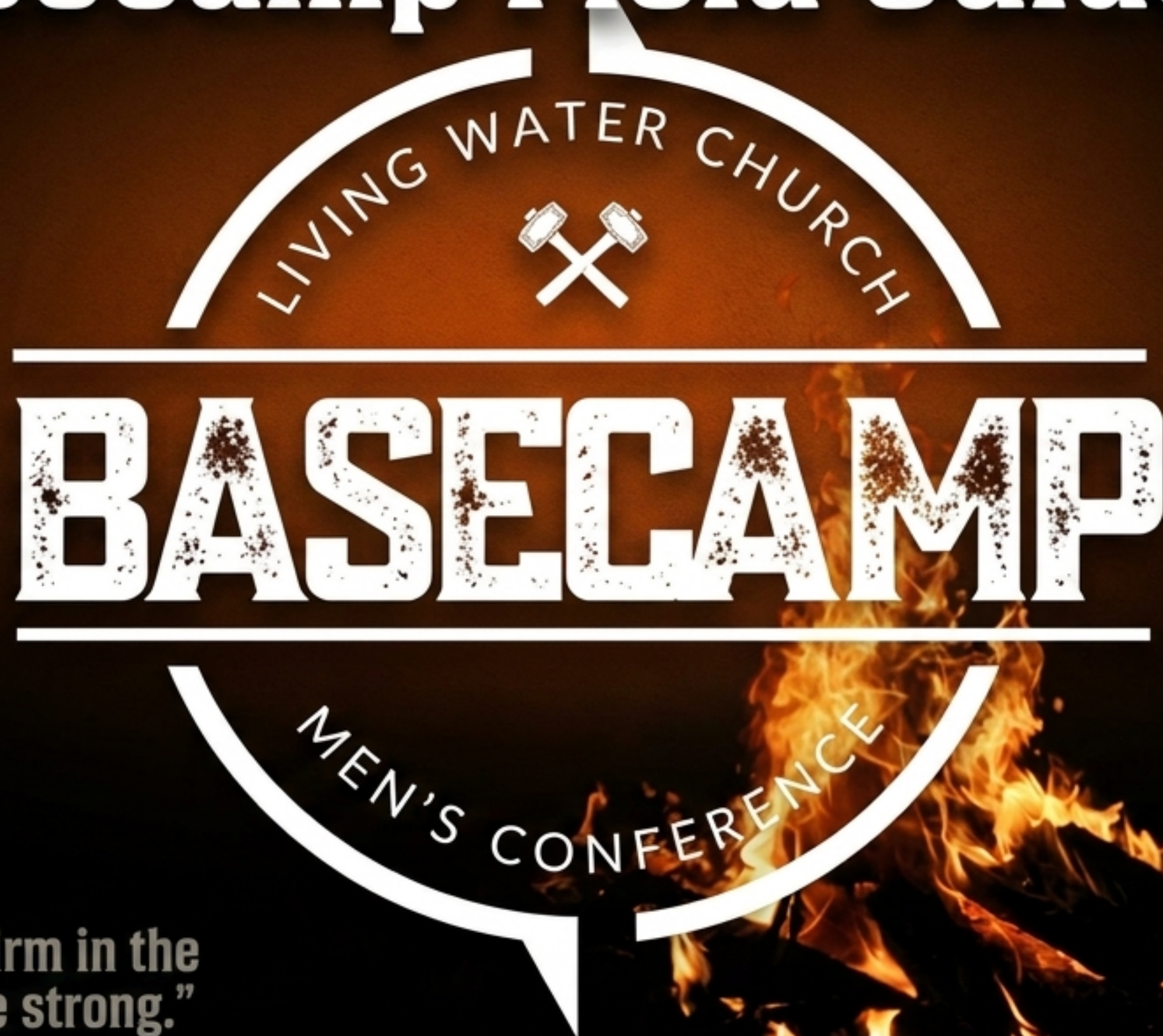


The Basecamp Field Guide: Lover



**“Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith. Act like men. Be strong.”
— 1 Corinthians 16:13**

REDEFINING MANHOOD

CULTURAL MANHOOD



Cultural Manhood: Owning a truck, wearing camo, grilling meat, guarding the thermostat, and never asking for directions. It might make you awesome, but it doesn't make you a man.

