

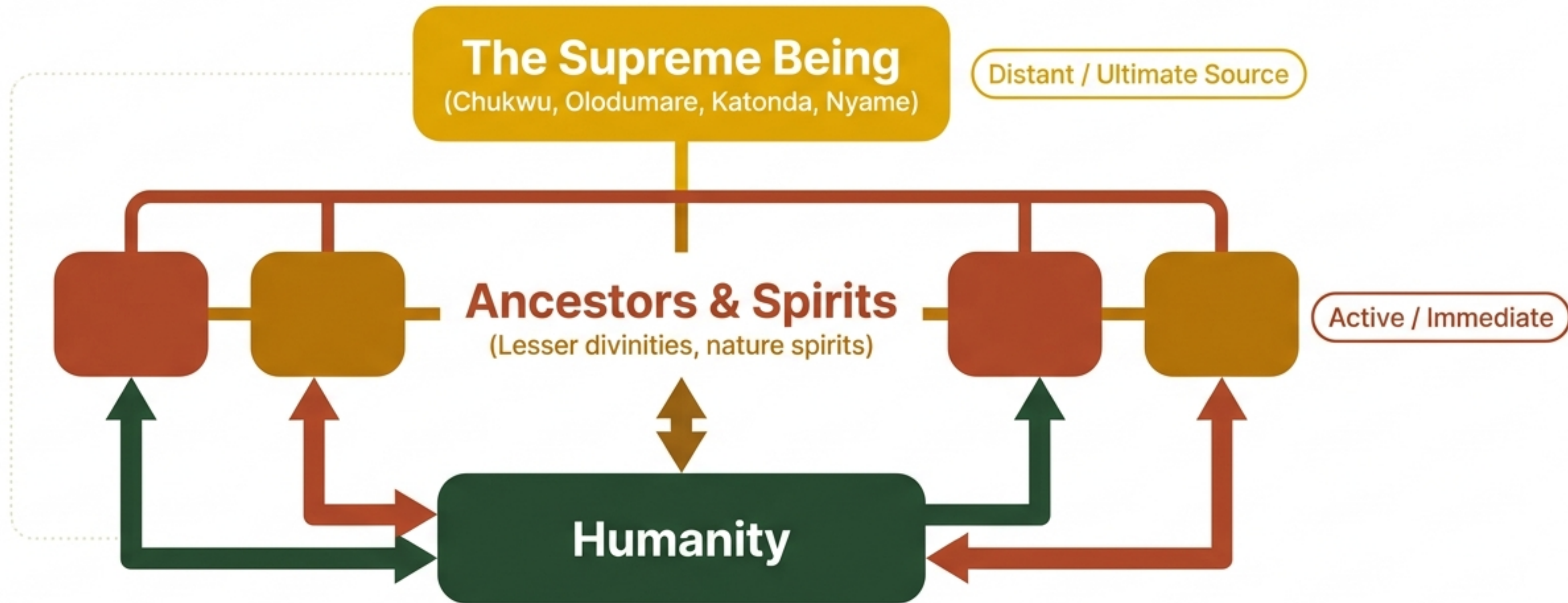
The Hidden Landscape: Confronting Traditional Religion and Animism

