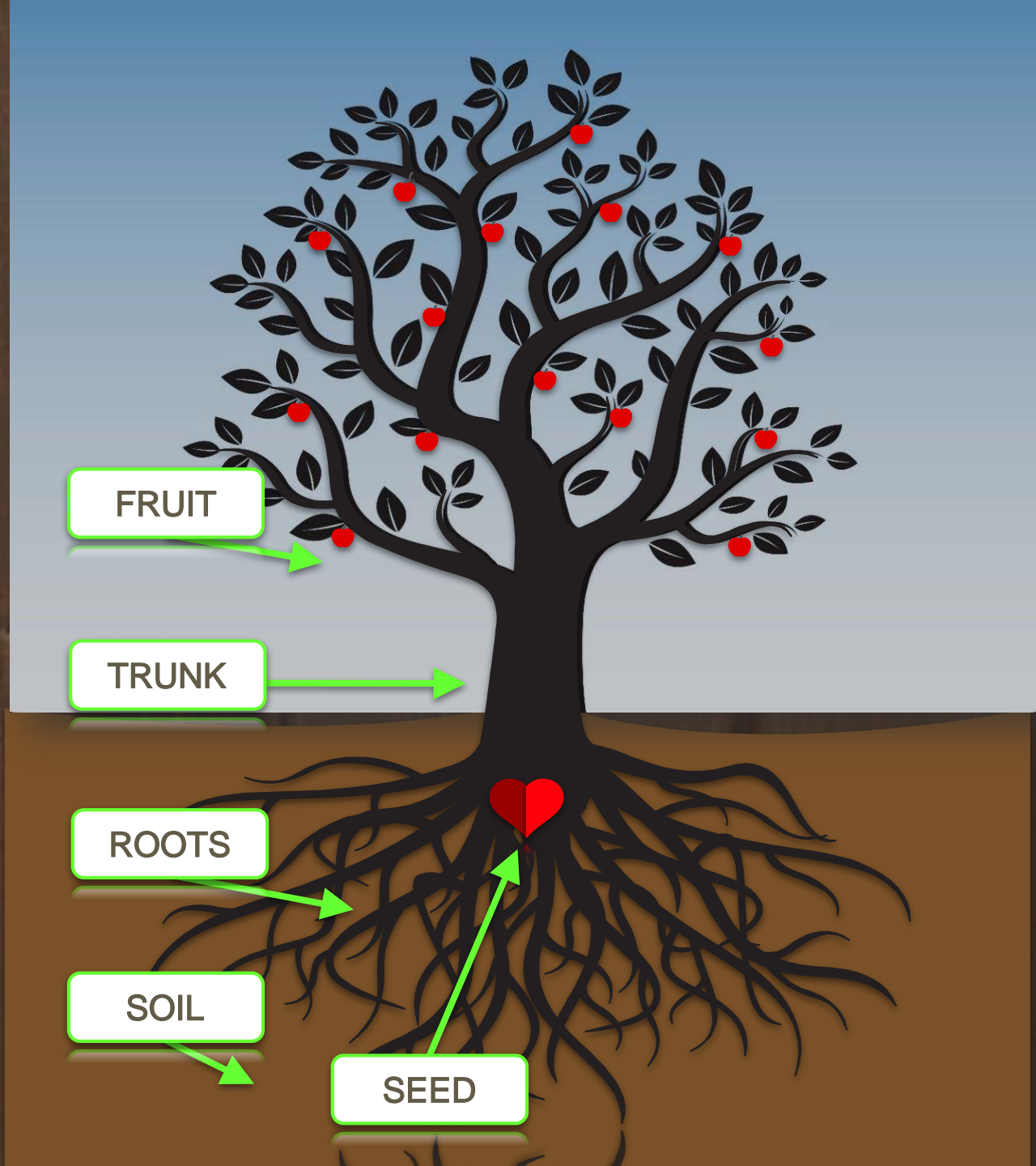


# GENDER SEXUALITY & THE CHURCH

Hope and Help for Women Who  
Struggle with Sexual Sin

# Part 1 - The Tree Model: A Biblical Understanding of Why We Struggle Sexually





# FRUIT: Our Behavior and Thoughts



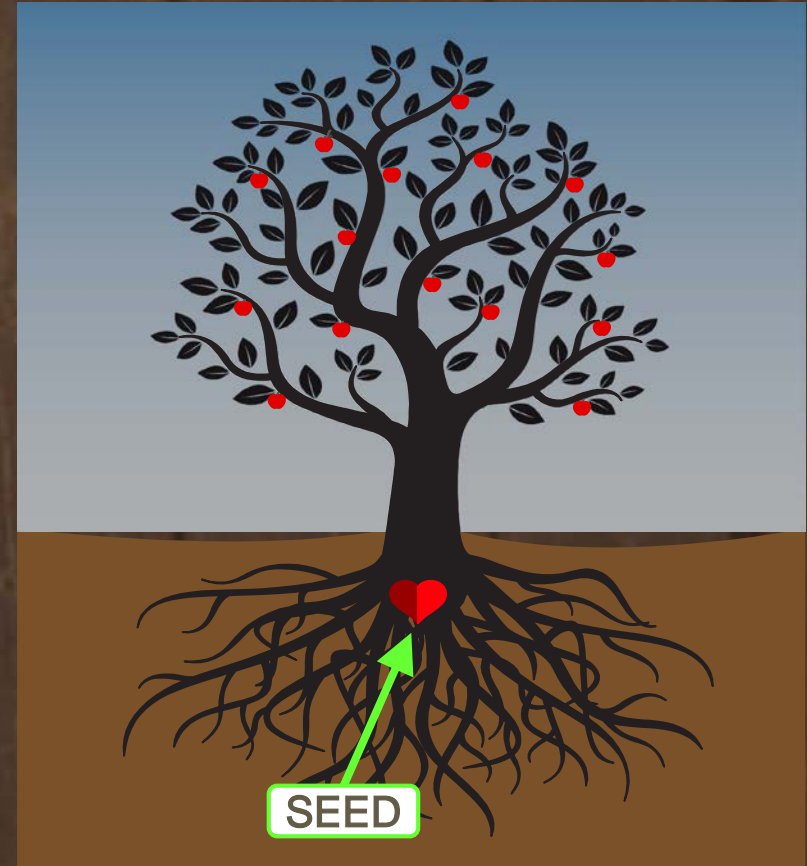
# Alexis

- Pornography & erotica
- Solo-sex
- Unbelief
- Teachable
- Humble
- Caring heart





# Seed: The Human Heart



For my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken Me,  
the fountain of living waters,  
to dig for themselves cisterns,  
