

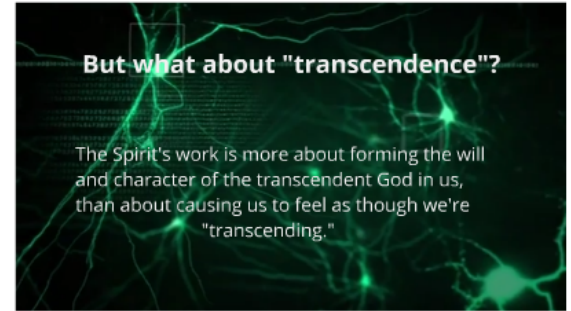


REAL

SPIRITUALITY



Spirituality



The Spirit displays and forms in us God's character and will.



Work of the Spirit



Obedience in Love
(Justice and Mercy)



will and character

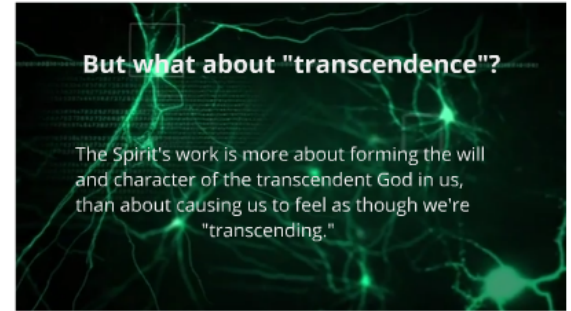
Means of Grace: Channels God normally

Our memory verse:

Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ***for it is God*** who works in you to **will and to act** in order to fulfill his good purpose.



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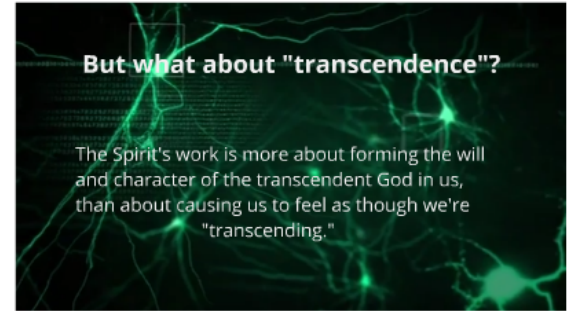


But what about "transcendence"?

The Spirit's work is more about forming the will and character of the transcendent God in us, than about causing us to feel as though we're "transcending."



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Is this the human legacy?

"Merciful justice flowing from obedient love that displays the character and will of God."

(Are we sure "us having transcendent feelings" **SHOULD** be God's biggest spiritual priority?)



So how are God's will and character
to be instilled in humanity?

(Sometimes called "Spiritual Disciplines")

Means of Grace



A **way** something happens:
A vehicle, channel,
mechanism, instrument



Something freely
given on the basis of
favor without
deserving or right

Means of Grace: Channels God normally uses to give us gracious help in forming His character and will in us.

3 main means:

