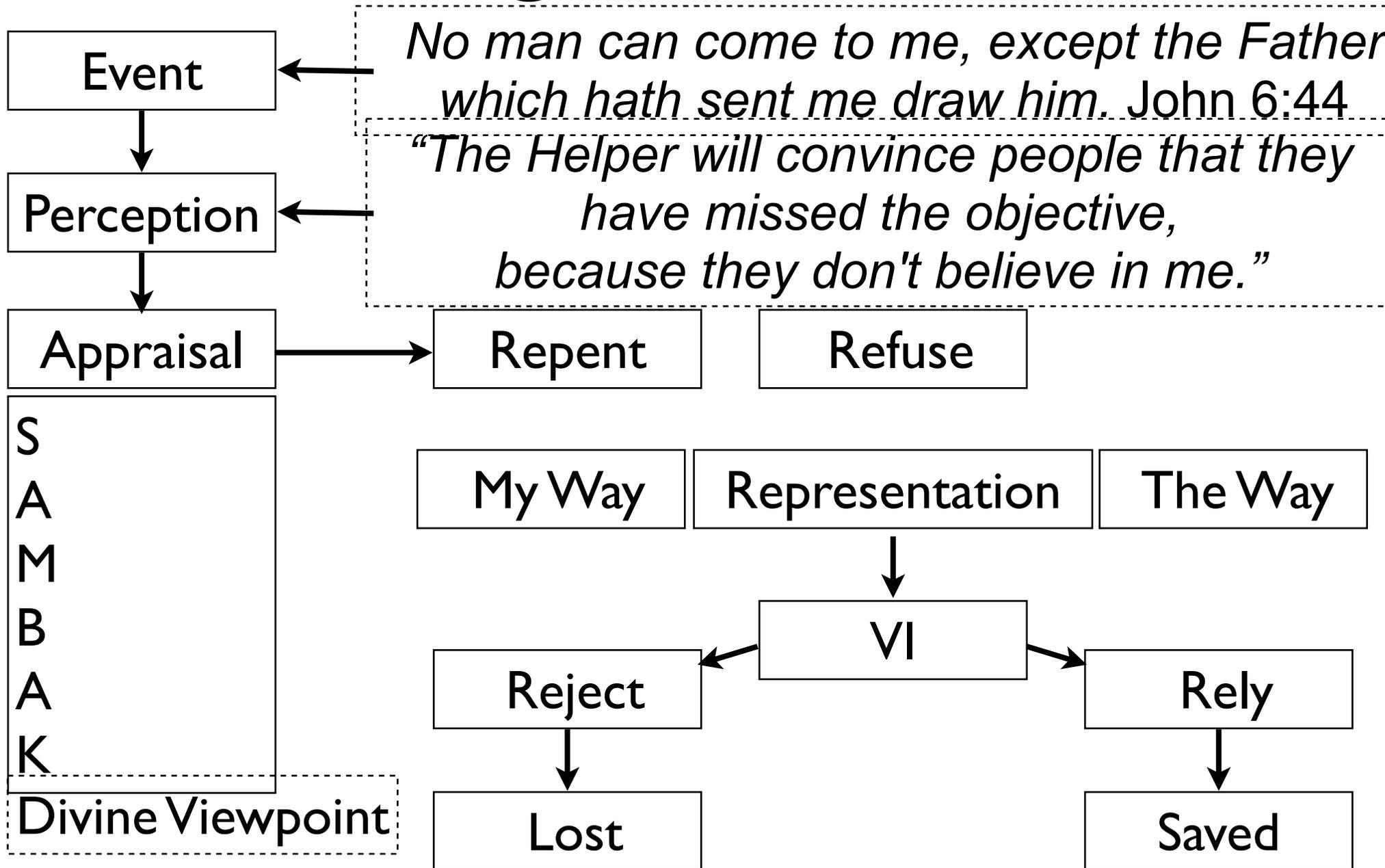
SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
 - There are 150 salvation statements with “faith” or “believe”, but without “repentance”.
 - When the true meaning of repentance is known, metanoeo - change your thinking, it is obvious that repentance is a part of the believing process, and a direct result of the Recognition process.
 - When one recognizes that nothing BUT Christ will do, we are forced to change our mind.