broken cisterns  
that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:13

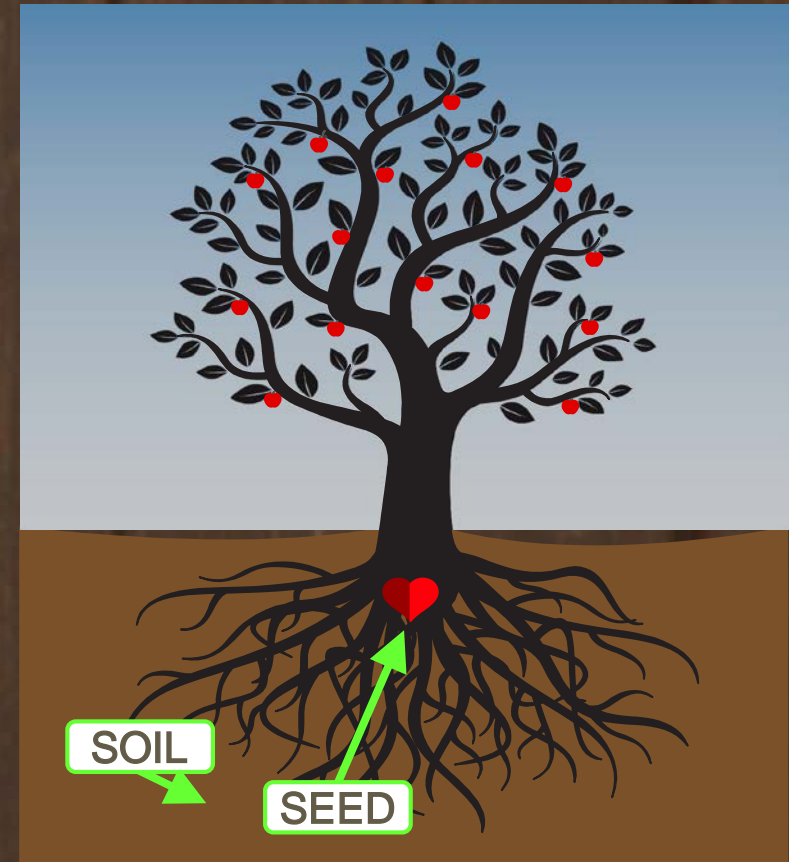
Idolatrous

Selfish

Broken



# Soil: Influences Outside Our Control





# Gender



# Physical Characteristics





# Personality and Natural Gifts and Talents



# Family Dynamics





# Culture





# Peer Pressure







Trauma

Honeywell



**Blessings**

HOLD



# Spiritual Warfare

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers and authorities and powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

