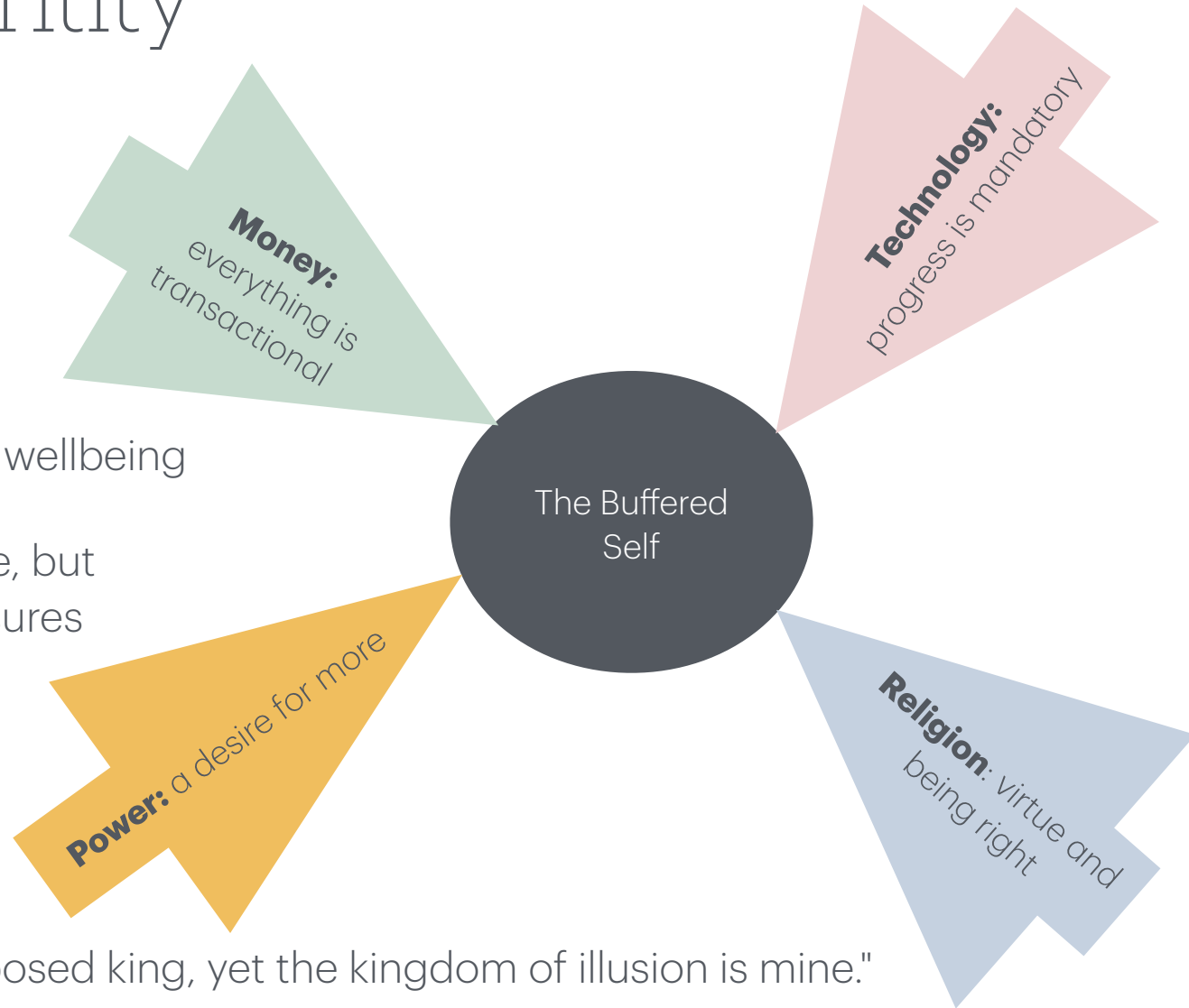


The Power to Be

Our Modern Identity

Secularity has *freed* us!

- We have demystified the world, so we are buffered from spiritual forces and the cosmic order
- We are responsible for our identity and wellbeing
- We claim autonomy and independence, but we are bombarded with external pressures



Gérard de Nerval: "I am but a poor deposed king, yet the kingdom of illusion is mine."

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly,
I say to you, everyone who
practices sin *is a slave* to sin.

John 8:34

Jesus' promise of freedom

A promise of redemption

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31



Who am I?

A free, loved and eternal child of God

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1: 12-13

The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8: 35-36

What does true freedom look like?

We are set free to understand and obey God's will

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Romans 6:22

- How do I feel about this?
- Okay, it wasn't great being a slave to the world and to sin, but now a slave of God? Does that give me a sense of worth?
- Okay, I get eternal life, but how excited am I about being constrained by the will of God?
- And will eternal life be more of the same?

Why be enthusiastic about God's will?

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Jesus in John 6:38

For I delight in the law of God...

Paul in Romans 7:22

Why be enthusiastic about God's will?

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Psalms 1:1-3

Why be enthusiastic about God's will?

You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, *that it may go well with you*, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

Deuteronomy 6:17-19

Why be enthusiastic about God's will?

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:8

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (teleios)

Matthew 5:48

Why be enthusiastic about God's will?