BIBLICAL MANHOOD

LOVER.



LEADER.



PROVIDER.



PROTECTOR.



Biblical Manhood: Not titles to admire, but responsibilities to carry. You don't become this man later; you build the habits now.

THE UNCOMFORTABLE FOUNDATION

LEADER

PROVIDER

PROTECTOR

LOVER (Let all that you do be done in love)

Love is the one responsibility that makes men squirm. But without getting the love piece right in all relationships, the rest of the structure collapses.

The Diagnostic Mirror



**Paul isn't writing poetry for weddings.
He isn't talking about how love feels.
defining what love is. This is a gear check.
Do you have the courage to hold up the
mirror of the Word of God and ask: Am I
Am I these things in all of my relationships?**

Proceed through the next 6 slides. Grade yourself. There is a quiz at the end.

The Long-Suffering Check



Greek concept: Long-suffering. It's the ability to take a punch, usually to set up for the counter-punch. It is enduring tough circumstances with tough people.
(Diagnostic: Are you yelling at the microwave to hurry up?)



If patience is absorbing the blow, kindness is the proactive, positive action taken toward those same people.

When Heaven looks at you, you often look like a goofy kid playing in the dirt. Yet God remains fiercely patient and kind toward you.

The Ego Trap

Comparison & Envy

Comparison is a trap. Envy is not just wanting what someone else has—it is an affront against God. It is looking upward and saying, “God, you screwed this up. You gave him too much and me too little.”

Boasting

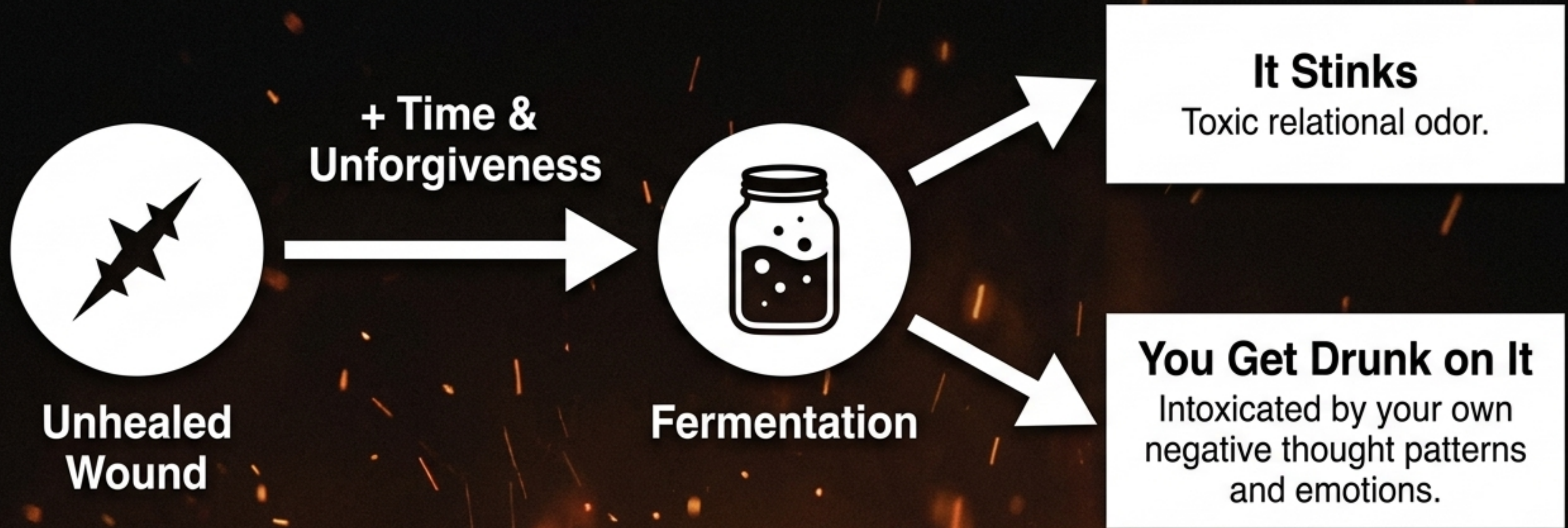
Listening to respond, rather than listening to understand. Always needing to one-up the story.