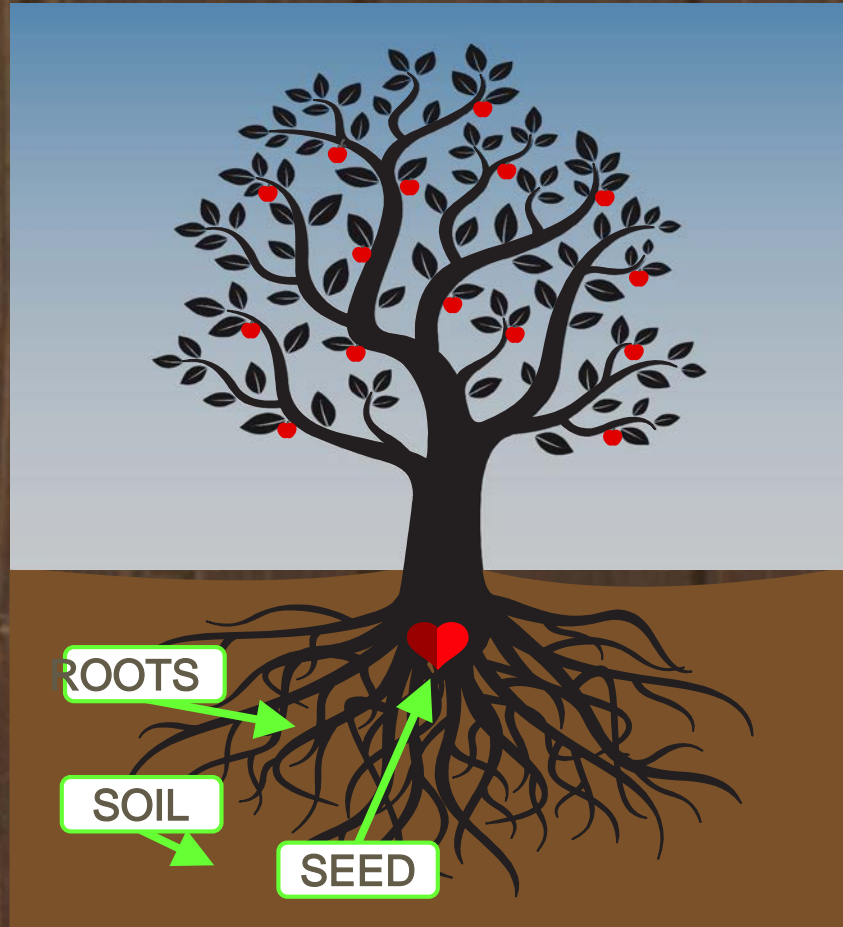
Ephesians 6:10

## Alexis' soil

- 26, single
- Coerced to have sex by older man
- Sexual abuse 12-14
- People person, verbal
- Raised in “good Christian home,” keep up appearances, Christian college
- Closest 2 friends are engaged
- Never taught about sexuality



# ROOTS: Desires



- To be loved
- Intimacy
- Comfort
- Significance
- Pain-free living
- Valued
- Belong
- Known