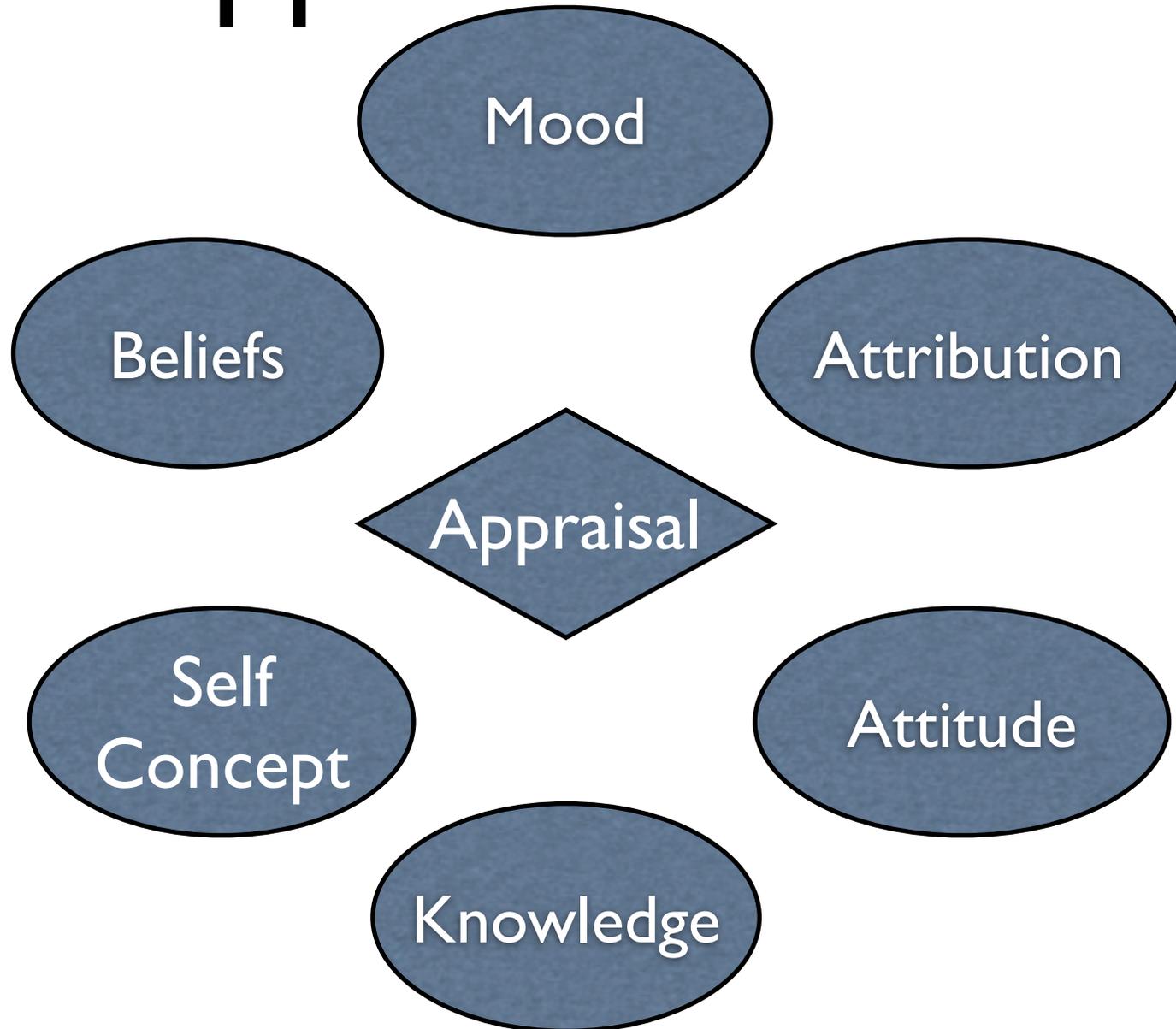
Thinking in Your Mind



Thinking in Your Mind



Appraisal Filters



SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Repentance does NOT mean “give up sinning”, it means “change your mind”.
- Not one verse has in the context the hint of personal sins as the universal object of repentance.
- It is clear that the object of repentance is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to “give it or Him up” would be ludicrous.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Note the juxtaposition, not with “sins”, but with “faith” and “believing”:
- "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; **repent**, and **believe** in the good news." Mark 1:15.
- "John baptized with the baptism of **repentance**, telling the people to **believe** in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." (Acts 19:4, ESV)
- In Acts 20, Paul tells the Ephesian elders in his farewell address to them that the message he preached was of "**repentance** toward God and **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ".

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- One further passage makes the connection.
- The author of Hebrews says his recipients don't need to keep laying the basic foundation but need to move on to deeper things.
- That basic foundation is " of **repentance** from dead works and of **faith** toward God".
- Dead works is not a description of personal sins, but of "religion", Legalism, Human Good.
- "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...", said Peter (Acts 3:19).
- NOTE, that it doesn't say, Repent and blot out your own sins!

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Similarly, on Pentecost, AD 31, in response to their cry, *“What shall we do”*, Peter instructed the assembled crowd, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38).