Arrogance & Rudeness

Believing God is lucky to have you. Looking down your nose at others.

Want to check your humility? Walk through Walmart at 11:30 PM on Christmas Eve. Your understanding of God's grace for all people will expand.

The Fermentation of Resentment



Stop using what happened 35 years ago as an excuse for bad behavior today. If someone bumps into your unhealed wound, you will explode. Get counseling. Do the work.

The Argument Archetypes

Hysterical	Historical
<p data-bbox="269 742 786 896">Overreacting in the moment.</p> <p data-bbox="279 990 776 1076">Easily angered.</p> <p data-bbox="303 1159 753 1497">The explosive emotional response to a minor trigger.</p>	<p data-bbox="996 742 1426 904">Resurrecting the past.</p> <p data-bbox="936 990 1486 1497">Bringing up a Tuesday night from 1988 because the mac and cheese burned today.</p>



**Love keeps no record of wrongs (Logizomai).
It destroys the scorecard entirely.**

**If you love someone, you no longer possess
the ledger of their wrongdoings.**

Prophesying Over Relationships

People tend to become who the most important people in their life say they will become.

The power of life and death is in the tongue.

Rejoicing in the Truth

People live UP to the promises and encouragement they hear.

Nitpicking & Criticizing

People live DOWN to the curses and complaints they hear.

The Challenge:
Audit your last 100 text messages.
Did you rejoice in the the truth, or just point out what was wrong?

The Endurance Mandate

BEARS.

BELIEVES.

HOPES.

ENDURES.

Love never quits.

Love never quits. You never stop fighting for the heart of your wife.

You never stop fighting for your kids.

Teenagers will try to wear you down to see if you tap out. Don't tap out.

“

I've never met a kid truly overwhelmed by the car their dad bought them. I've met plenty overwhelmed by a dad who would never give up on them.

”

The Breaking Point

[YOUR NAME] is patient and kind.
[YOUR NAME] does not envy or boast.
[YOUR NAME] is not arrogant or rude.
[YOUR NAME] does not insist on his
own way...

If you do this honestly, you will hear the failure buzzer over and over.
You cannot meet this standard on your own strength.

The Synthesis Moment

GOD

~~[YOUR NAME]~~ is patient and kind.

~~[GOD]~~ does not envy or boast.

