

*Baptists and .....*

**Spirituality**

**The Australian Puzzle**

Those declaring themselves as Christians:	61%
Those declaring themselves adherents of other faiths:	9%
Total:	70%.

(Source: Census 2011)

Those declaring themselves as 'non-religious' :	48%
<i>Apparent discrepancy from census:</i>	<b>18%</b>

(Source: Win-Gallup International, 2012)

Those attending church regularly:	8%
<i>Apparent discrepancy from census:</i>	<b>53%</b>

(Source: McCrindle Research, 2013)

Proposition: "There is something beyond the everyday world that makes sense of it all."

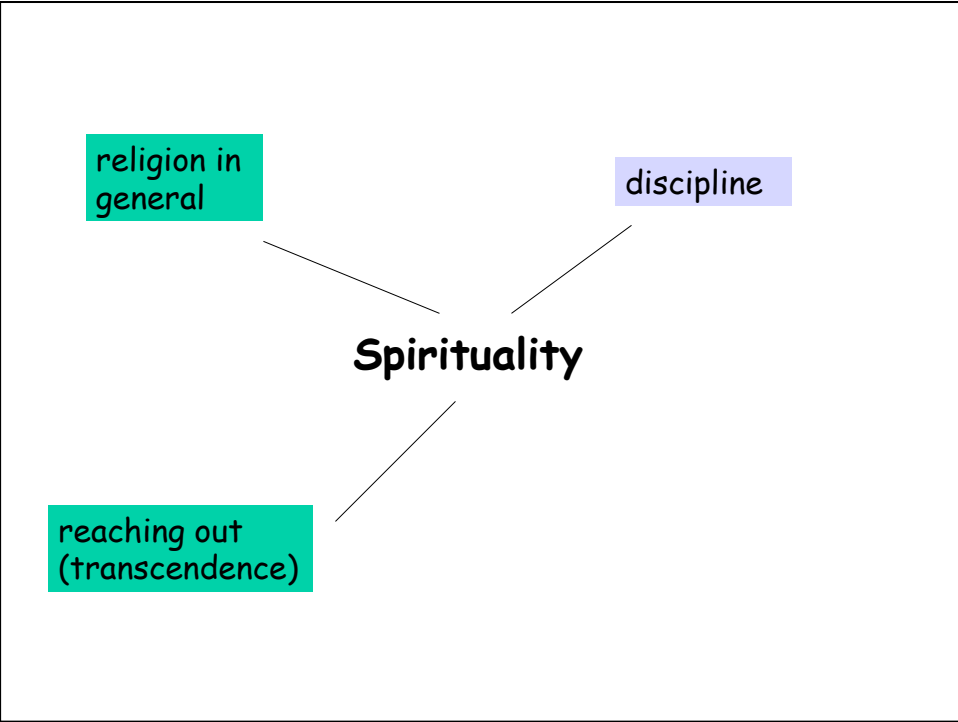
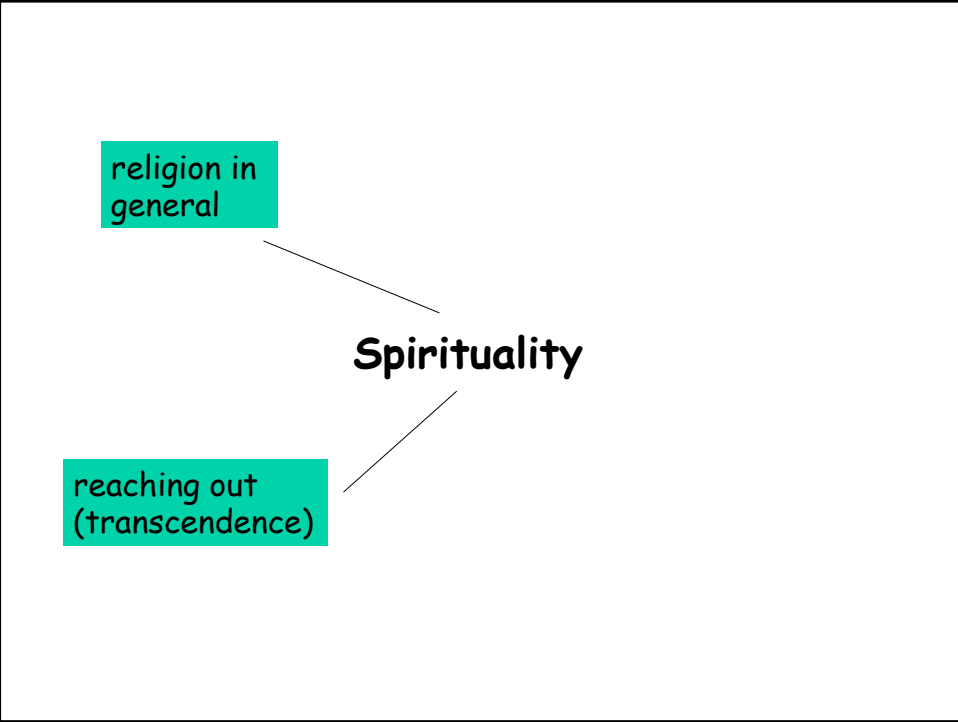
Those agreeing:	44.6%
Those with no opinion:	33.5%
<b>Those disagreeing:</b>	<b>21.8%</b>

