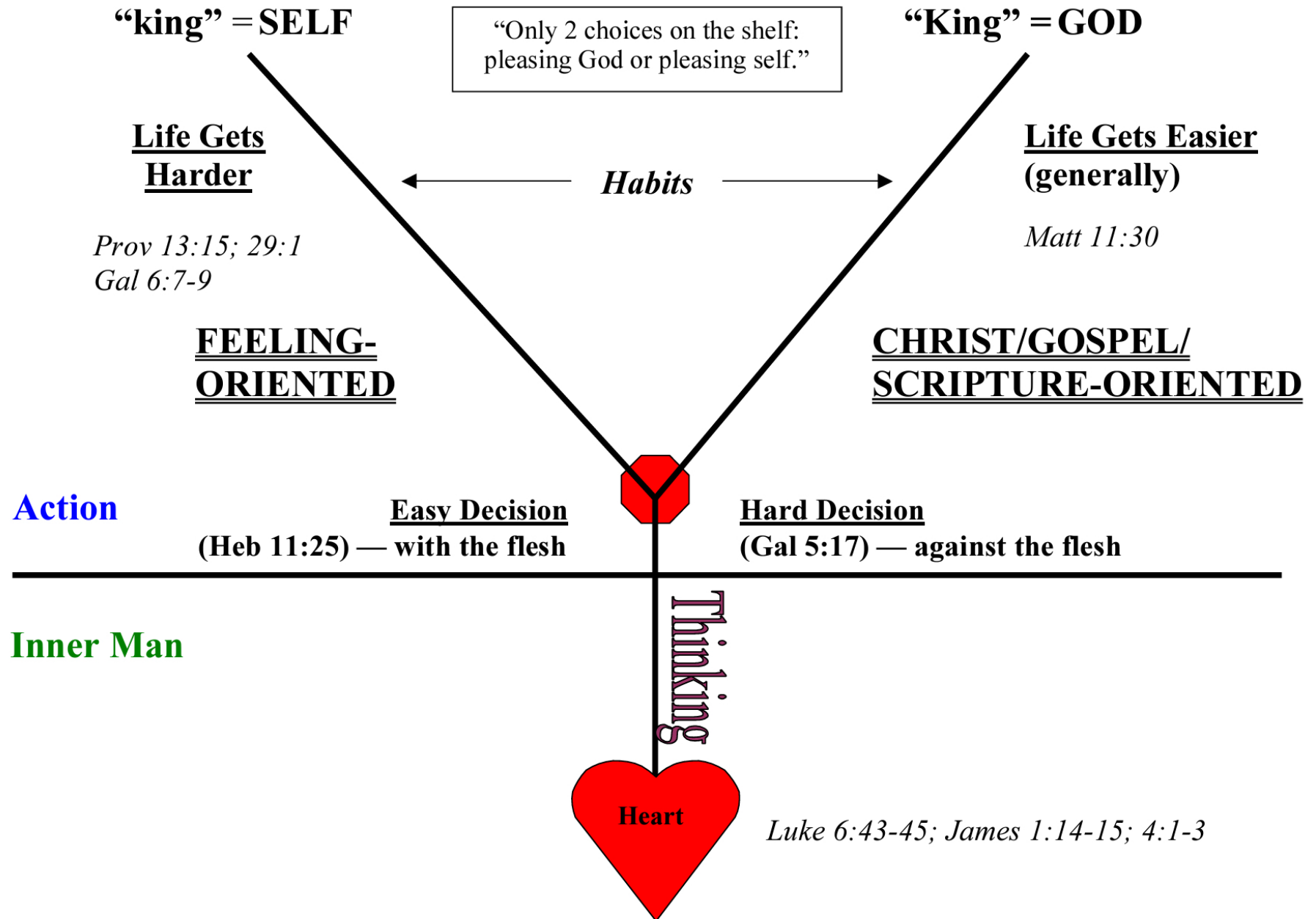


2 Corinthians 5:9



The Y-Chart: Pleasing Self or Pleasing God

A practical guide for tracing how the ruling direction of the heart shapes decisions, actions, and consequences.

"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him." - 2 Corinthians 5:9, ESV

Every response moves in one of two directions: pleasing God or pleasing self. The Y-Chart traces how the ruling direction of the heart shapes decisions, actions, and consequences.

The Self-Pleasing Direction

- The heart is ruled by feelings, desires, and immediate comfort.
- The easy decision follows the flesh rather than resisting it.
- Self-directed choices produce increasingly difficult consequences (see Proverbs 13:15; 29:1 and Galatians 6:7-9).

The God-Pleasing Direction

- The heart is oriented by Christ, the gospel, and Scripture.
- The difficult decision resists the flesh and acts by faith (see Galatians 5:17 and Hebrews 11:25).
- God's way leads toward the good fruit of obedience and the rest of Christ (see Matthew 11:30).

Trace the Pattern

- 1 Identify what happened.
- 2 Name the desire, belief, or feeling ruling your heart.
- 3 Describe the action that followed.
- 4 Identify the fruit or consequence.
- 5 Choose the truth and obedient response that would please God.