

Knowing the Will of God

Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

We can, by asking God for a sign, an open door, or the “holy flip”, be circumventing something very valuable in our life with God: Character Development.

James 4:13-15

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.

16:1-4

Acts 18:21

But as Paul left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.

Ephesians 1:11

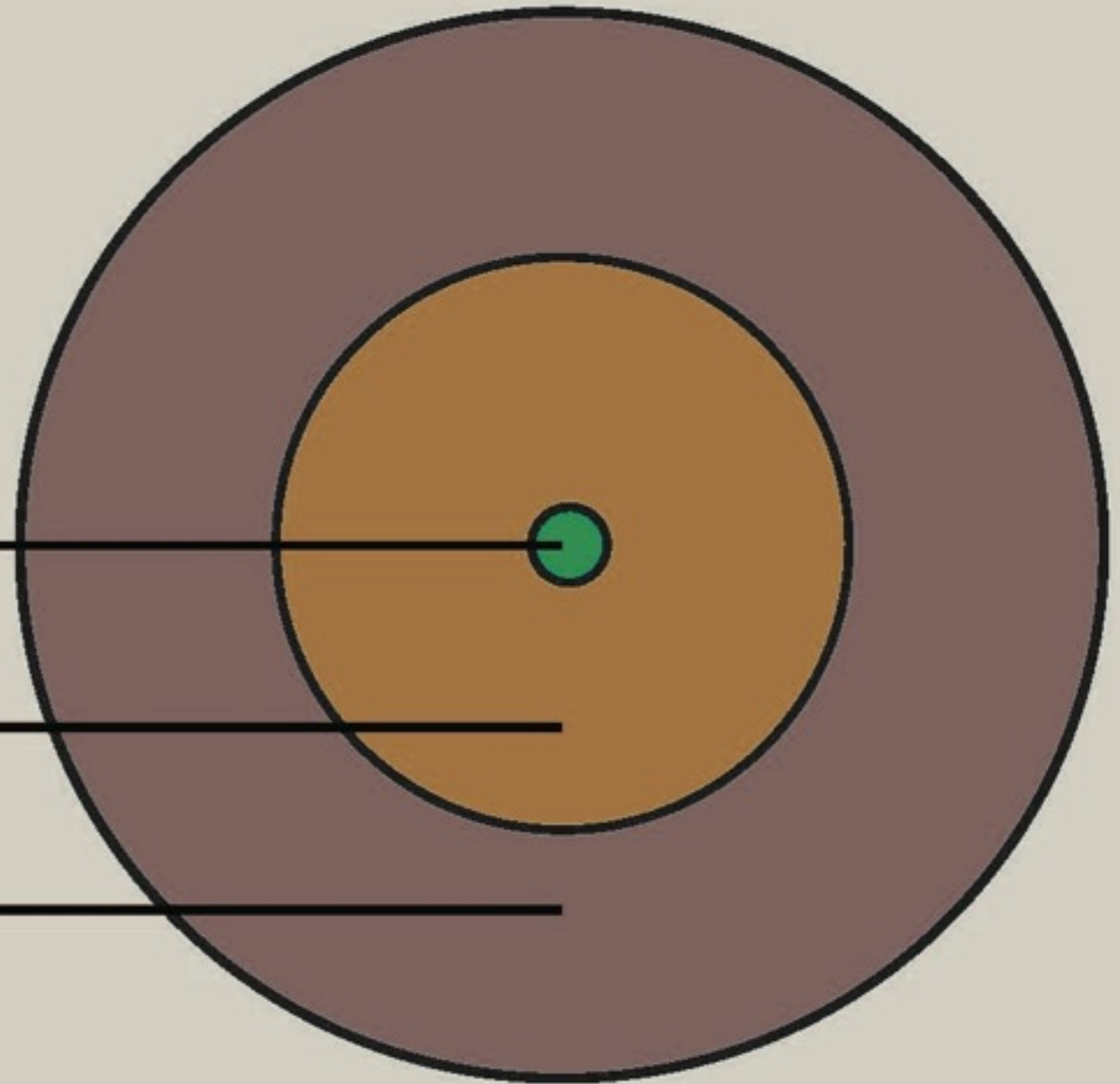
In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

CONCLUSION: God does
have a will.

QUESTION: How do we find
God's will? Can we know
God's will?