- The key to understanding this is what prompted their cry?
- Acts 2:36 - *“Therefore, let all the House of Israel know assuredly, that God has made this same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ (Messiah).”*
- That is what they needed to repent, to change their minds concerning, not their personal sins.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from thetruegospel.org)
- Because we can't save ourselves and can't keep God's law perfectly of ourselves, the prevalent teaching today is that Jesus did it all for us—that we don't have to do anything except believe He did it all for us and accept Him as our Savior. Thus, millions today have been led to believe that God imputes Jesus' righteousness to us, counting us as righteous because of His righteousness—while we continue sinning.
- Nothing could be further from the truth!
- Jesus did not live a good life for us—in our stead.
- We are not excused from keeping God's commandments, striving to live a righteous life, overcoming and growing in spiritual character.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Steps in Salvation (False Doctrine)
 - Step 1 -- Hear the Word
 - Step 2 -- Believe the Word
 - Step 3 -- Repent of Sin
 - Step 4 -- Confess Christ
 - Step 5 -- Be Baptized
 - Step 6 -- Remain Faithful
- thebiblespeaks.com

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- We know that salvation is based entirely upon the grace of God.
- The Bible says that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, and it also says, "The righteous man shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).
- Salvation, forgiveness, and justification are based entirely upon the atoning work of Christ.
- However, if the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is to be made effectual for any individual of any age, that individual must repent of sin and accept Christ by faith. (ccel.us)