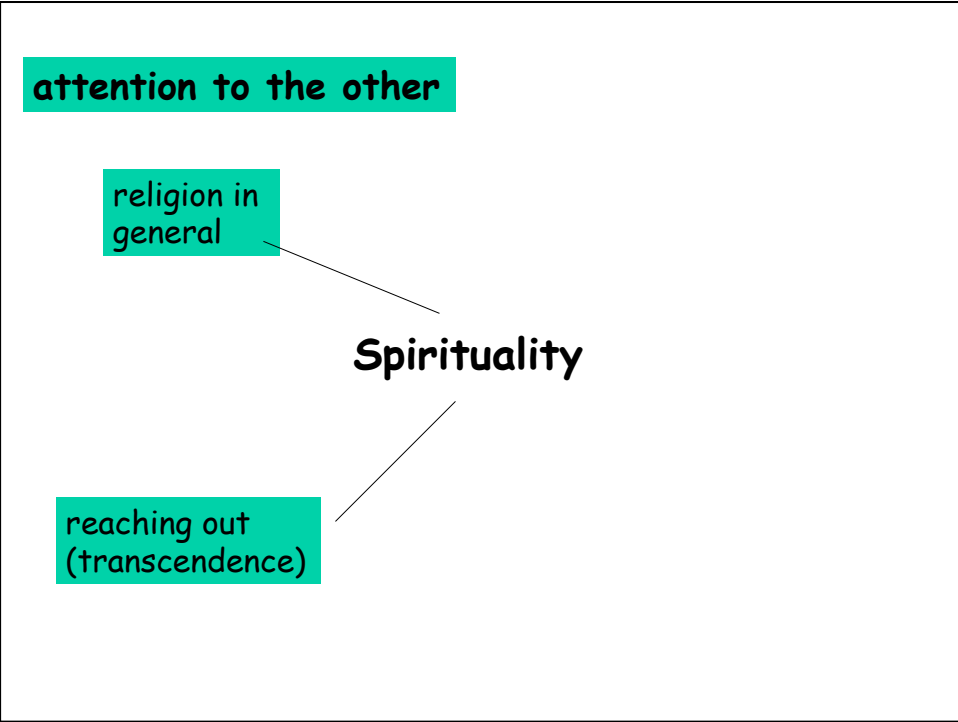
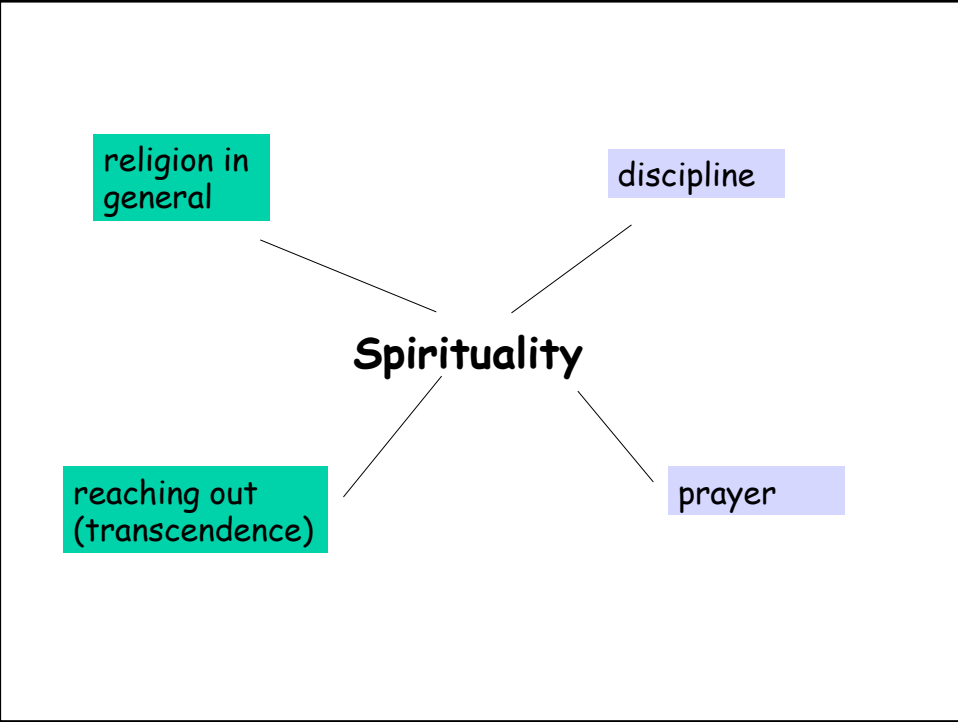
(Source: NCLS Research Spirituality, 2010)

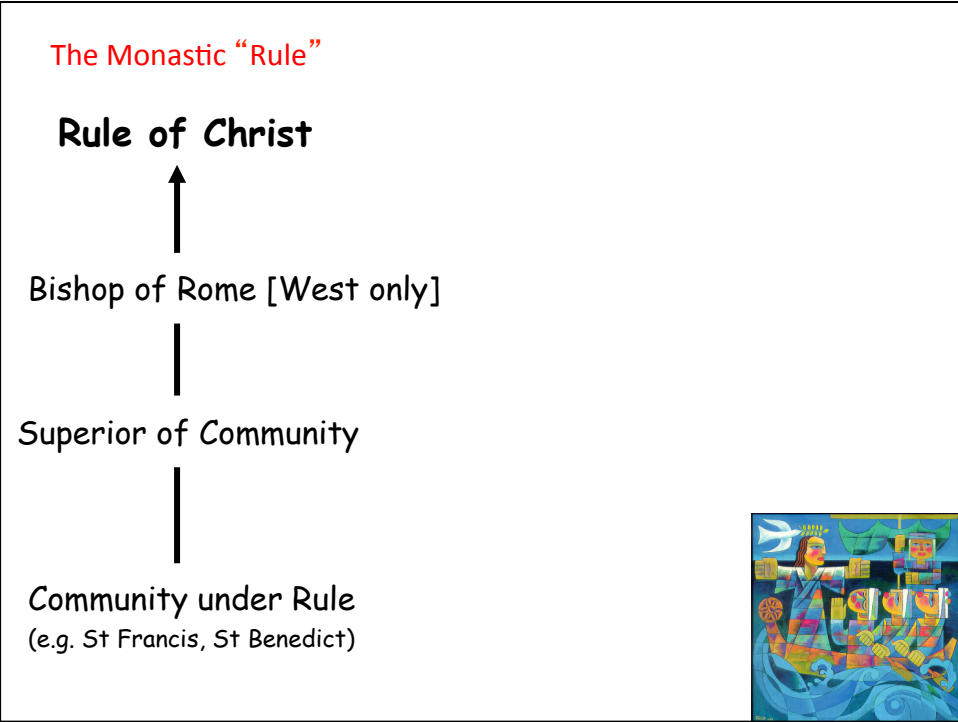
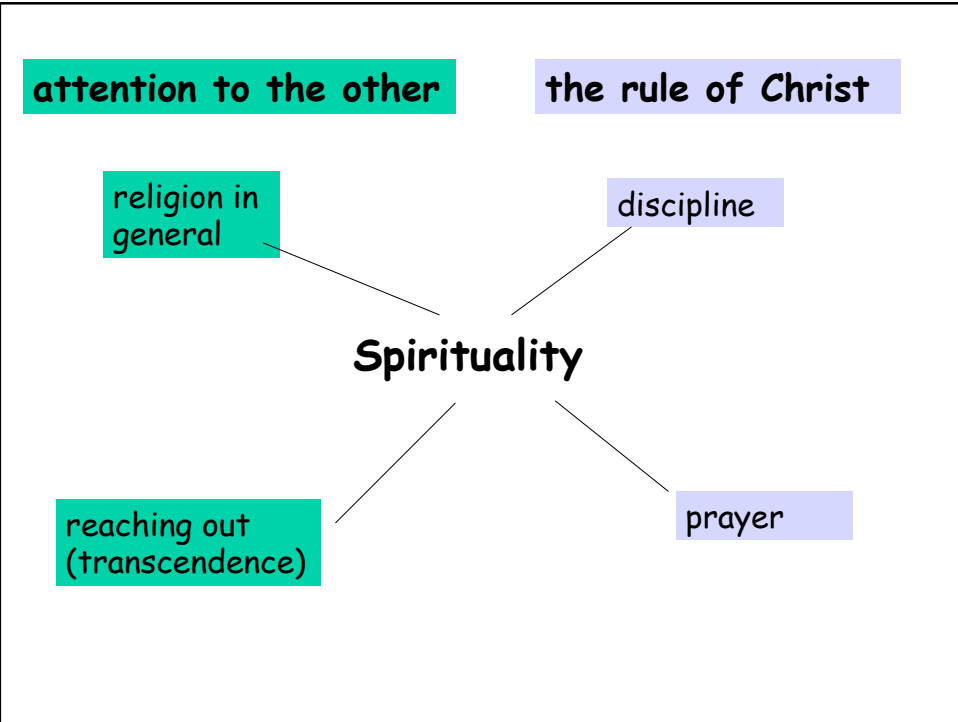
**Spirituality**  
?