Fire and Go: Lesson 12



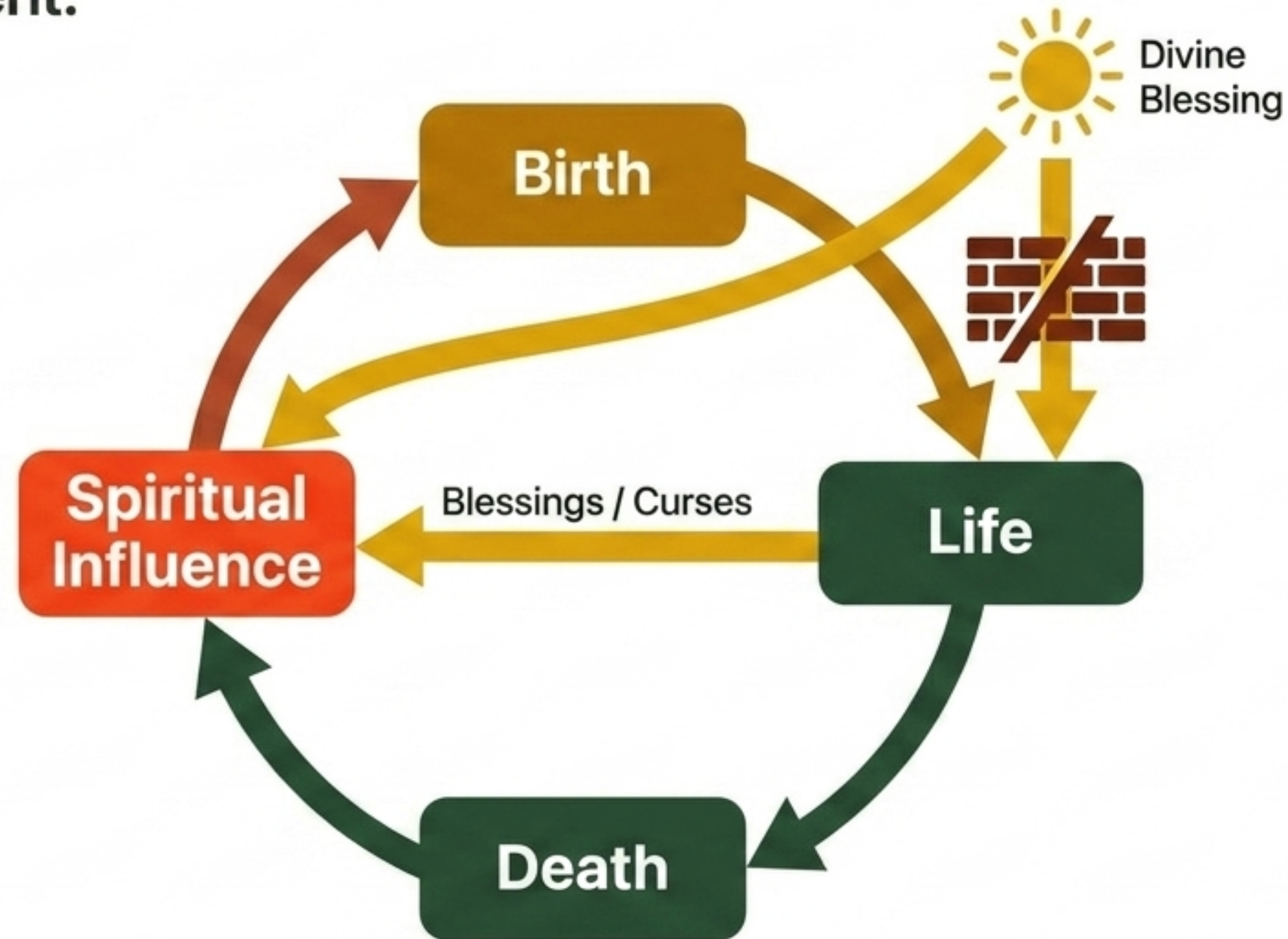
The Hierarchy of the Unseen

Traditional religion acknowledges God, but relies on lesser spirits for daily intervention.



The Anchor of the Ancestors

The dead remain active, capable of blessing or cursing based on human appeasement.



Who Has the Power?

Traditional religion is not an abstract theology. It is a highly practical quest for spiritual power and manipulation.

The Clash of Worldviews

Traditional Religion	Gospel Reality
Rituals, medicine, and appeased ancestors.	God alone is the source of all protection and blessing.
Seeking guidance from the dead.	Praying to God alone; consulting the dead is forbidden (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).
Appeasing spiritual forces to survive.	Living in the unmerited grace and supreme authority of Christ.

Fear vs. Perfect Love

The answer to spiritual fear is not better traditional protection, but the supreme power of Christ.