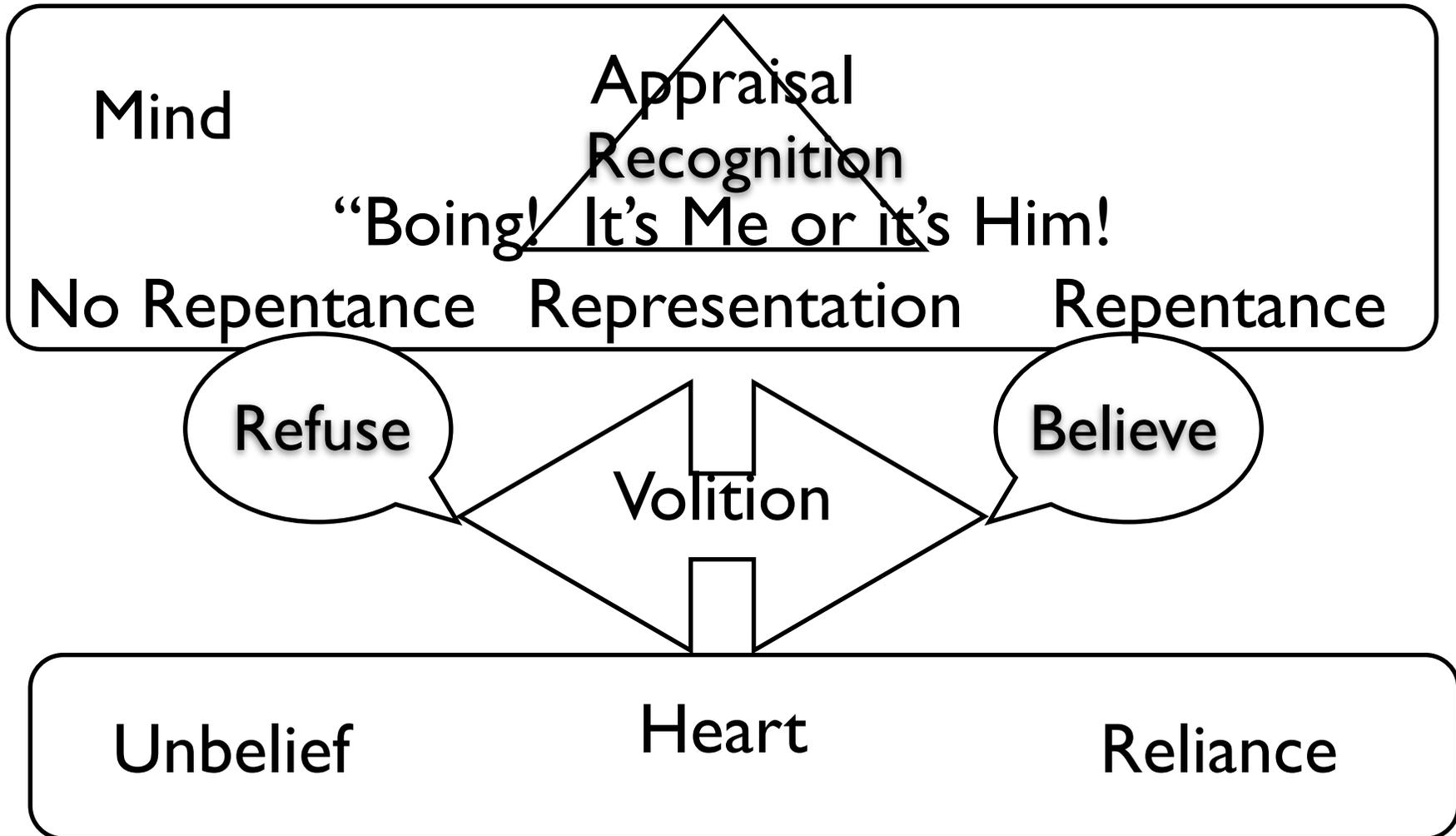
SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Repentance is part of the process of Believing.
- It is the result of Recognition in the Appraisal Process on the part of the hearer who then is faced with the decision to choose Reliance on Christ.
- This observation is well illustrated by 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10, “...how ye turned to God from idols.”

SLT: Phase I: Salvation Diagram

"Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" John 5:40.

The Father Draws
The Holy Spirit Convinces by means of the Word



SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Rely:
- tr.v.,
 - 1. To be dependent for support, help, or supply: relies on her parents for tuition.
 - 2. To place or have faith or confidence: relied on them to tell him the truth.
- [Middle English *relien*, to rally, from Old French *relier*, from Latin *religāre*, to bind fast : *re-*, *re-* + *ligāre*, to bind.]
- Reliance: n.
 - 1. The act of relying or the state of being reliant.
 - 2. The faith, confidence, or trust felt by one who relies; dependence. See synonyms at trust.
 - 3. One relied on; a mainstay.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- The Lord Jesus did not teach that saving faith was a simple matter.
- Instead of declaring that the saving of the soul was an easy thing, which many would participate in, He said:
- "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).
- "Strive to enter in at the strait gate" (Luke 13:24).
- "How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:24,25).

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- "Why call ye me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46);
- "Not everyone that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).
- Many a Faith PLUS Works Legalist will quote this verse to convince the unbeliever that he needs to "repent of their sins", but as usual, the context destroys their false premise...

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- In the words of our Lord Himself, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.'
- Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity' [Matt. 7:21-23].