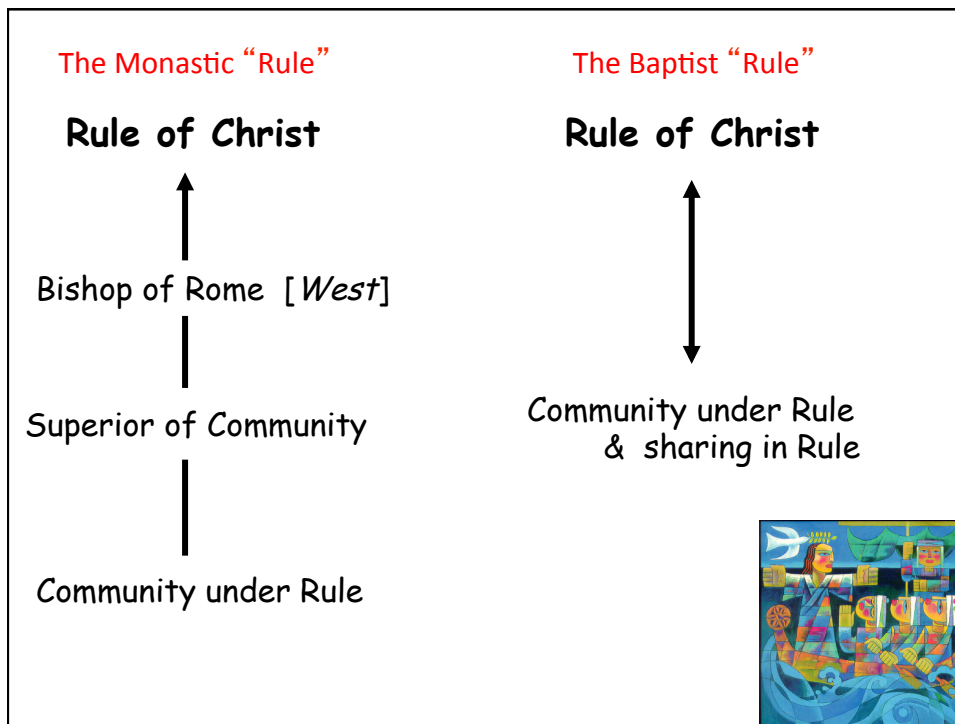
religion in  
general

**Spirituality**



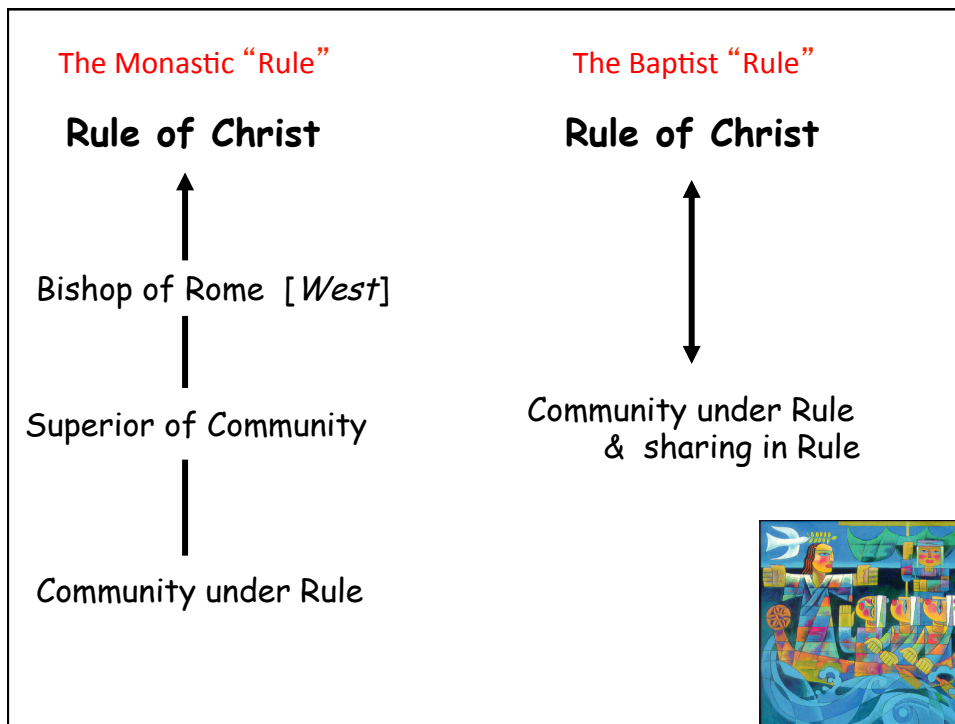






‘A visible communion of saints is of two, three or more Saints joined together by covenant with God and themselves, freely to use all the things of God, according to the word, for their mutual edification and God’s glory ... All religious societies except that of a visible church are unlawful: as Abbeys, monasteries, Nunneries, Cathedrals...’ .

John Smyth, *Principles and Inferences*, 1607.



Of his church, he being the only Law-giver.....

*Declaration of English People Remaining in Amsterdam, 1611, art. 9  
(General Baptists)*

We are all one in Communion, holding Jesus Christ to be our head and Lord; under whose government we desire alone to walk, in following the Lambe wheresoever he goeth....

*Confession of Faith (Particular Baptist), 1644, Preface*

The outward part of the true forme of the true visible church is a vowe, promise, oath, or covenant betwixt God and the Saints.... This covenant hath 2 parts. 1. Respecting God and the faithful. 2. Respecting the faithful mutually.

John Smyth, *Principles and Inferences*, 1607

And as Christ for the keeping of this Church in holy and orderly Communion, places some special men (*sic*) over the Church, who by their office are to govern, oversee, visit, watch; so likewise for the better keeping thereof in all places, by all the members, he has given authority, and laid duty upon all, to watch over one another.

*Confession of Faith (Particular Baptist)*, 1644, Art. 44.