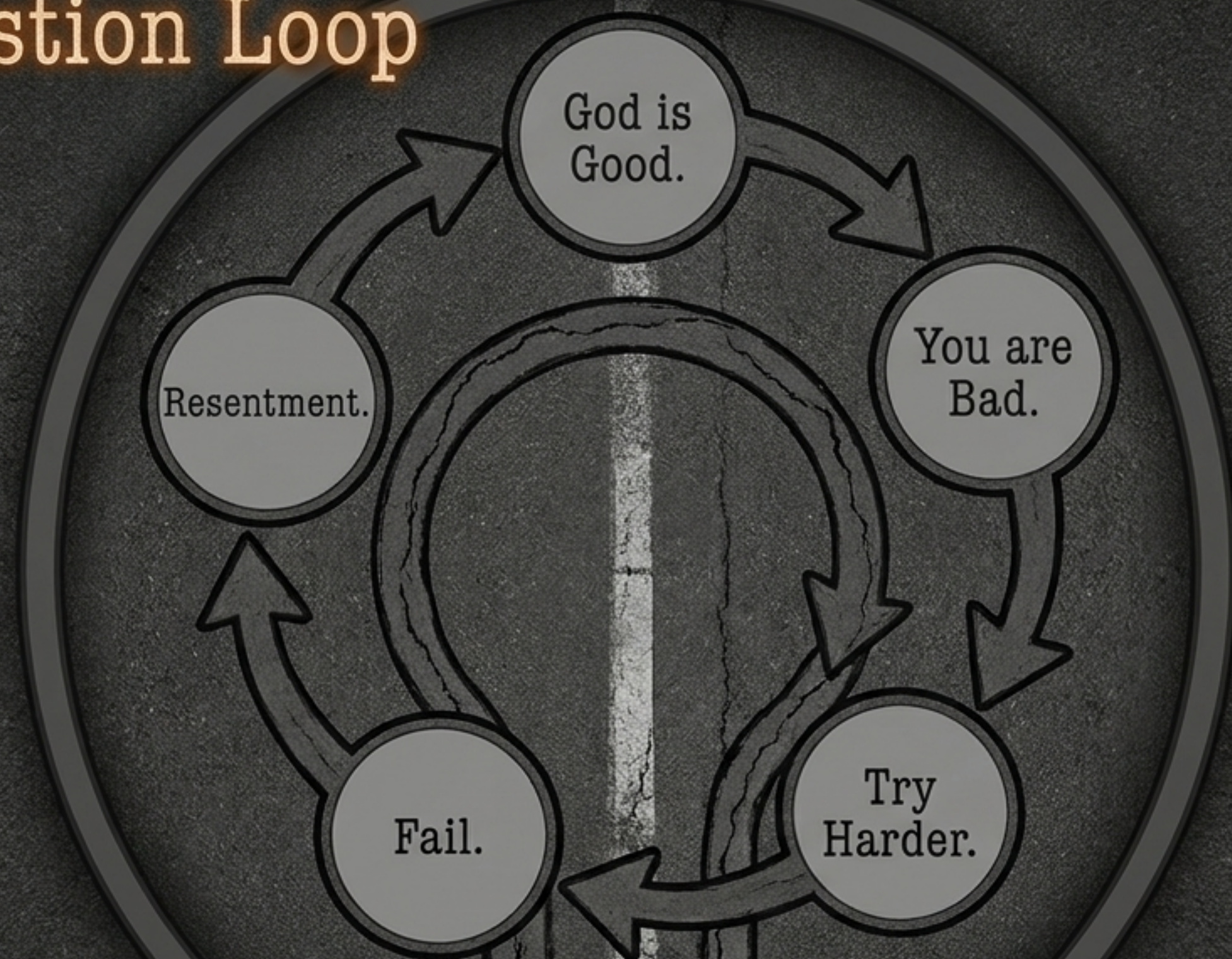
~~[GOD]~~ is not arrogant or rude.

~~[GOD]~~ does not insist on his own way...

1 John 4:8 (God is Love) + 1 Cor 13 (Love is Patient) = God is Patient.

1 Corinthians 13 is not a white-knuckle to-do list for you to perform. It is a precise description of how God has already acted toward you. God stepped off His throne, humbled Himself to a cross, and pursues you without end.

The Exhaustion Loop



A pep talk won't help you endure loving difficult people for a long time. The 'try harder' method is a relational dead-end. It turns you into a stagnant cul-de-sac.