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

10th century BC, Solomon: Ecclesiastes 12:13

Do I *delight* in God's will?

delight: *take great pleasure in*

- Does being obedient to God inspire me? Is Jesus yoke *light* and his burden *easy*?
- Do I find it constraining or freeing to know and do God's will?
- Have I transformed God's will into my list of laws to obey?
- Do I read and study the Bible to determine what I can or cannot do, or do I want to understand what truly pleases God and brings us closer?

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the
light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He
abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and
obey.

Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there's no other
way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust
and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud
in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it
away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or
a tear,
Can abide while we trust and
obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a
sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or
a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove the
delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy
He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and
obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit
at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the
way;
What He says we will do, where He
sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Am I Schrödinger's cat?

Quantum mechanics in 2 minutes

$$\hat{H}|\psi_n(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi_n(t)\rangle$$



Am I Schrödinger's cat?

Quantum mechanics in 2 minutes

- Am I "sort of" God's child?
- Am I redeemed or still a slave?
- Have I been obedient enough?
- Do I have enough faith?
- But wait, God PROMISED redemption, sonship and freedom
- Jesus truly rose from the dead; he is ALIVE



Jesus isn't *going* to win, he won!

...putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2:11-15

What decides our state: dead or alive?

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

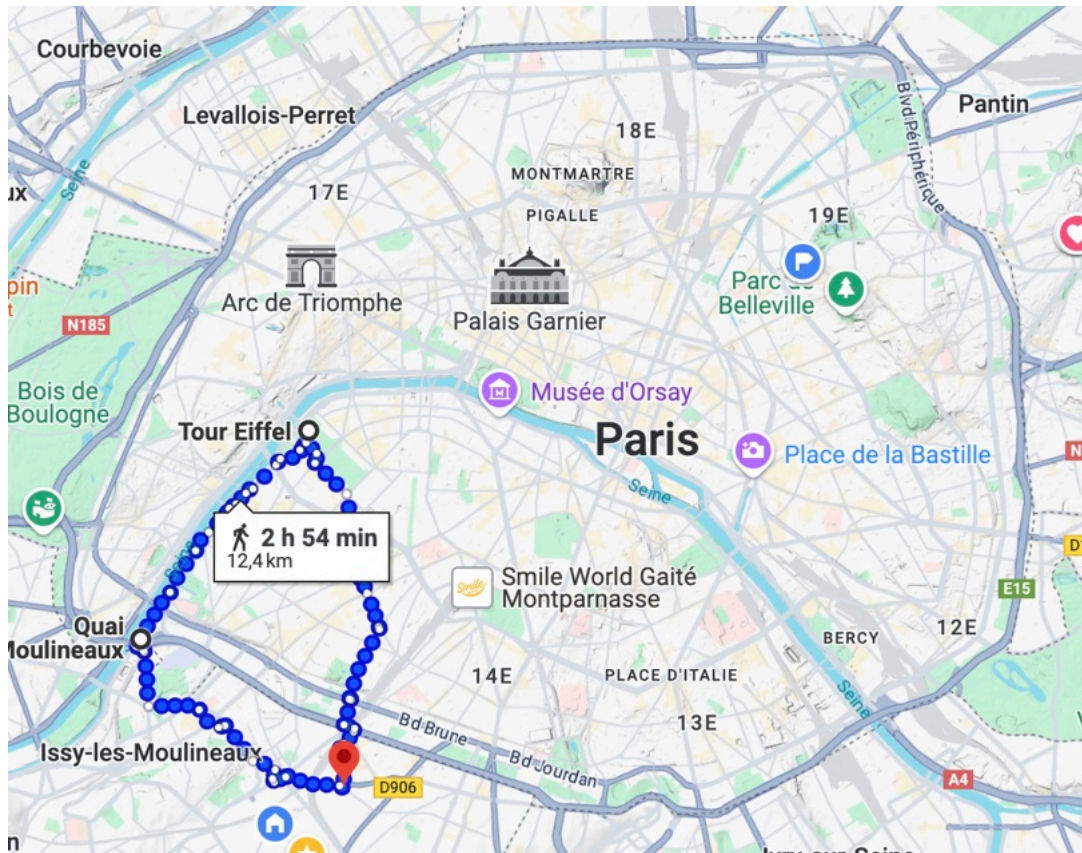
Romans 10:9

It's about listening to God: Jesus is Lord

“...But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel did not obey me.
So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own plans.
If only my people would listen to me
and Israel would follow my ways,
I would quickly subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.”
Those who hate the LORD
would cower to him;
their doom would last forever.
But he would feed Israel with the best wheat.
“I would satisfy you with honey from the rock.”

Psalms 81:11-16

One of my own wilderness experiences



Not to us, LORD, not to us,
but to your name give glory
because of your faithful love,
because of your truth.
Why should the nations say,
“Where is their God?”
Our God is in heaven
and does whatever he
pleases.

Psalms 115:1-4

Will we listen or will we crucify?

I know that you are offspring of
Abraham; yet you seek to kill me
because my word finds no place in
you.

John 8:37

Jesus came to do God's will – John 6:38

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that *you also should do just as I have done to you.*