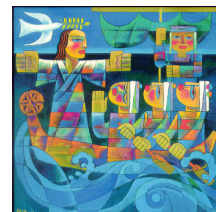


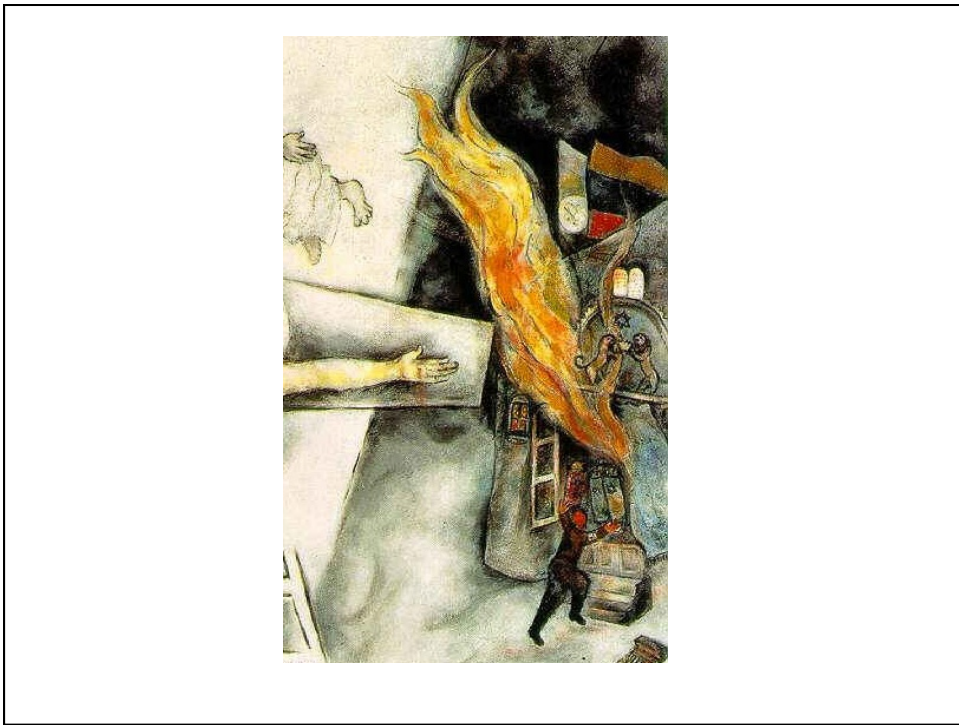
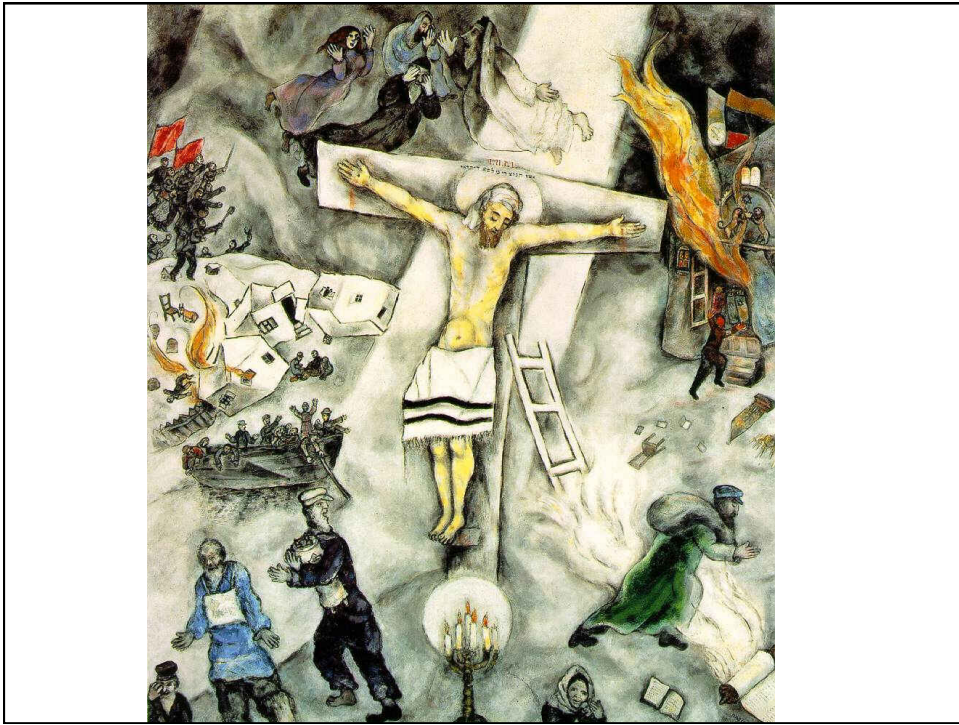
‘That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matter pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has **liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His Laws.**’

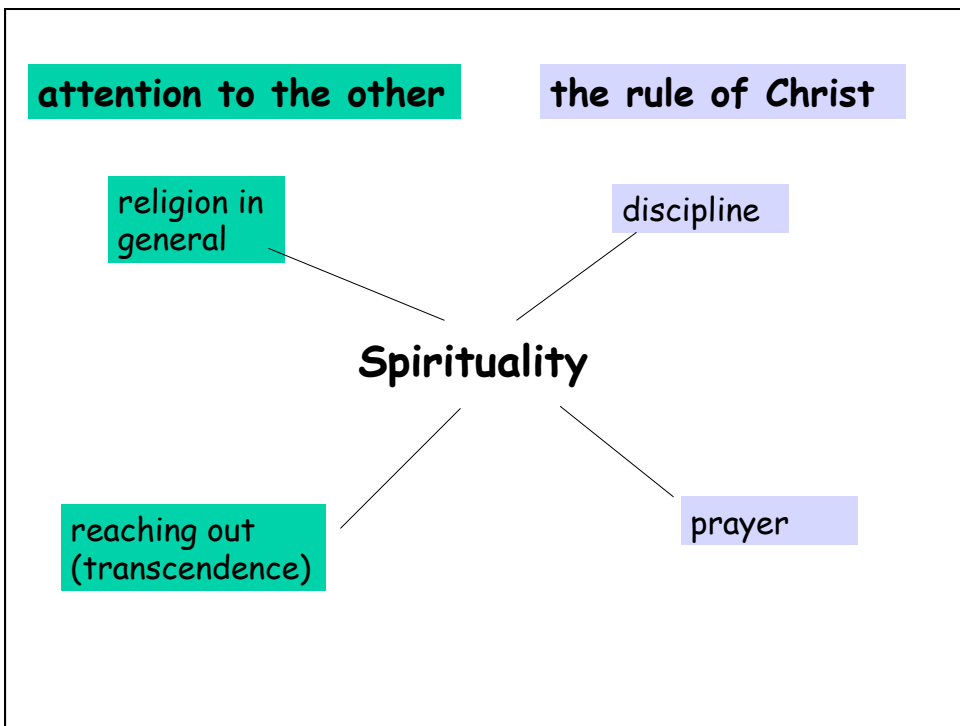
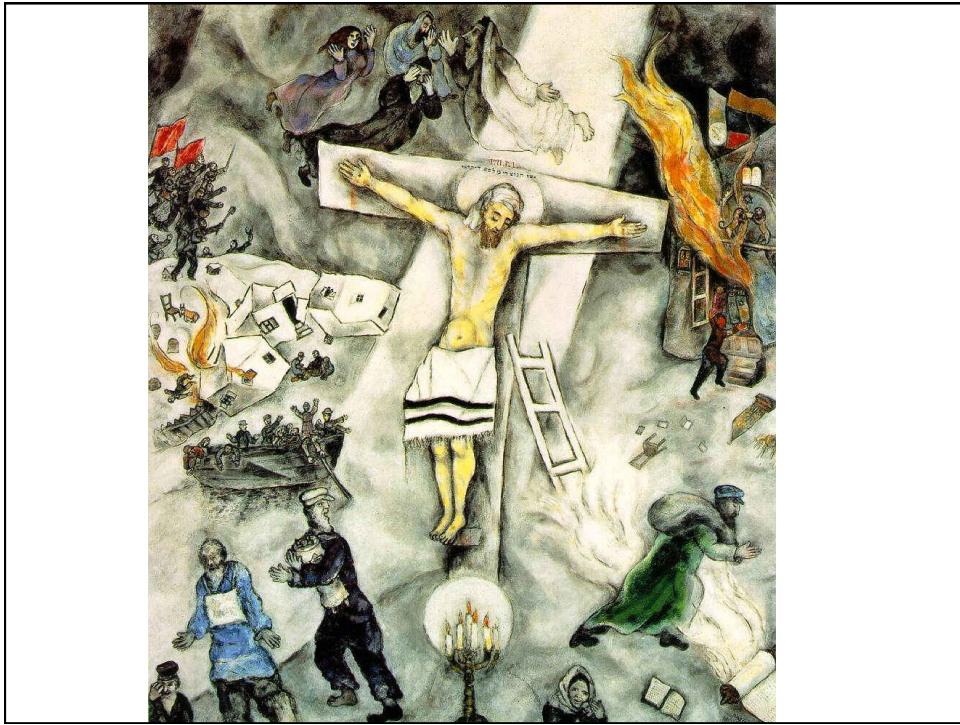
*Clause 1, Declaration of Principle of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, 1904, revised 1938.*