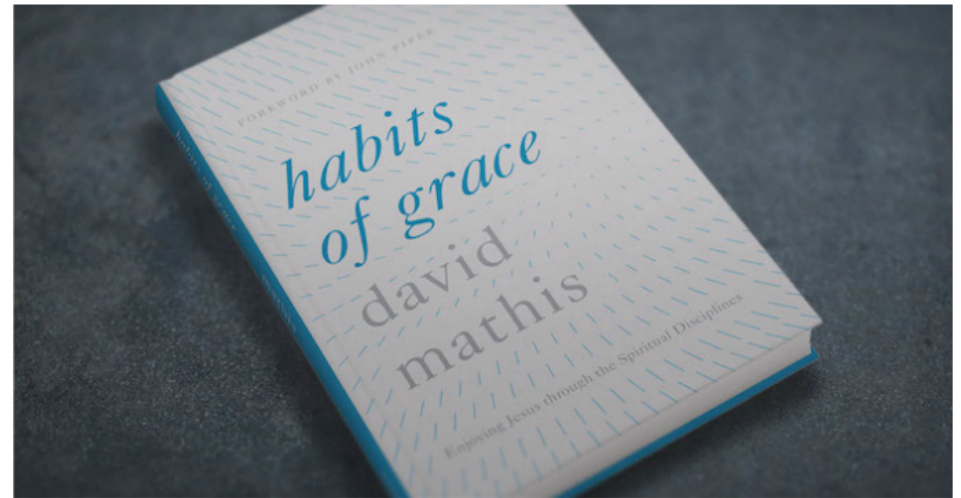
1. **Hearing his voice**

2. Having his ear

3. Belonging to his people



Next two weeks



If these are *God's* **MEANS** of grace, then what

people



If these are *God's* **MEANS** of grace, then what should be *our* **HABITS** of grace?

(How do we position ourselves in these channels God has chosen so we can receive?)

You need a habit of hearing God's voice.

s



Wait.



We need to go
back one question.

.

Is this the human legacy?

"Merciful justice flowing from obedient love that displays the character and will of God."



What did God tell us would make the difference?

Is "typical" humanity our doom?

What did God **tell us** would make the difference in our spirituality?



Deuteronomy 17:16-20

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself...He must not take many wives...He must not accumulate large



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What did God ***tell us*** would make the difference in our spirituality?



Deuteronomy 17:16-20

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself...He must not take many wives...He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

When he takes the throne of his kingdom, **he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law**, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to **be with him**, and **he is to read it all the days of his life** so that **he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully** all the words of this law and these decrees and **not consider himself better than his brothers** and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

Deuteronomy 6:3-9

Hear, O Israel, and **be careful to obey** so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **Love the LORD your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **These commandments** that I give you today **are to be upon your hearts. Impress them** on your children. **Talk about them** when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **Tie them** as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **Write them** on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.



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5:16-18: Rejoice in the
circumstances of the
Join me in rejoicing
Please continue to pray
for excellent results
Lord's provision
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Every new mission
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Please continue to pray without ceasing for my full healing and for excellent medical care. And finally, let us give thanks to the Lord's provision for my daily bread.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words linger with me:

Every new morning is a new beginning of our life. Every day is a completed whole. The present day should be the boundary of our care and striving (Matt. 6:34; Jas. 4:14). It is long enough for us to find God or lose God, to keep the faith or fall into sin and shame. God created day and night so that we might not wander boundlessly, but already in the morning may see the goal of the evening before us. As the old sun rises new every day, so the eternal mercies of God are new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23).

God is slowing me down to live in his eternal today. My health challenge teaches me that "the present day should be the boundary of [my] care and striving." I awoke this morning seeing the goal of the evening before me, and now that I've reached this goal - favorable results from medical testing - I praise God for his mercy that was given to me today and promised to me tomorrow.