# Desires are powerful motivators!

physical

emotional

sexual

spiritual

mental



# How Desires Become Idols

Love

Good Self-Image

Affirmation

Affection

Security

No pain or suffering

Control

Comfort

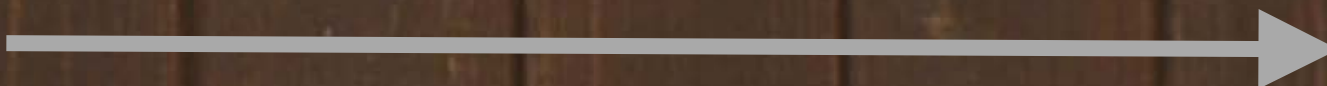
Understanding

Intimacy

Disappointment  
Discouragement  
Despair

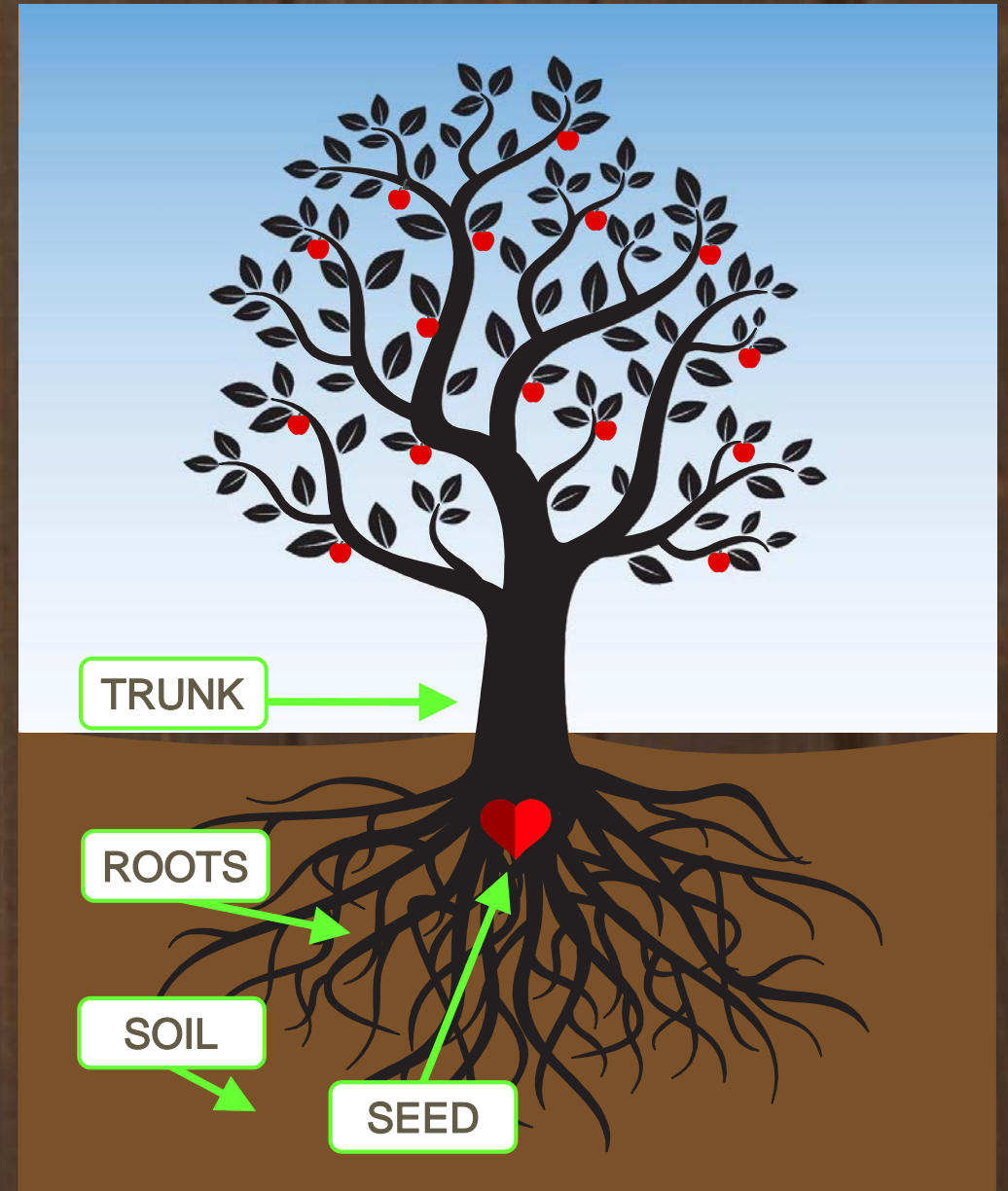
“I must have  
this...I don't  
care what it  
takes”

Desire



Idol

# THE TRUNK: Our true beliefs





# Alexis' True Beliefs

- Loneliness and pain must be avoided
- I'm dirty
- Men aren't safe but I desire marriage
- Can't share this with anyone
- Bible doesn't address my problems, hopeless
- Why them, not me? God's not fair!
- Shame...I'm a hypocrite