Fear-Based Spirituality

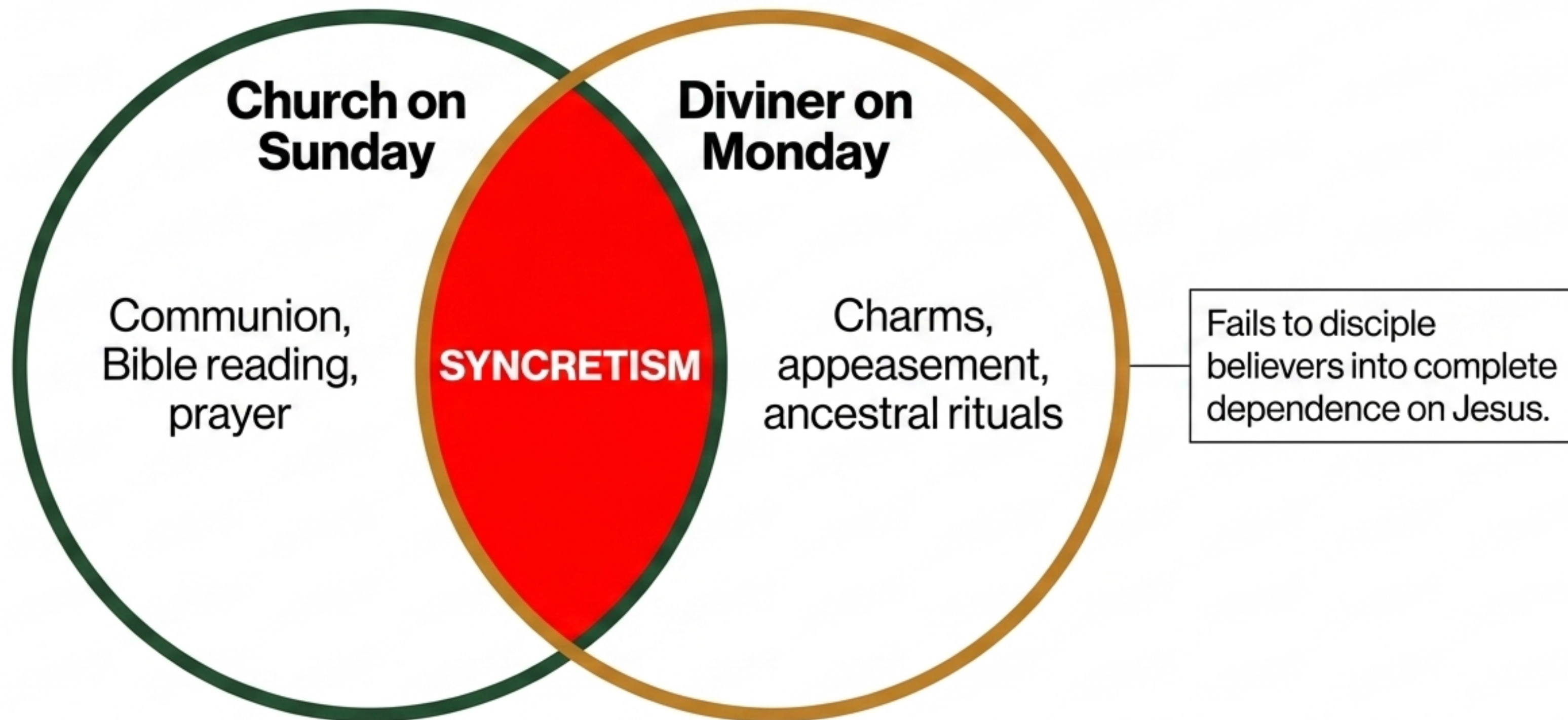
- Fear of curses
- Fear of witchcraft
- Fear of the evil eye
- Fear of ancestral displeasure

Faith-Based Relationship

**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.
(1 John 4:18)**

The Trap of Syncretism

A mixed faith lacks the freedom of Christ.



The Power Encounter

We answer "Who has the power?" with the name of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18).

**Step 1:
Preaching
the Word**

**Proclamation of
of Christ's
Supremacy**

**Step 2:
The Power
Encounter**

**Healing,
Deliverance,
Breaking Curses**

**Step 3:
Public
Freedom**

**Burning of
occult objects,
breaking of fear**

Deliverance as Discipleship

Liberation must lead to maturity, not pastoral dependency.



Redeem the Culture, Reject the Demonic

Transform from Inside Out
Redeemable African culture



Discard and Renounce
Incompatible religious practices



Operating in the Same Worldview

We do not have to convince our people that the spiritual world is real. They already know. Our mission is simply to proclaim and demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the Supreme Lord over it.

Assess Your Spiritual scape

- 1. What elements of Traditional African Religion can serve as bridges to the gospel, and which must be confronted?**
- 2. How does fear-based spirituality manifest in your congregation?**
- 3. What is the difference between legitimate cultural practices and conflicting religious roots?**
- 4. How can your church provide deliverance without creating spiritual dependency on the pastor?**

Prayer Focus

Pray for African believers struggling with the pull of traditional practices. Ask God to bring complete freedom and confident faith to replace every form of spiritual fear. Pray for the wisdom to distinguish between culture and compromise in your own ministry context.

Your Action Step



Step 1: Conduct a quiet, personal assessment of your congregation for hidden syncretism (ancestral veneration, charms, diviner consultation).

Step 2: Develop a one-month teaching series directly addressing these fears using the complete sufficiency and supremacy of Christ.