Becoming the Conduit



GOD
(The Source)

YOU
(The Beloved)

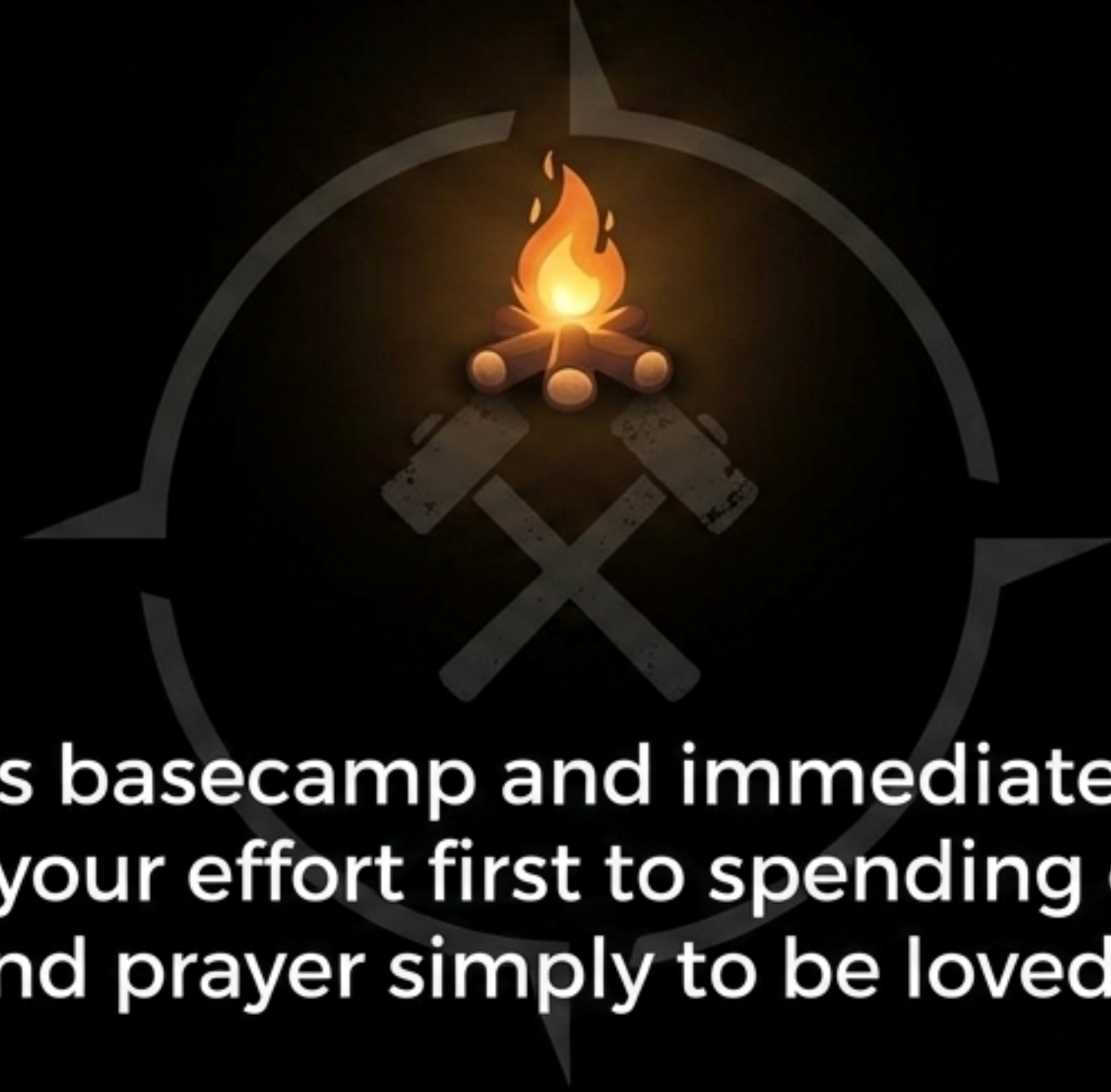
Love does not originate from you. You are called to be a **conduit**, not a cul-de-sac.

First, you must allow yourself to be loved (**Beloved**).

Only when filled by the source can you flow outward to others.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Supply Your Camp



Do not leave this basecamp and immediately try to perform love tasks. Give your effort first to spending quiet time in the Word and prayer simply to be loved by God.

**When you get familiar with being loved,
you will effortlessly be loving.**