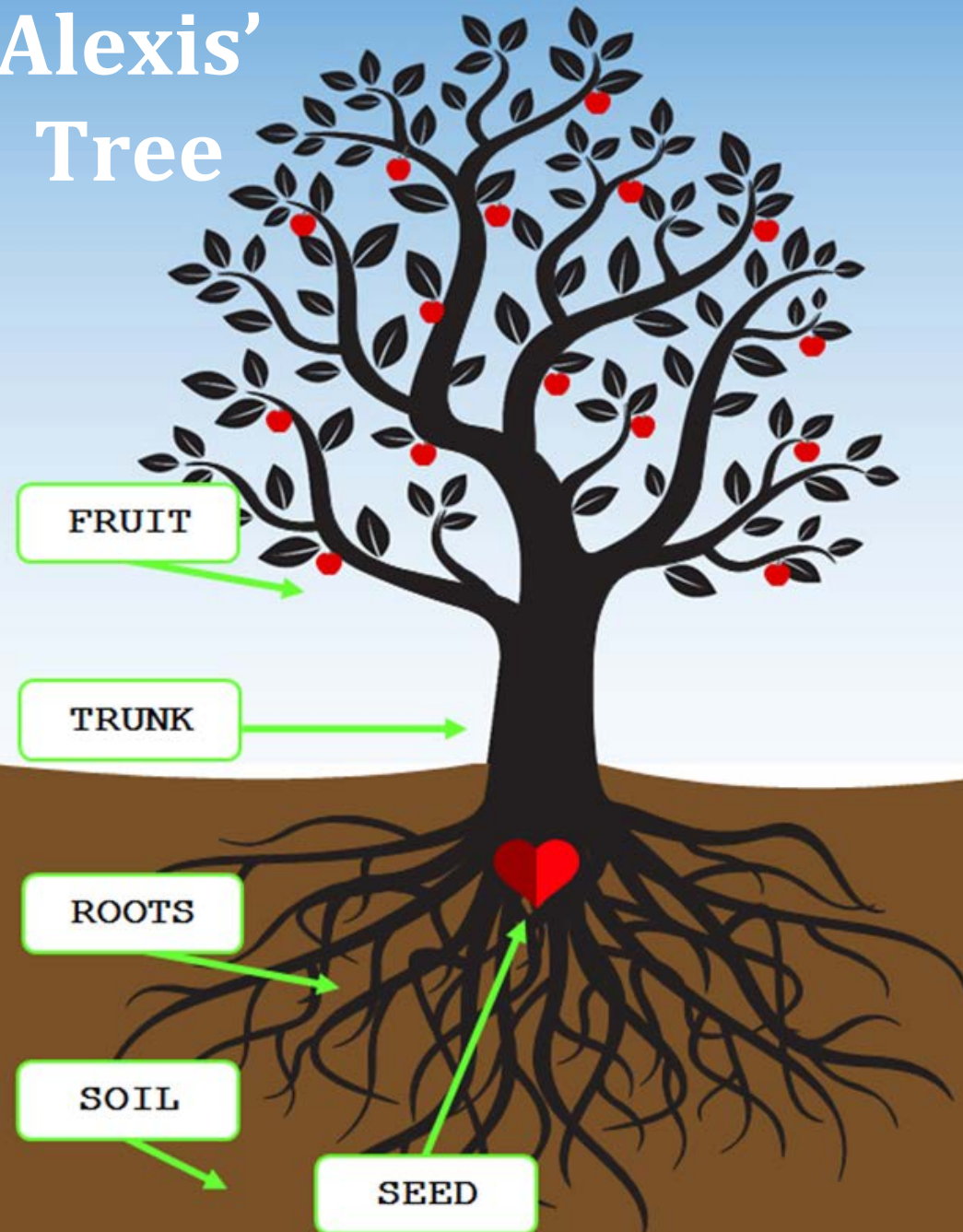
# THE FRUIT: The Sin Struggle

- Sexual relationships outside of marriage
- Emotionally dependent relationships
- Addictions to porn and solo-sex
- Sexual fantasy life





# Alexis' Tree



Through Jesus there is real hope for  
real change!

*“His divine power has given us everything we  
need for a godly life through our knowledge  
of him who called us by his own glory and  
goodness.”*

2 Peter 1:3



# The Gospel for Alexis

- Heart: worship and trust of Christ
- Soil: understood in light of God's redemption and healing
- Desires: submitted to Jesus through faith and obedience

# The Gospel for Alexis

- Beliefs: a transformed mind bears out in a biblical worldview
- Life Pattern: Growth in Christlikeness as Jesus increases and Alexis decreases



Part 2:

# How Christ Brings Change

# Jesus: Our Rescuer and Deliverer!

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 10:13-14



Do not be deceived: God is not mocked,  
for whatever one sows, that will he also  
reap. For the one who sows to his own  
flesh will from the flesh reap corruption,  
but the one who sows to the Spirit will from  
the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not  
grow weary of doing good, for in due season  
we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:7-9