WILL OF GOD

BLESSING
DISAPPOINTED
MAD

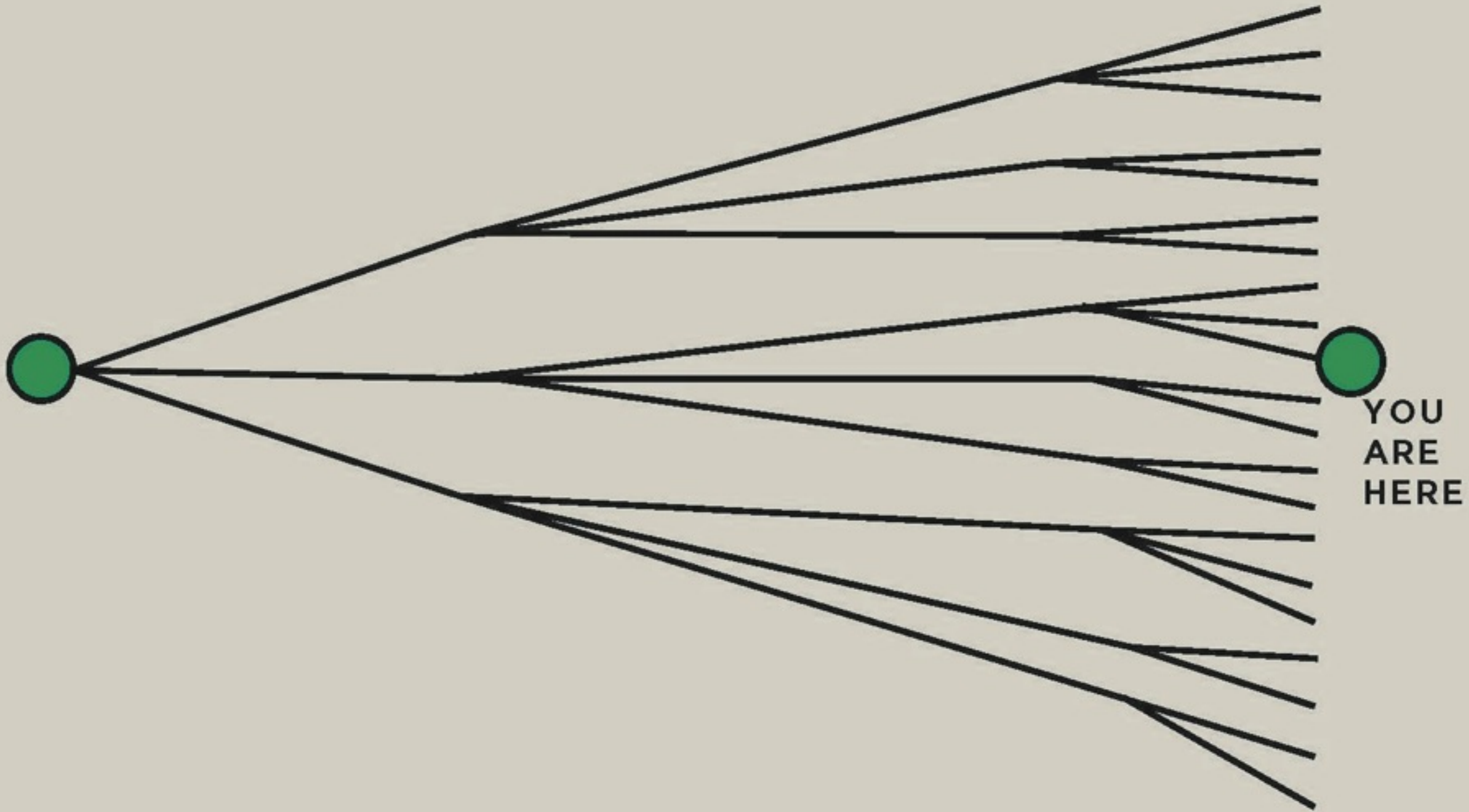


GERRY BRESHEARS

TODAY

TOMORROW

FUTURE

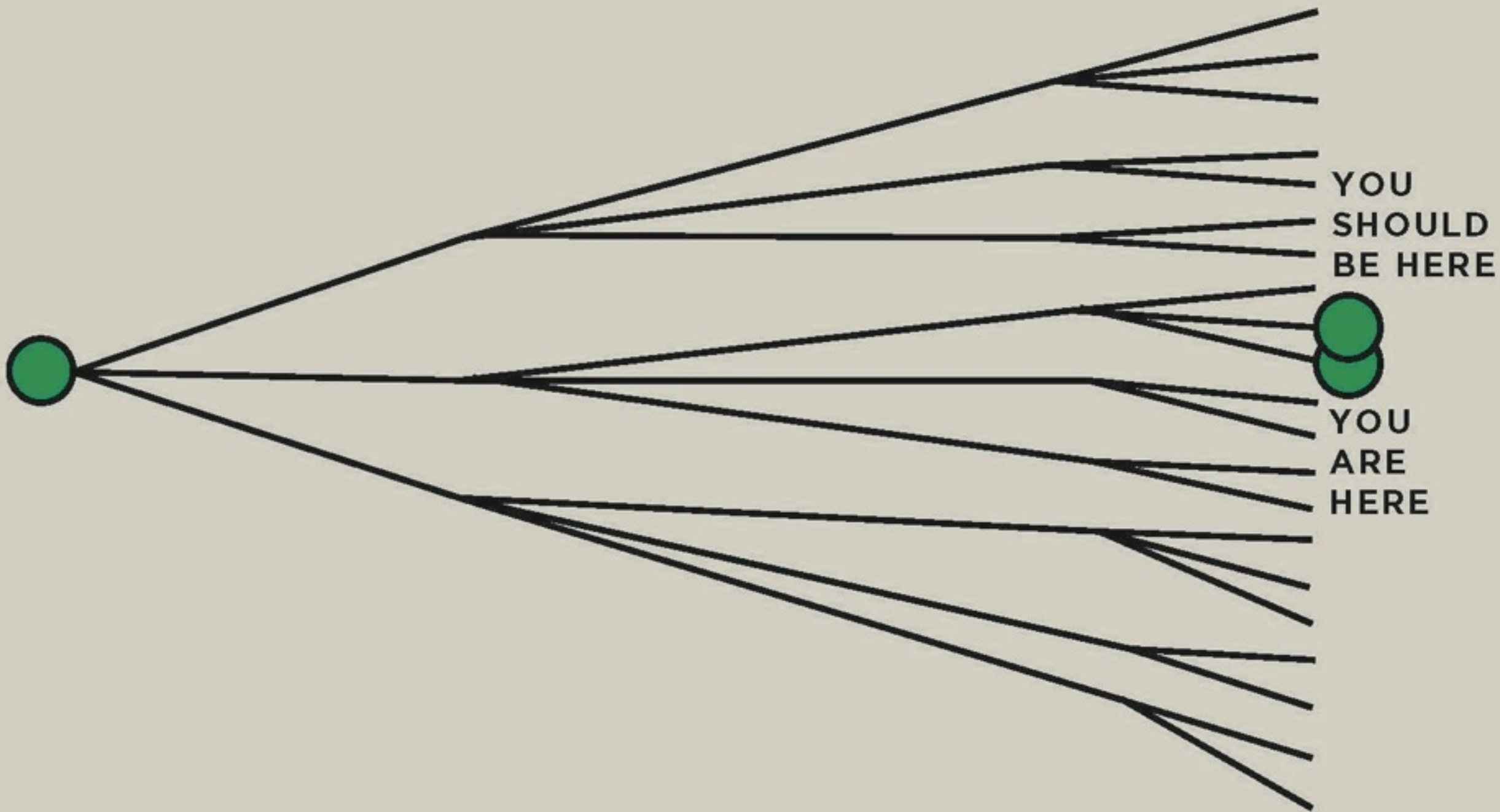


YOU
ARE
HERE

TODAY

TOMORROW

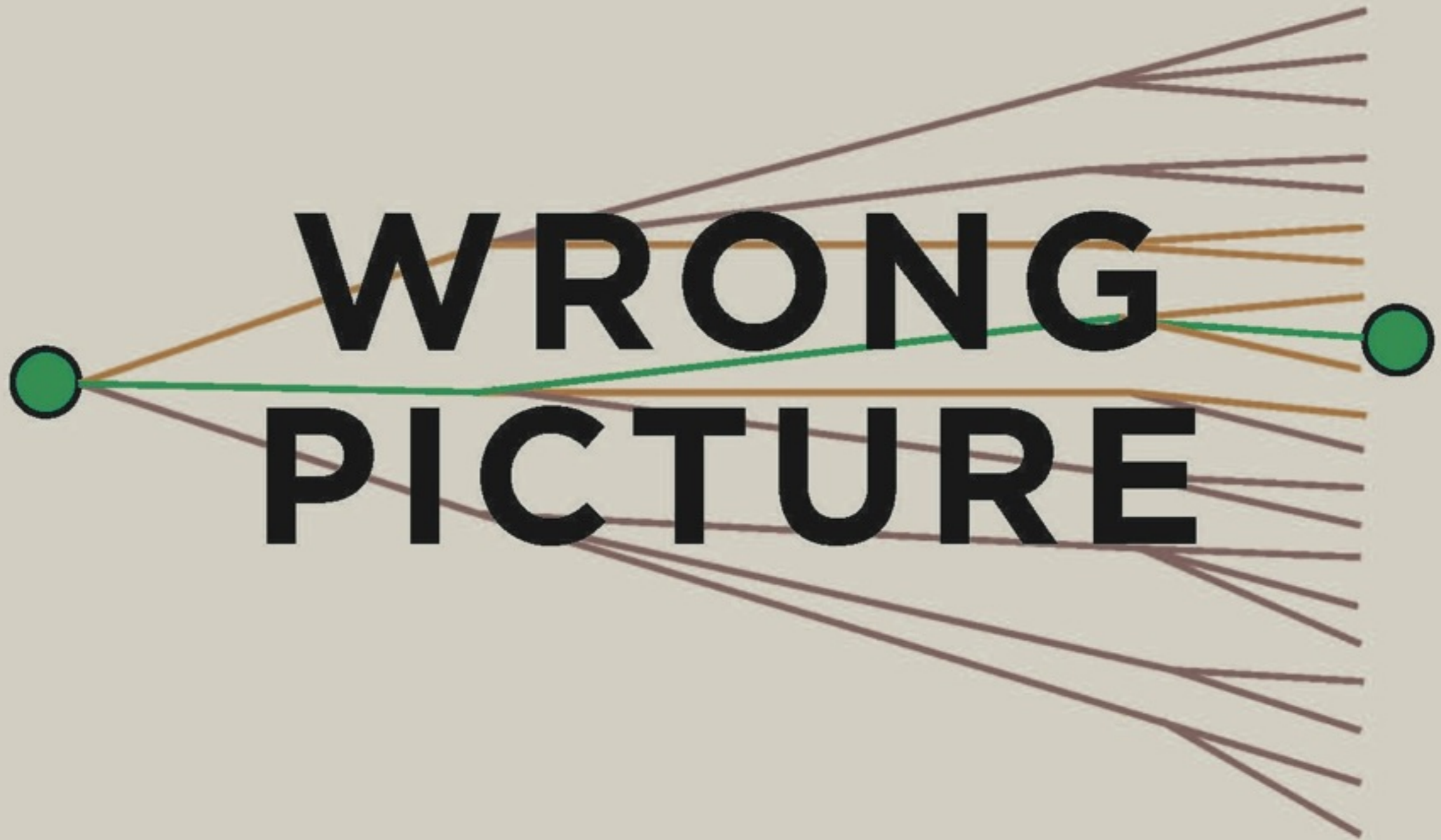
FUTURE



TODAY

TOMORROW

FUTURE



We think long and hard when we choose a college, a job, a career, or a spouse. This makes good sense, considering how consequential these choices are. But we give little thought to how much TV we watch or how often we talk on the phone or how seldom we praise our children. Yet the little choices we make every day often have a cumulative effect far exceeding the significance of the big choices we occasionally have to make...

We do not need to fret when we have to make big decisions about the future, worrying about the terrifying possibility that we might miss God's will for our lives. We simply need to do what we already know in the present. God has been clear where clarity is most needed. The choices we make every day—to love a spouse after an argument, to treat an unkind coworker with respect, to serve food at a soup kitchen — determine whether or not we are doing the will of God. If we have a problem, it is not lack of knowledge; rather, it is our unwillingness to respond to the knowledge we have.

Jerry Sittser, *The Will of God as a Way of Life* 23-24

What if the reason the bible is so silent about God's will for tomorrow and so clear on God's will for today is because the way we do God's will today has a way of shaping our tomorrow?

