

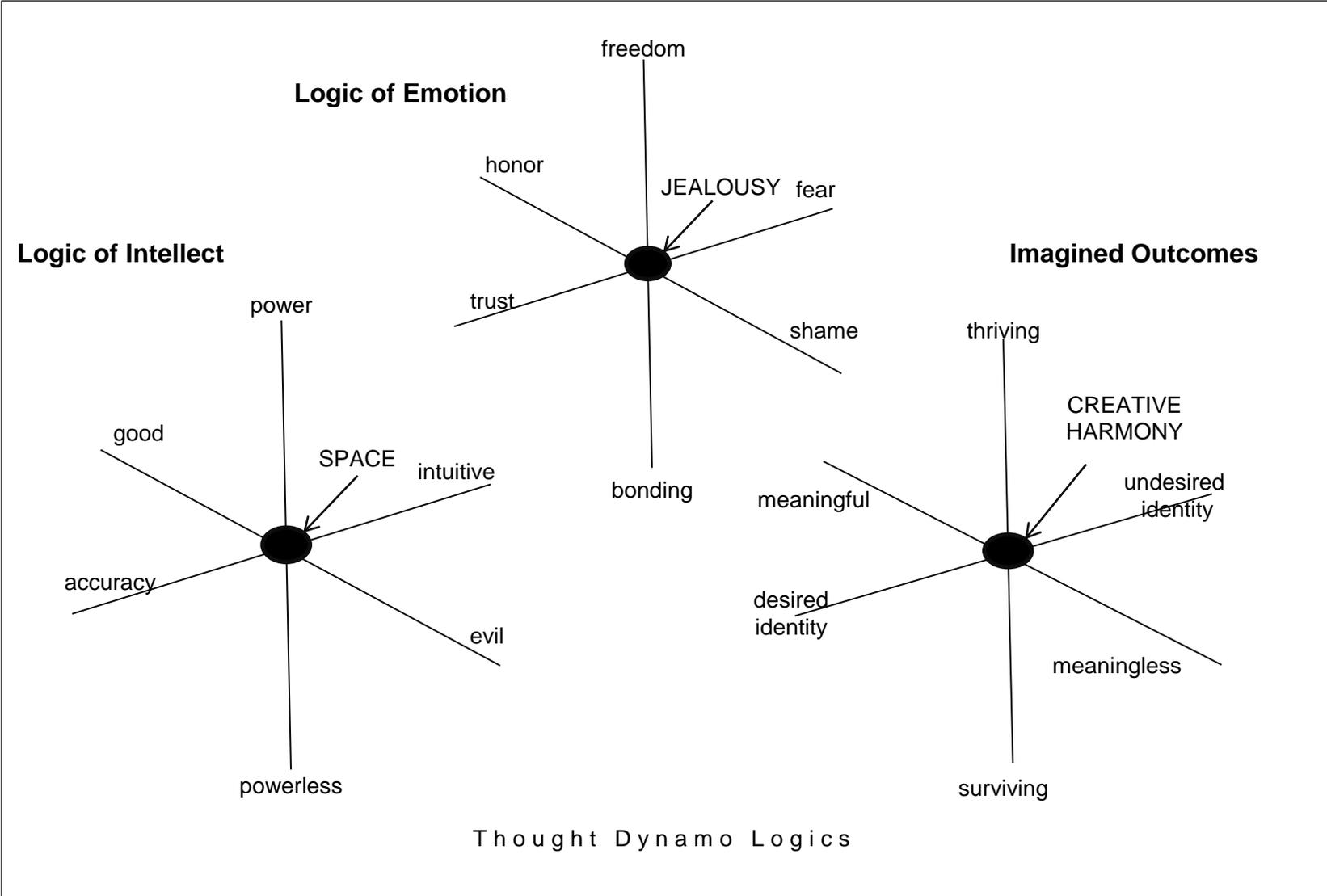
# **Decision Making & Following Jesus**

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# How do people make decisions about anything? Employing 'thought dynamo' logics ...



# 21 Appeals to Decide to Follow Jesus using the TDD Model

## “Logic of Intellect”

1. **Accuracy: Jesus is truth**

“Evidence That Demands a Verdict” reasoning

2. **Intuitive: Jesus seems plausible**

Matthew 2:1, 2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

3. **Power: Jesus will bless me**

John 4:12-15 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds? Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

4. **Powerlessness: Jesus will heal me**

Luke 8:43-48 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

5. **Good: Jesus is good**

Mark 10:17-18 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone.

6. **Evil: Jesus will overcome evil**

Luke 9:42, 43a Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

7. **Space: In time and eternity, God is everywhere**

Acts 17:26-28 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

# 21 Appeals to Decide to Follow Jesus using the TDD Model

## *“Logic of Emotion”*

### 8. **Freedom: Jesus will set me free from sin**

John 8:32-36 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

### 9. **Bonding: Jesus will be with me and met my need for intimacy; He will be my friend**

Luke 10:39-42 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

### 10. **Shame (of identity): Jesus will take away my shame**

Mark 7:26-29 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

### **Guilt (of behavior): Jesus forgives my sin**

John 16:8a When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin ...

### 11. **Honor: Jesus is worthy of honor or he will honor me**

Matthew 8:9, 10 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

Mark 10:35-37 Then James and John, the sons of, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

### 12. **Trust: Jesus is trustworthy**

1 Timothy 1: 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

### 13. **Fear: To reject Jesus is eternally dangerous**

Luke 23:40-43 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

### 14. **Jealousy: The core affection of my life is Jesus (not money, wife, parents, etc.)**

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

## 21 Appeals to Decide to Follow Jesus using the TDD Model “*Imagined Outcomes*”

15. **Desired Identity: I will be a new creation in Jesus, a child of God, a citizen of heaven, etc.**  
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
16. **Undesired Identity: I can avoid being who I am if I trust in Jesus**  
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
17. **Meaningful: Life is meaningful in God**  
The appeal of Ecclesiastes
18. **Meaningless: Life is meaningless without God**  
The appeal of Ecclesiastes
19. **Thriving: In Jesus I can succeed in life**  
Ephesians 4:8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
20. **Surviving: In Jesus I have hope of surviving**  
Acts 27:20-26 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."
21. **Creative Harmony: In Jesus one can begin to live a harmonious life**  
1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

# 'Thought Dynamo' in context ...