And although the particular Congregations be distinct and several Bodies, every one a compact and knit City in itself; yet **are they all to walk by one and the same Rule**, and by all means convenient to have the counsel and help of one another in all needful affairs of the Church, as members of one body in the common faith under Christ their only head.

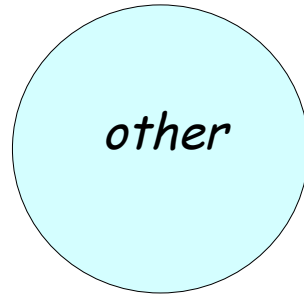
*The London Confession (1644)  
Art. XLVII*



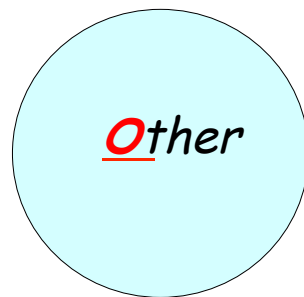


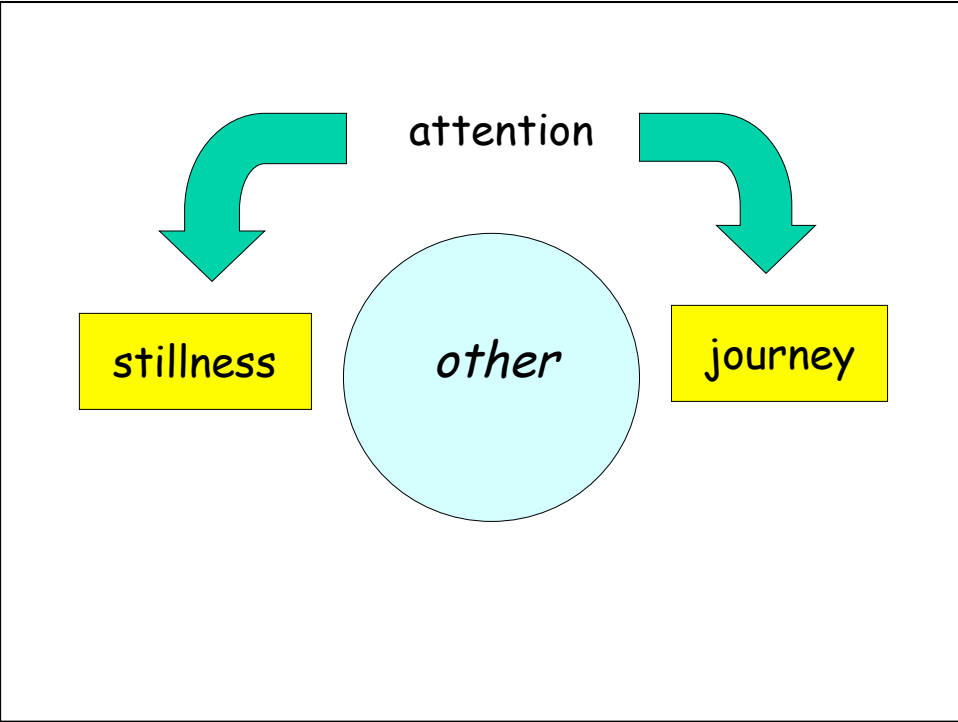
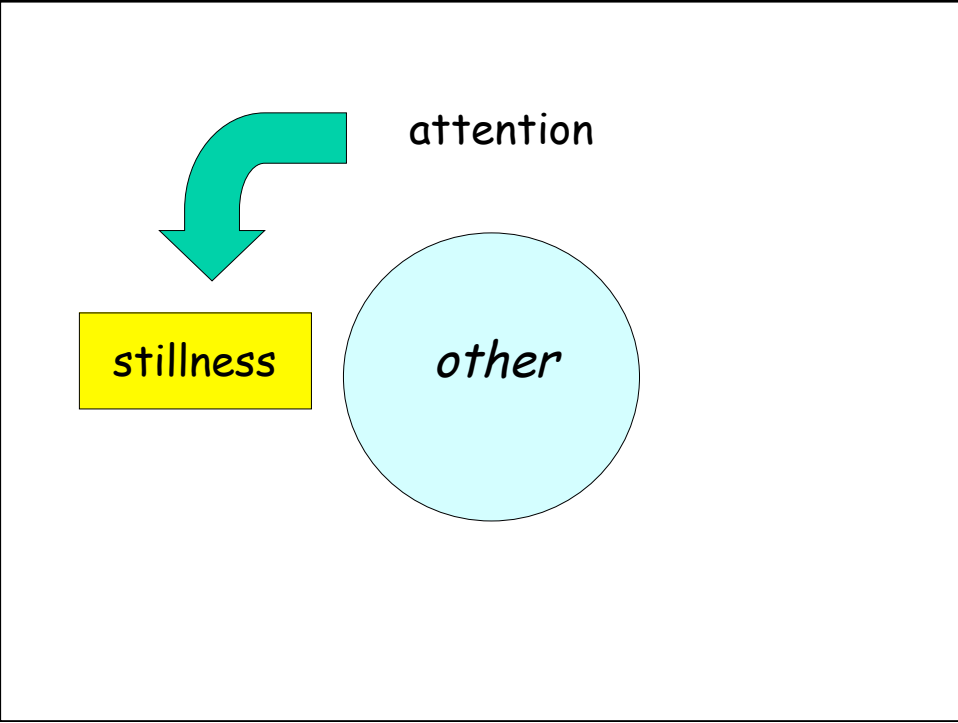