Matthew 6:33-34

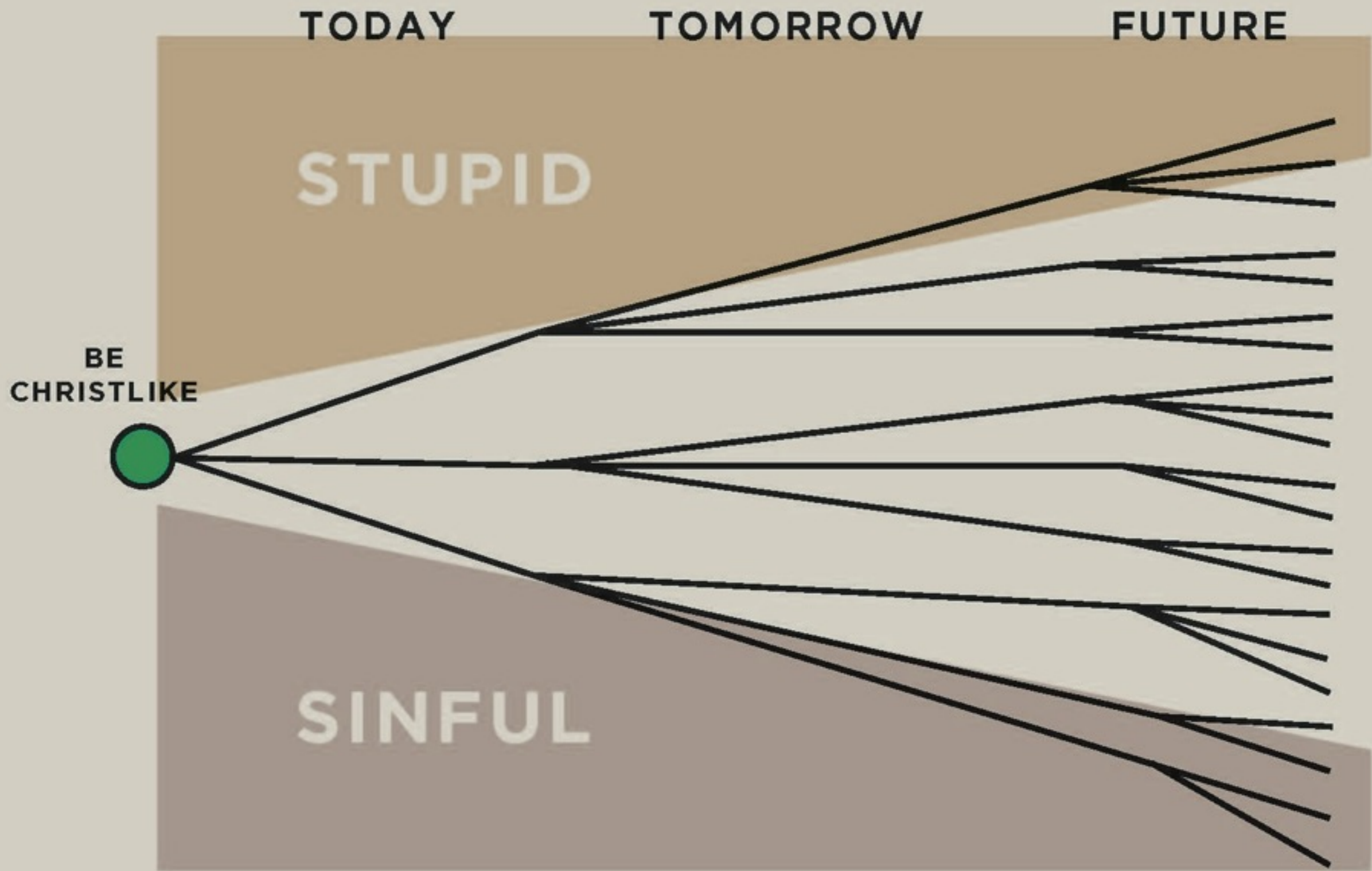
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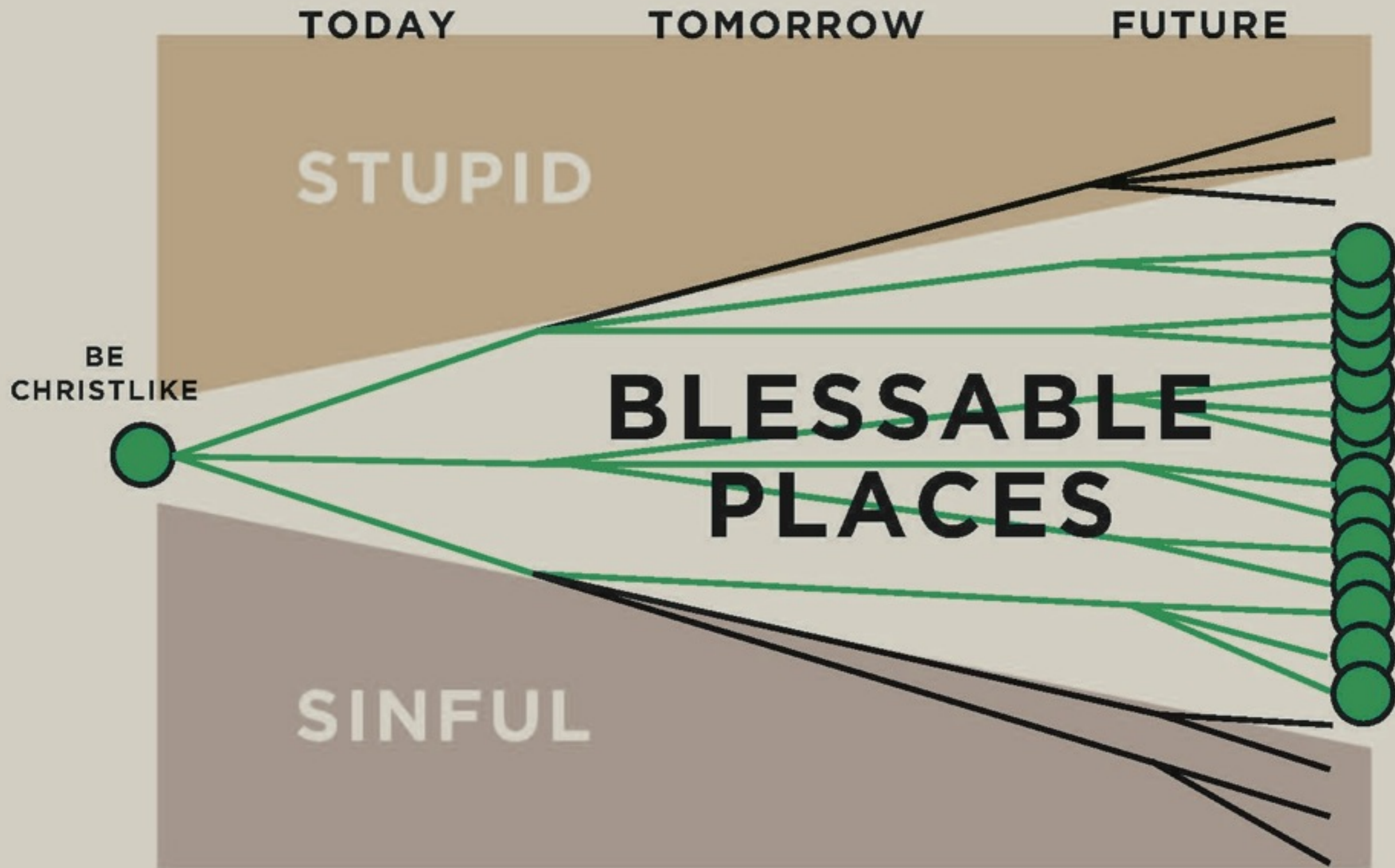
GOD'S WILL FOR YOU: SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM AND GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOT YOUR FUTURE.

“The will of God concerns the present more than the future; it deals with our motives as well as our actions; it focuses on the little decisions we make every day even more than the big decisions we make about the future. The only time we really have both to know and to do God’s will is the present moment. We are to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. These are the basic responsibilities Jesus challenges us to pay attention to...That we do not know what God wants for tomorrow does not excuse us from doing his will today.

The will of God has to do with what we already know, not what we must figure out. It is contained in Jesus’ command that we seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness. The will of God, then, consists of one clear mandate—that we make God the absolute center of our lives.”

Sittser, 34, 59





O Lord, you know what is best for me.
Let this or that be done, as you wish.
Give what you will, how much you will, and
when you will.
Thomas à Kempis