# How patterns of sin develop

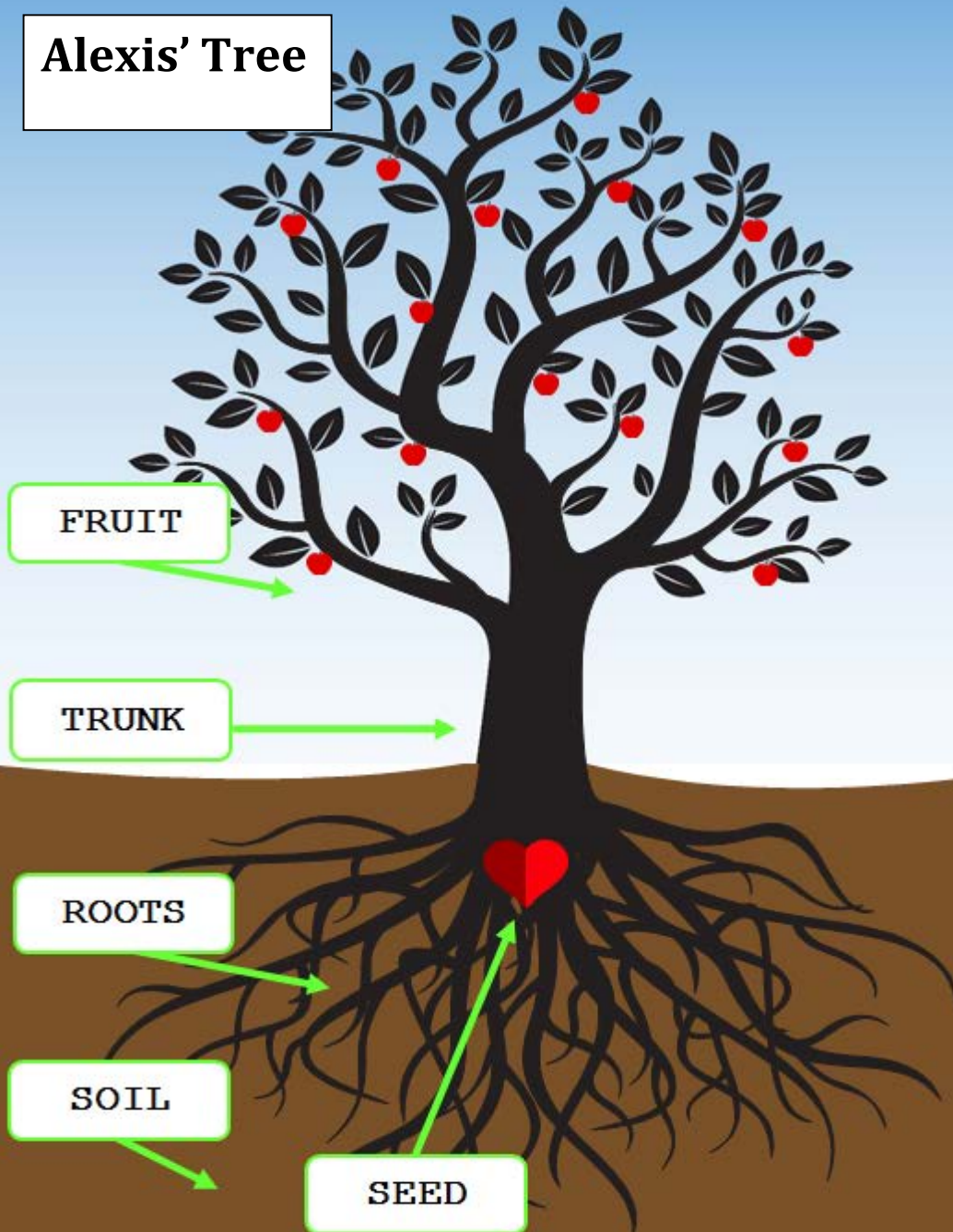
## Alexis

- Teachable
- Humble
- Caring heart
- Pornography & erotica
- Solo-sex
- Unbelief





## Alexis' Tree



### TRUNK

- Loneliness and pain must be avoided.
- I'm dirty, full of shame, a hypocrite
- Men aren't safe but I desire marriage.
- Can't share my struggles with anyone.
- Bible doesn't address my problems, her situation is hopeless.
- Why them, not me (friends' engagement)? God's not fair!