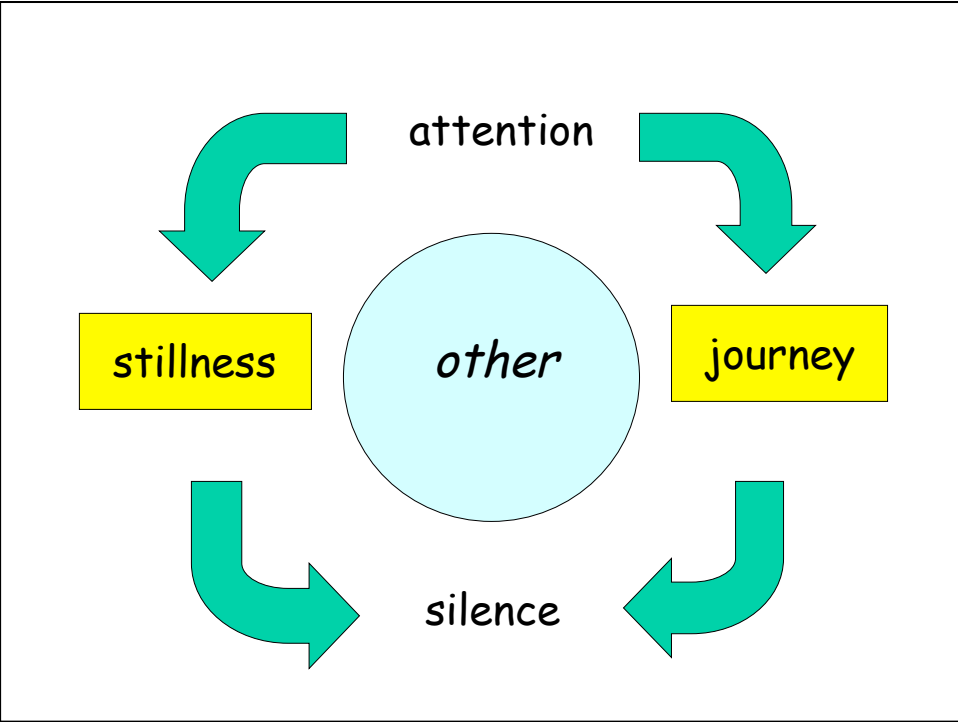
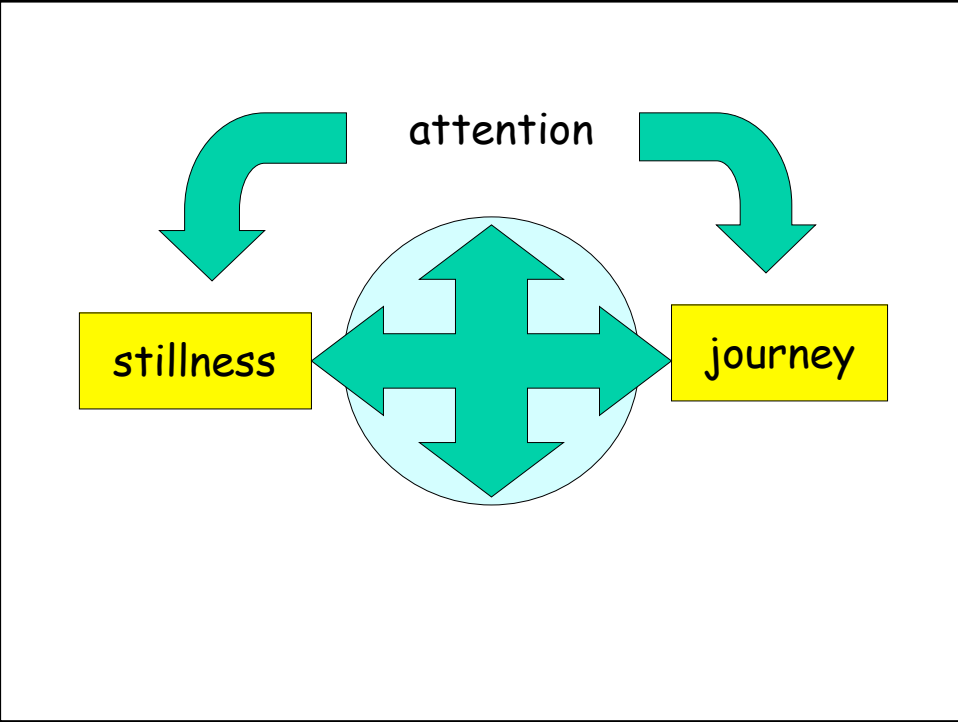
attention