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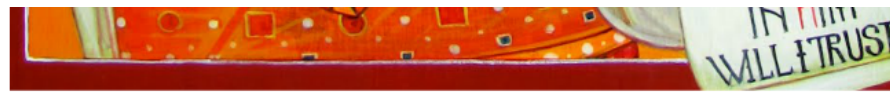
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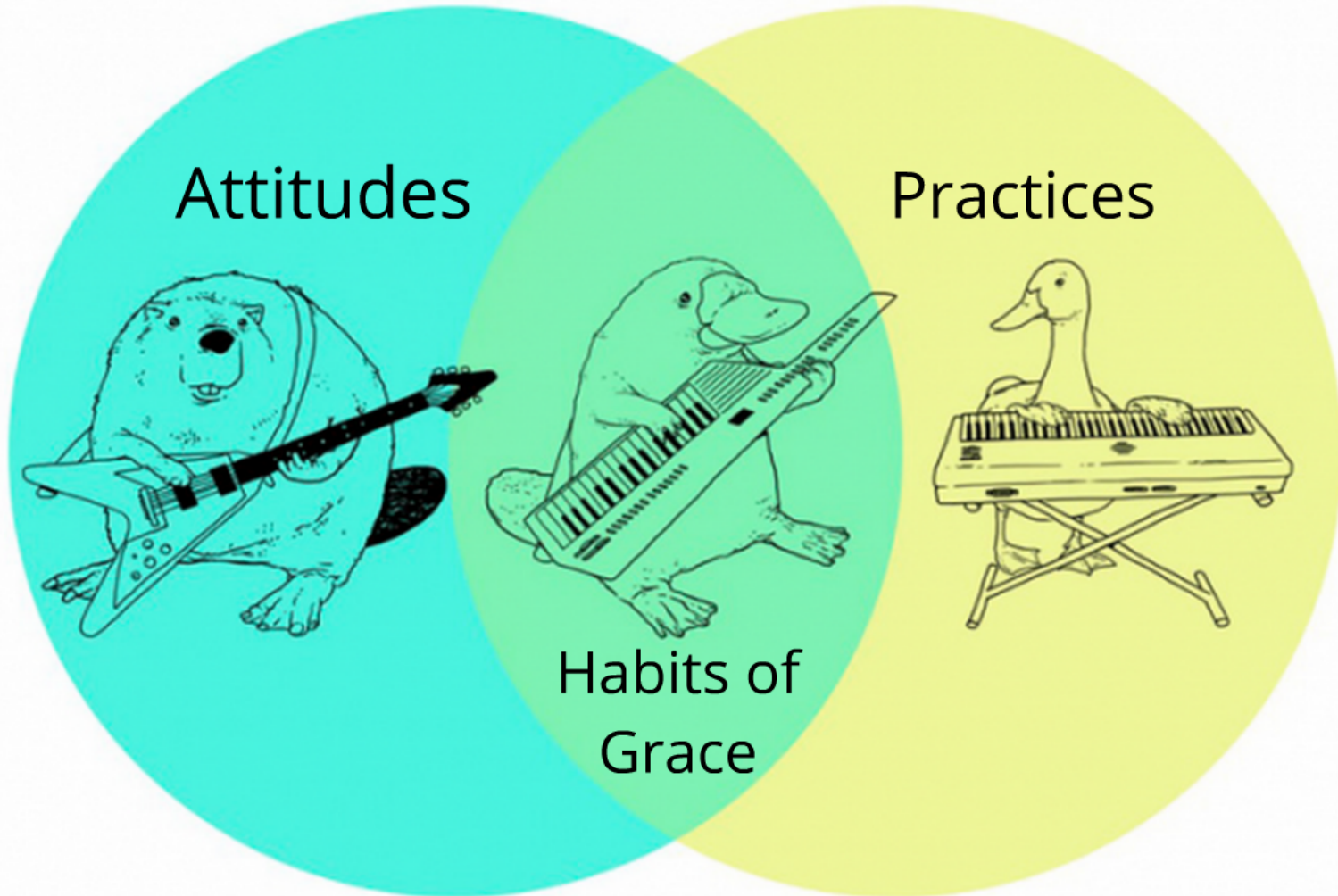
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So how do we do that -"hearing his voice"?

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So how do we do that - "hearing his voice"?



Platypus with Keytar = Christian hearing God's voice well

Gracious Attitudes:

Philippians 3:8

"...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."

John 17:3

"This is eternal life, that they may know you and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."