### ROOTS

- Hunger for love, affection, affirmation, comfort, intimacy

### SOIL

- 26 years old, single woman
- Coerced to have sex by an older man and sexual abuse
- People person, verbal (God's design)
- Raised in a "good Christian home", focus on appearance
- Little teaching re: sexuality
- Two closest friends are engaged.

### SEED

- Loves God, wants to change
- Her idolatry is hijacking hope and worship

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. James 1:12-15



TRIGGERS - UNBELIEF



PREPARING TO  
WORSHIP





TRIGGERS - UNBELIEF



DISCOURAGEMENT &  
EMOTIONAL PAIN



PREPARING  
TO WORSHIP



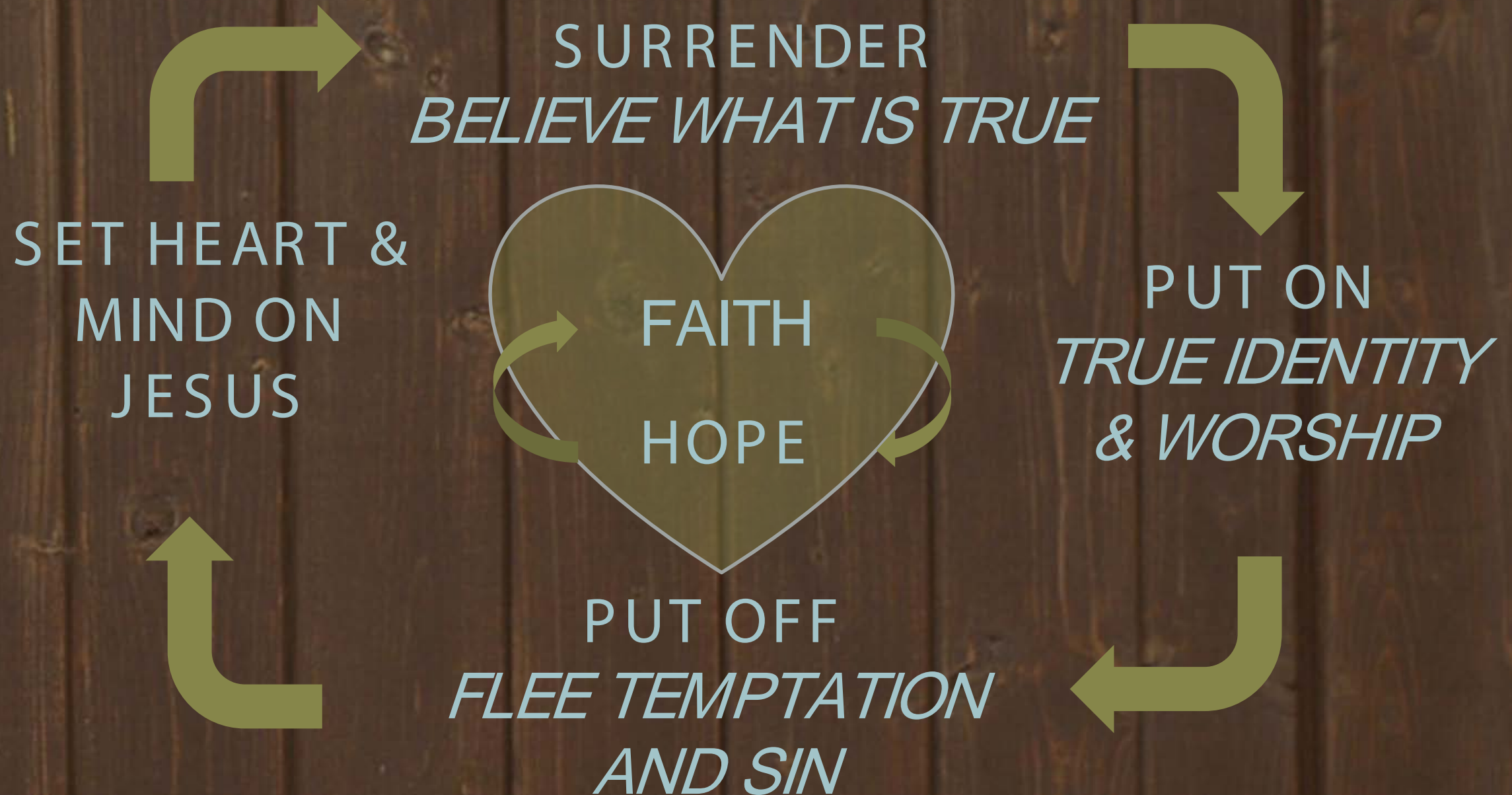
SIN - IDOL IS PURSUED