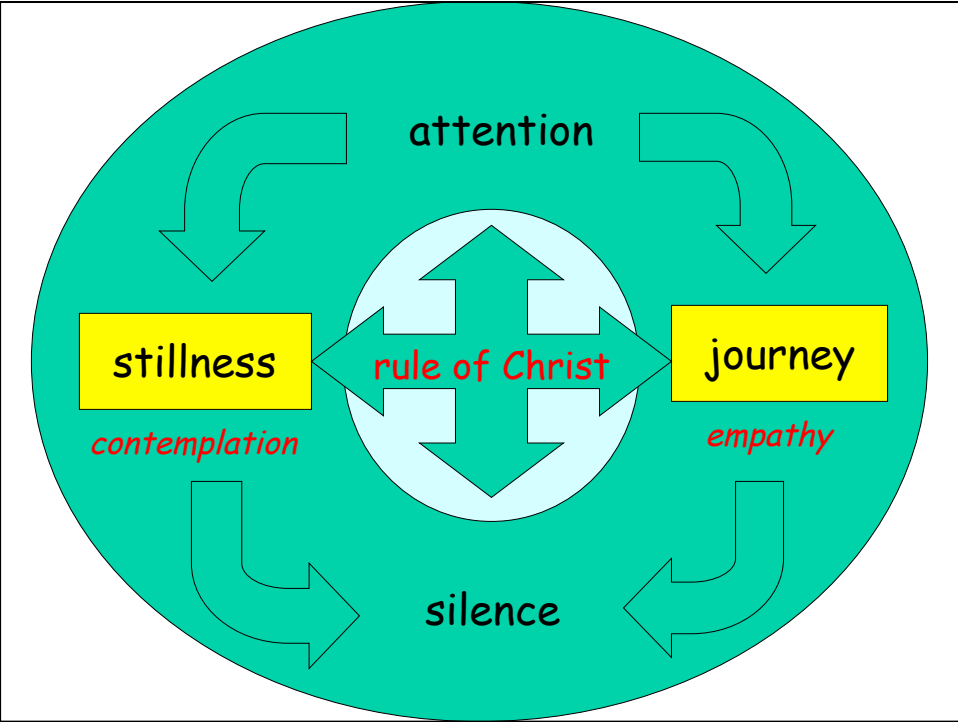
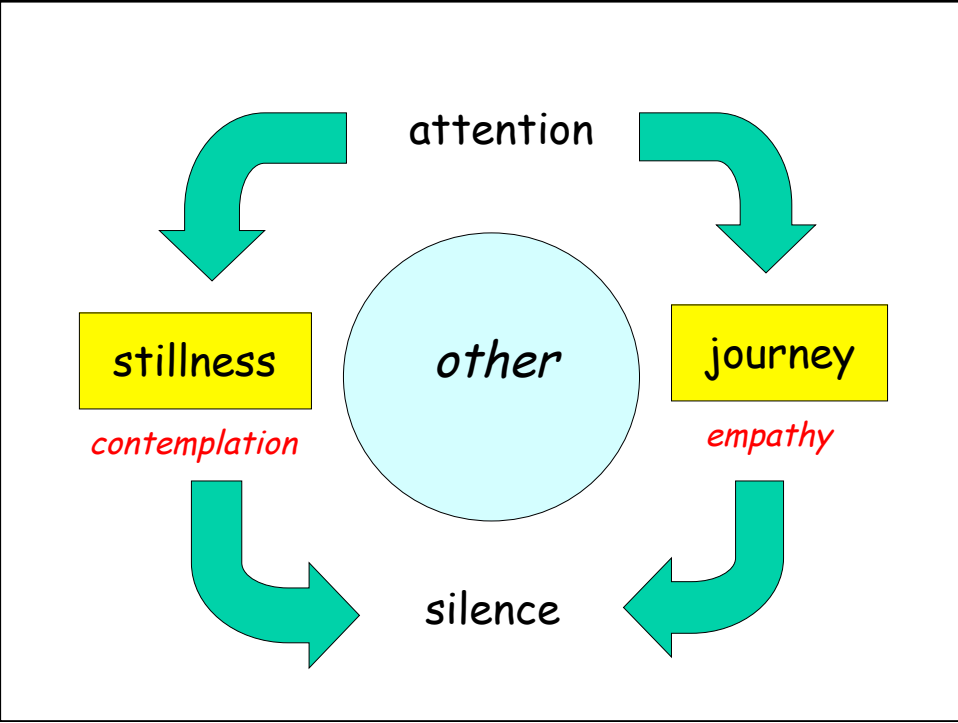


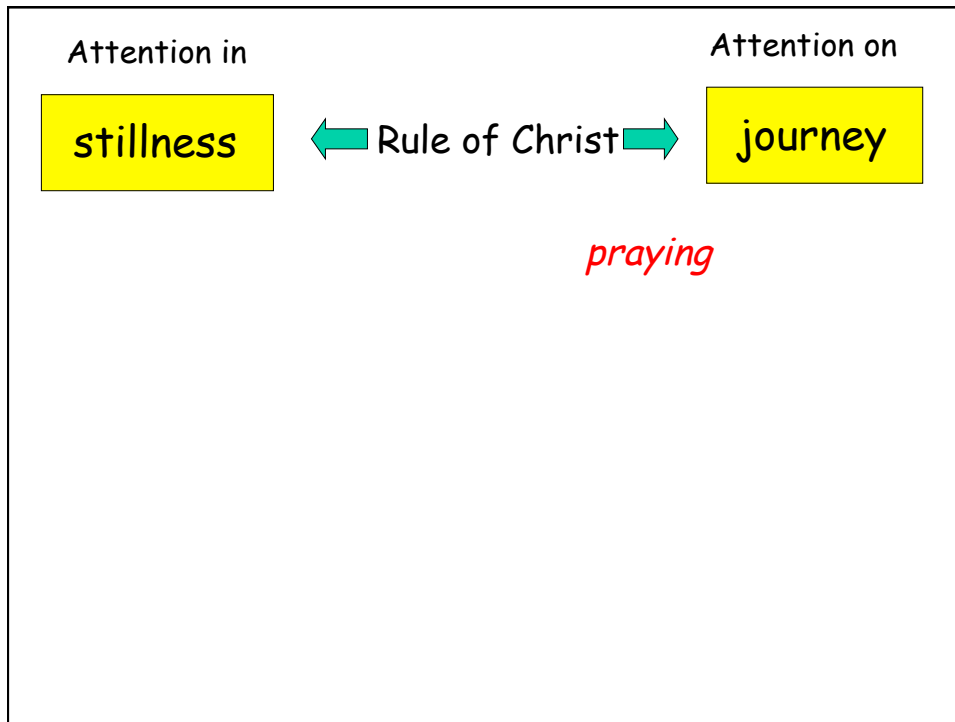
attention











By prayer the Christian can open his heart to God as to a friend ...

Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate outpouring of the heart or soul of God through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised ...

Sincerity carries the soul in all simplicity to open its heart to God and to tell him the case plainly without equivocation.

*John Bunyan, 'I will Pray with the Spirit', 1663.*



‘Experience shows that it is wrong to assume that the Spirit is necessarily more manifest in a free form of worship than in a structured form.’

*Patterns and Prayers for Christian Worship* (1990).  
*Baptist Union of Great Britain*