1. Purpose is knowing God

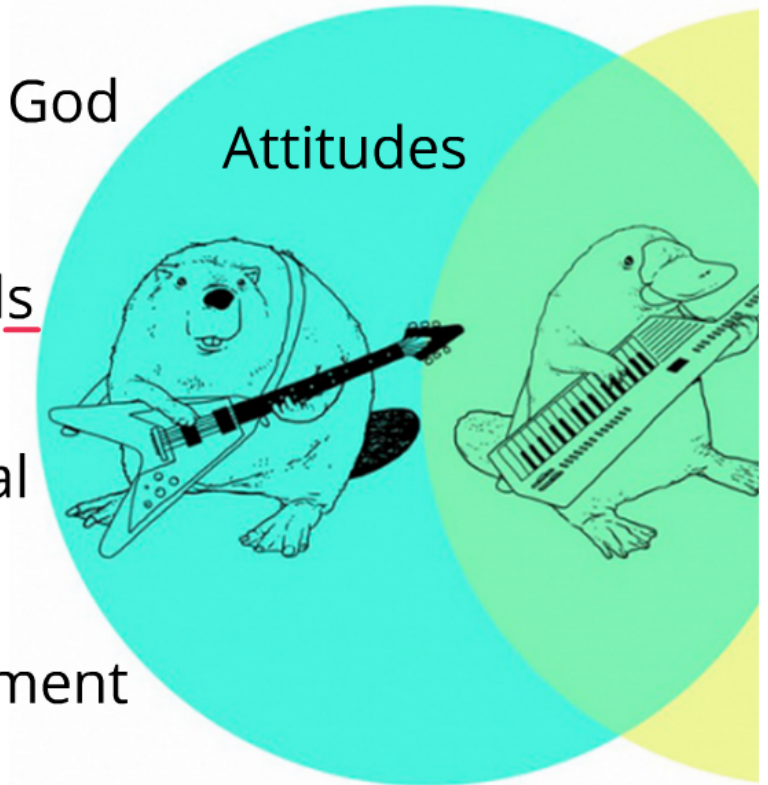
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3. Inquisitive over critical

4. The path of allurements

"...endeavor to promote spiritual appetites by laying yourself in the way of allurements."

Jonathan Edwards



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Hebrews 8:10-12

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. *I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.* I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' *because they will all know me*, from the least of them to the greatest. (Jeremiah 31:34) For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

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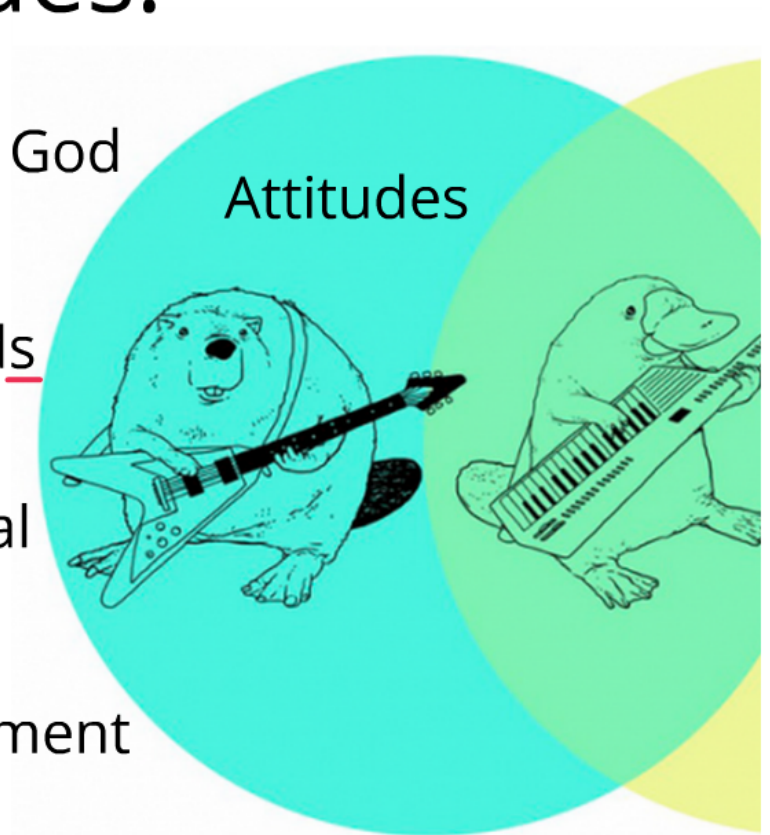
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You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Jesus the Word

(Know the Lord)



The Word of the Gospel

(Preach to yourself)



The Scripture is "God-breathed"
(take in the Scriptures)