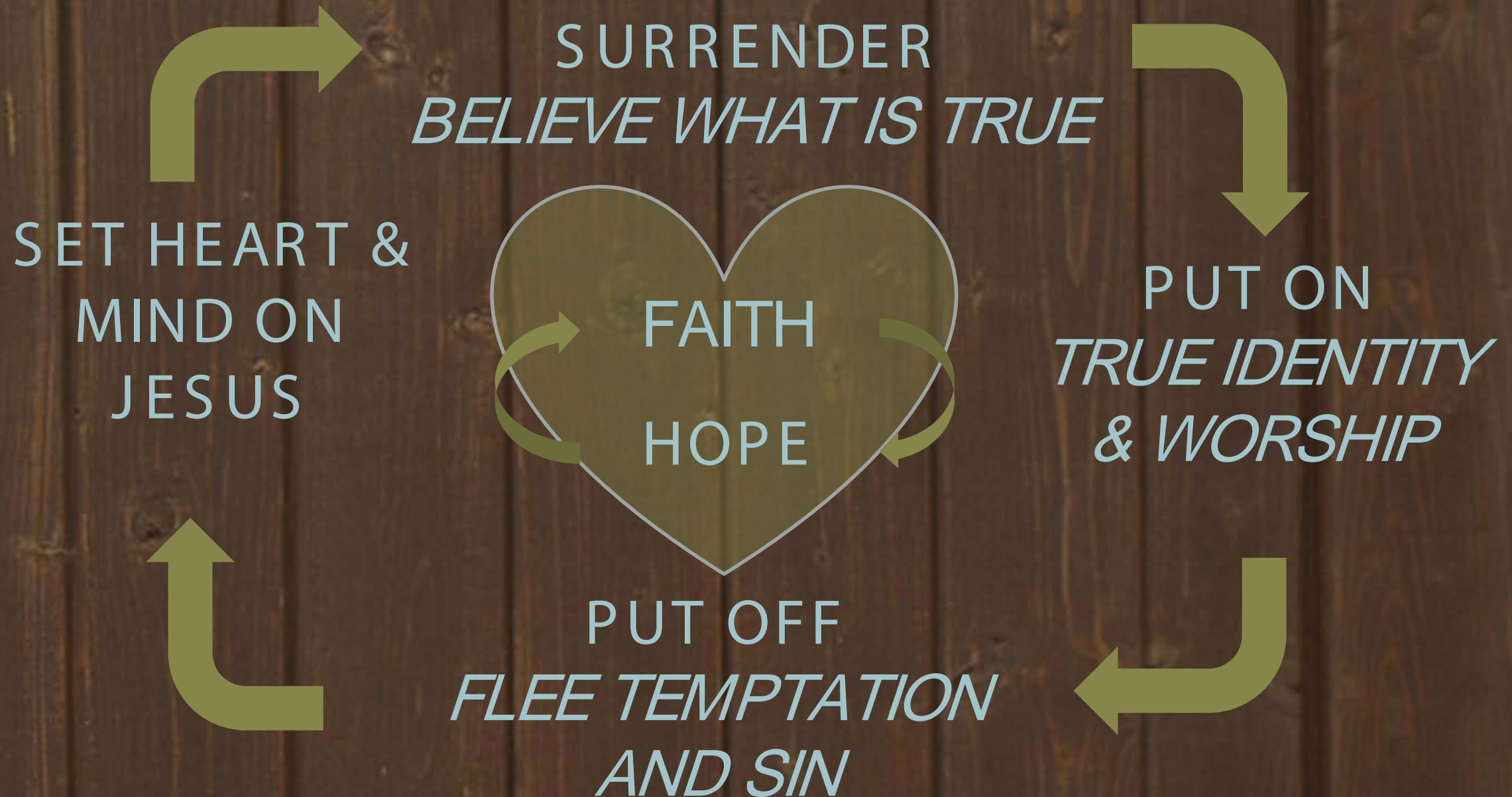


# GOD'S GOODNESS IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION

- An opportunity to draw near to God
- Strengthens our faith for the daily battle
- Christ is exalted and his sufficiency is 'proven'
- Growth in Christlikeness







2018




Women,  
Sexuality,  
and the  
Church

We publish a magazine two times a year, always focusing on applying the gospel to topics surrounding sexuality and gender. If you'd like to be on our mailing list, send us an email with your home address to [info@harvestusa.org](mailto:info@harvestusa.org).



Q & A



# GENDER SEXUALITY & THE CHURCH

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