Attention in

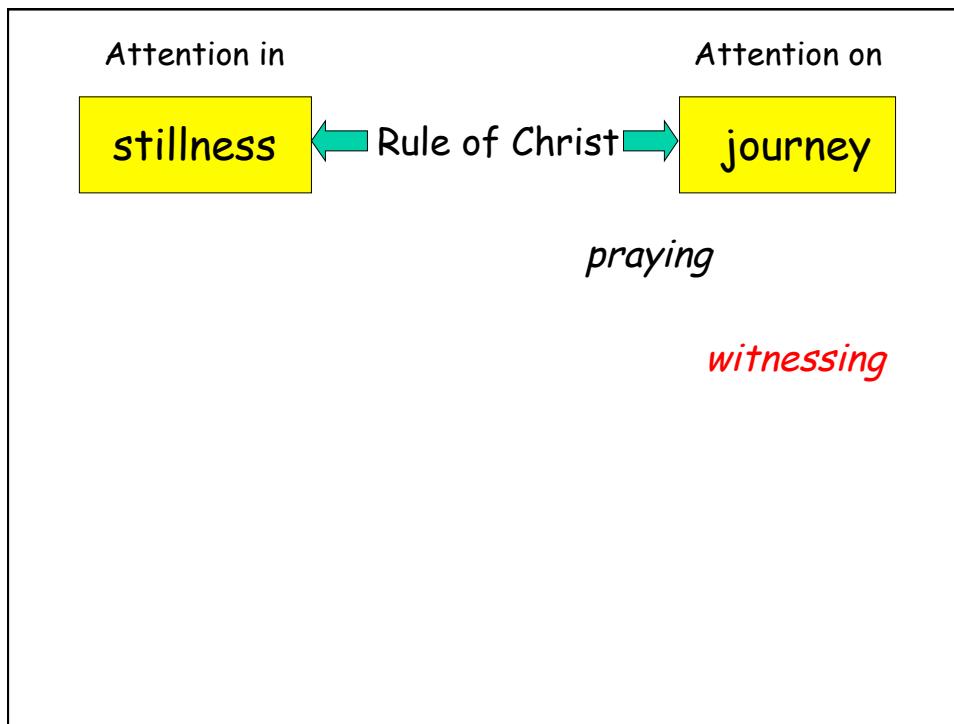
stillness

← Rule of Christ →

Attention on

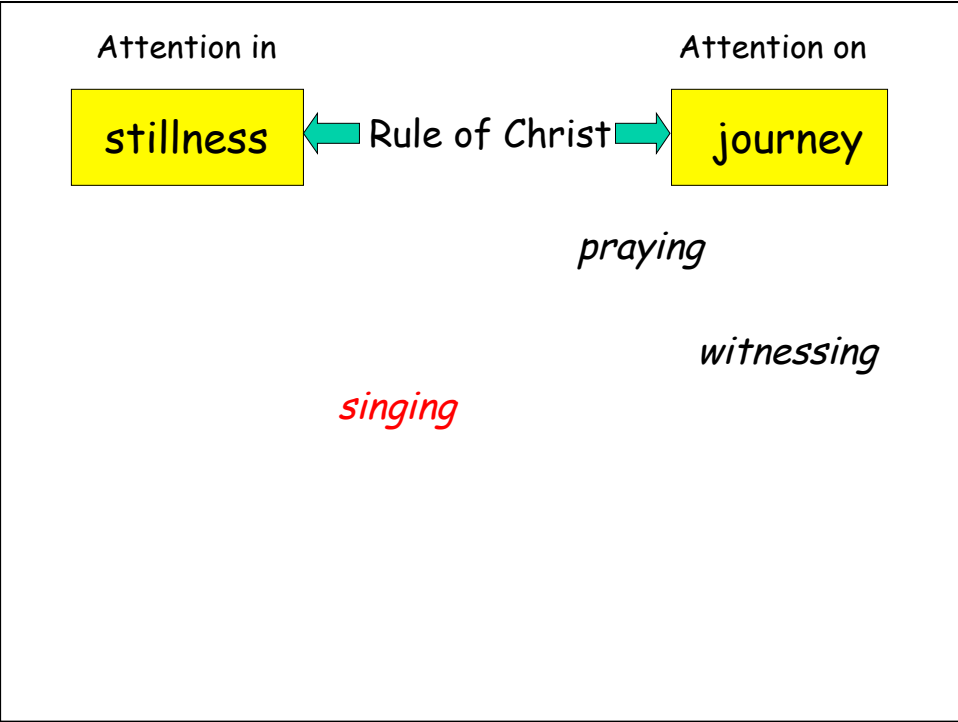
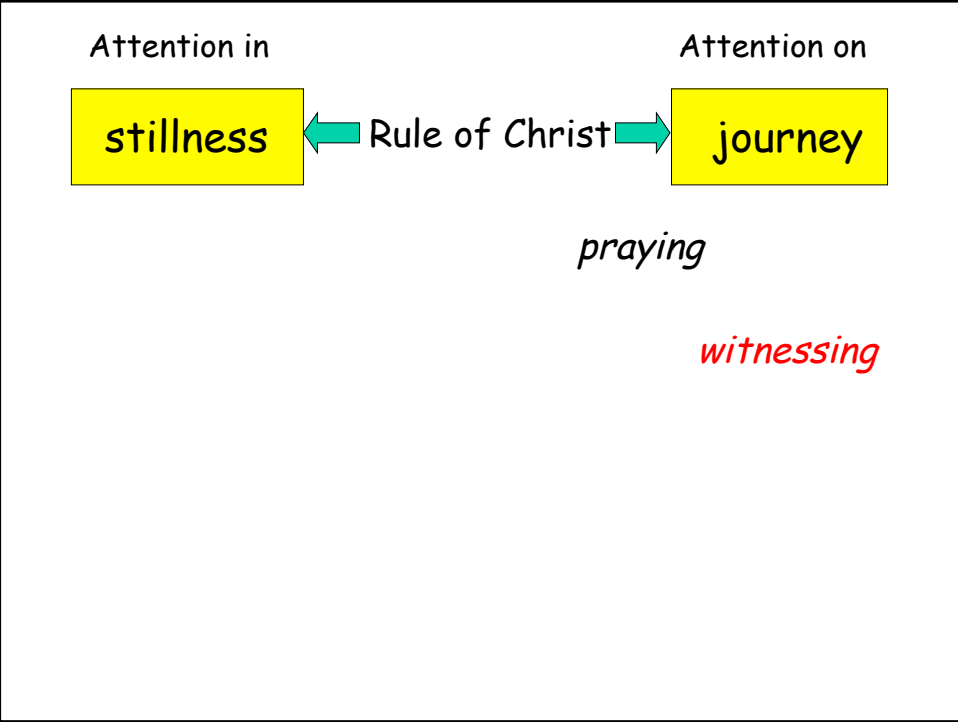
journey

*praying*



‘ ‘The pastor stood at the head of the communion table; the deacons next to him on each side, and the members at the table and the adjoining pews, sitting... Robert Silk was asked to speak as in the presence of God and the truth only... The man then gave an account of his former profane life, and of his late change, declaring his faith in the Gospel of Christ ... The members approved what he had said and his neighbours spoke well of his life. The pastor enquired what he thought of baptism. He desired it by immersion. The Covenant was read, and he was asked whether he would make that his rule of conduct to us. He agreed...’ ”

*From Church Book, St Andrew's Street Baptist Church, Cambridge, 1720-1832.*



Singing of psalms is an ordinance of Christ, to be performed in the Church of Christ by the saints ...  
Singing is, when the soul being possest with the apprehension of the goodness and mercy of God, doth make a joyful noise to his praise.

*Bridgewater Baptist Association, meeting in February 1655.*

Attention in

stillness

← Rule of Christ →

Attention on

journey

*praying*

*witnessing*

*singing*