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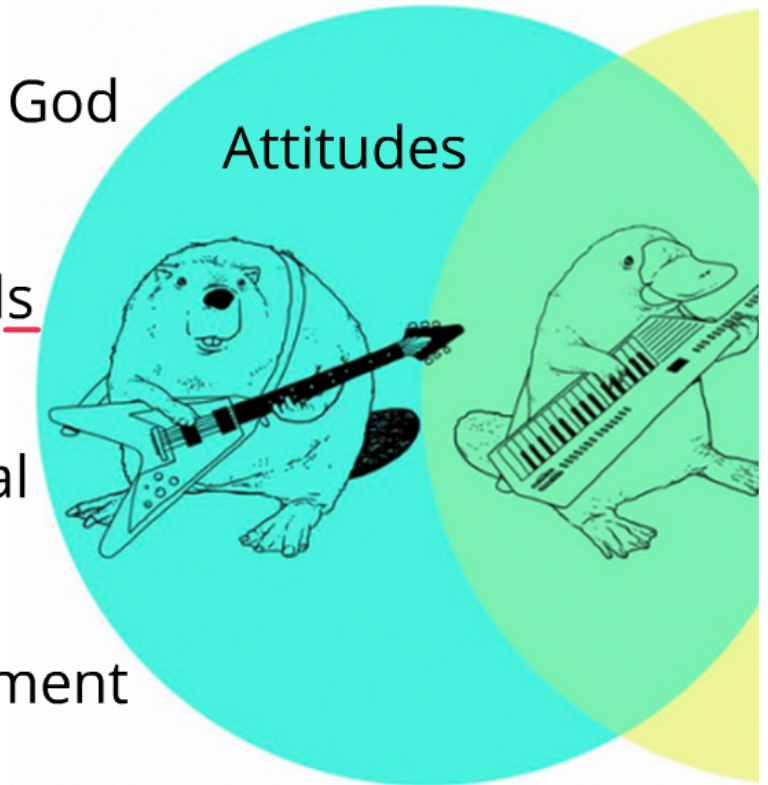
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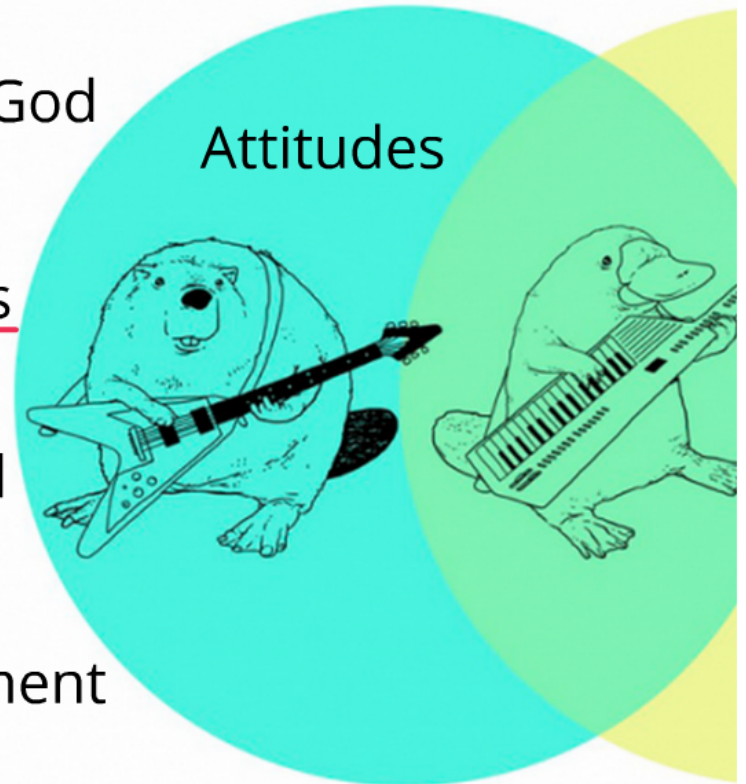
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Gracious Practices

Practices



1. Take up and take it in



2. Warm yourself by its fire:
meditation



3. Apply it to your heart
(not your life)

99% is reaction

Examples of Practices:

1. Receiving the word



2. Reading the word

3. Impressing, talking and tying



I. RECEIVING THE WORD

Subscribe to our new leadership podcast!