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- He does not dispute the facts that these people put forward - they have done all these things.
- 'Going about to establish their own righteousness'- that is all it is.
- The perfect salvation work of Christ on the cross, which is called expiation, excludes EVERYTHING else from being added to faith.
- No works of any kind are allowed. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that [salvation] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*
Romans 10:1-3
- We are saved by 'coming to a knowledge of the truth about God's Righteousness', so that if we do not have that knowledge, we cannot be saved.
- Note well, Paul does not pray that they would give up their personal sins to be saved, as is commonly presented today!

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- The Jews had the Scriptures.
- They were godly, they were righteous; and they were very proud of their own righteousness.
- But the trouble was that they fondly imagined that by working up this righteousness and amassing it, they were pleasing God and were satisfying God's holy and righteous demands.
- That was their tragedy.
- They really were very pleased with themselves, and they were resting in their self-righteousness and their self-satisfaction.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- In Romans 3: 19-20, Paul says, *'Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.'*
- As Paul puts it again in Philippians 3:7-8, *'What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.'*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *'Blessed are the poor in spirit'* [Matt. 5:3]. But, you see, people who believe that they can put themselves right in the sight of God by their works are NOT poor in spirit.
- They are proud of spirit, as the Apostle was before his conversion, as our Lord depicted the Pharisees.
- *'What you need,'* they hear, just as those who think they must repent of their sins, is not poverty of spirit but self-confidence, a belief in yourself, a belief that you can help God save you.
- Set out to be saved by “Faith Plus Anything”, and this is the opposite of being 'poor in spirit'.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- And then, of course, our Lord put it like this in a terrible phrase in Luke 16:15: *'Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.'*
- If you have any doubt that the failure to be saved comes from a lack of cleaning up your life, look at this great mound of righteousness that the Pharisees had built up: *'That is what I have done. Look at my deeds, look at my good life, look what I have sacrificed, look AT MY righteousness.'*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- And our Lord's comment upon it is that it is nothing but *'abomination in the sight of God'*.
- *'All our righteousnesses,'* says Isaiah, *'are as filthy rags'* [Isaiah. 64:6].
- Our best deeds are impure, polluted, unworthy.
- Anyone who relies on his goodness and his righteousness has completely misunderstood the whole of the biblical teaching.
- They have “sinned”, missed the objective, “because they believe not in me”

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- His works are abomination in the sight of God, who does not see as man sees nor judge as man judges.
- So then the end of all that is that these tragic Jews were ignorant of the fact that having gone about and expended so much energy and labor, they had succeeded only in pleasing themselves; they had not pleased God at all.
- They had established their own righteousness and nothing more.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- They have pleased nobody but themselves.
- And that is the whole tragedy in the world today.
- That is precisely what is being believed, in the church as well as outside it: that Christianity is an encouragement to people to add their own righteousness.
- And at the end it will all be utterly useless, our Lord will disown it.
- Though many will say, 'Lord, Lord,' it is of no value.
- It is not the righteousness that He demands; it is not the righteousness that can satisfy Him; it is useless.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- 'They being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.'
- If they had known what God really demands they would never have been foolish enough to go about to try to establish their own righteousness.
- And then, because they thought they were satisfying God, they did not listen to the demands of God's righteousness.
- They were prejudiced against it and rejected it, even as the Pharisees rejected our Lord, His teaching and all that He had to offer.
- The last people to believe the gospel, and to be saved, are always those who think that they can save themselves.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- Our Lord looked at the Pharisees, who were good, moral, godly, religious people, and said this terrible thing,
- *'The publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you'* [Matt. 21:31].
- It is true now as it has always been true.
- There is no greater sin than the sin of the Pharisee, the sin of self-righteousness.
- It is, of everything, the thing that most blinds a man to the glory of the gospel.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- The majority of Christians witness as if the gospel puts a premium on sin, but it does not.
- What the gospel does is to show the horrible, terrible danger of self-reliance, self-justification, self-righteousness.
- 'The publicans and the harlots' - the complete outsiders, the most hopeless in society- actually did go into the kingdom before the others.
- Why?
- Because they were more ready to admit their need; they were more ready to acknowledge their own utter helplessness and hopelessness.