highpointchurch.org/podcast



ENGAGE
& EQUIP



Examples of Practices:

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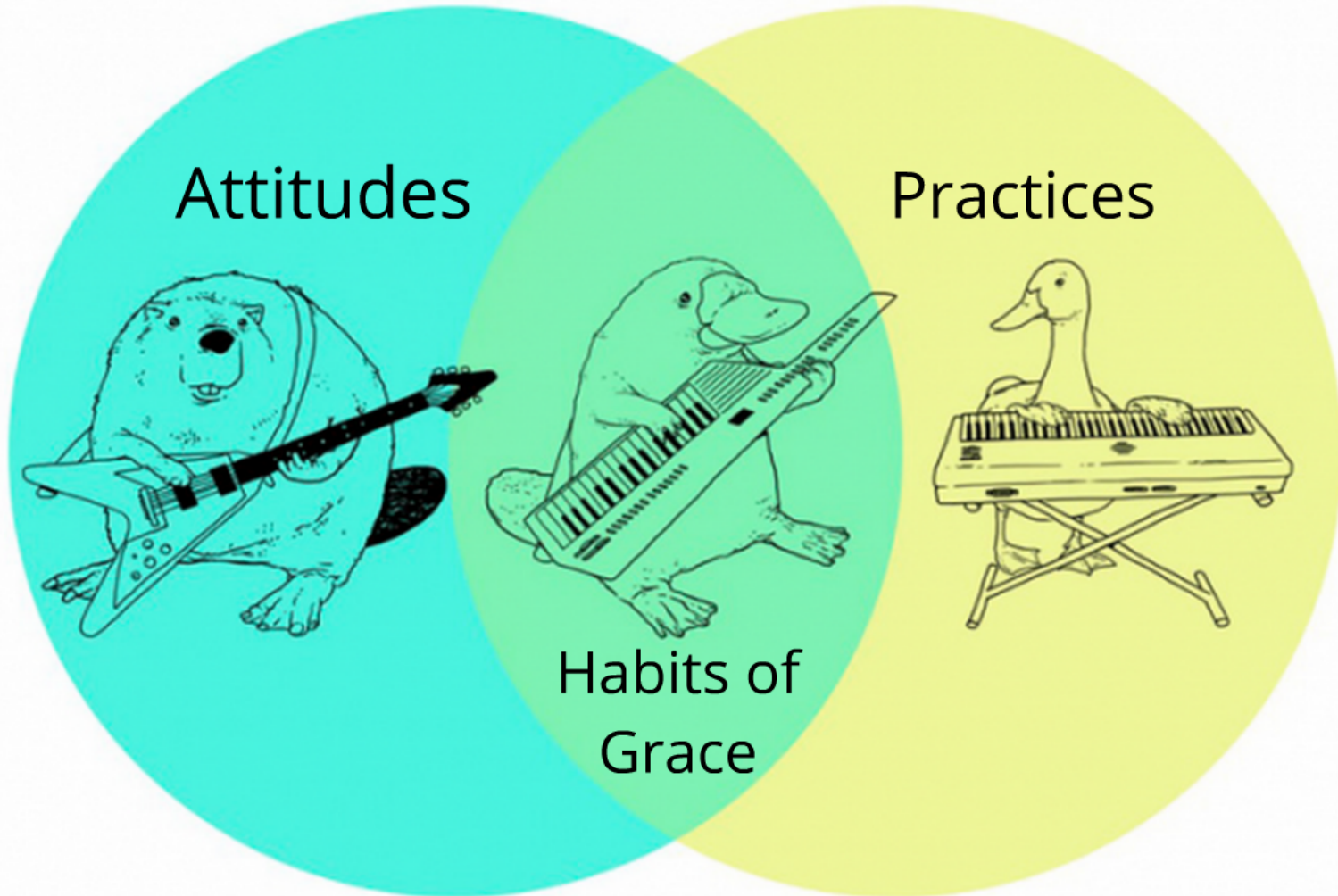
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