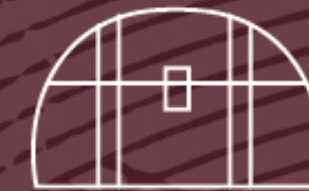


MATTHEW



Cognitive Overload

The Information Age

Industrial Revolution

Information Age



1900
Knowledge
doubles in
400 years

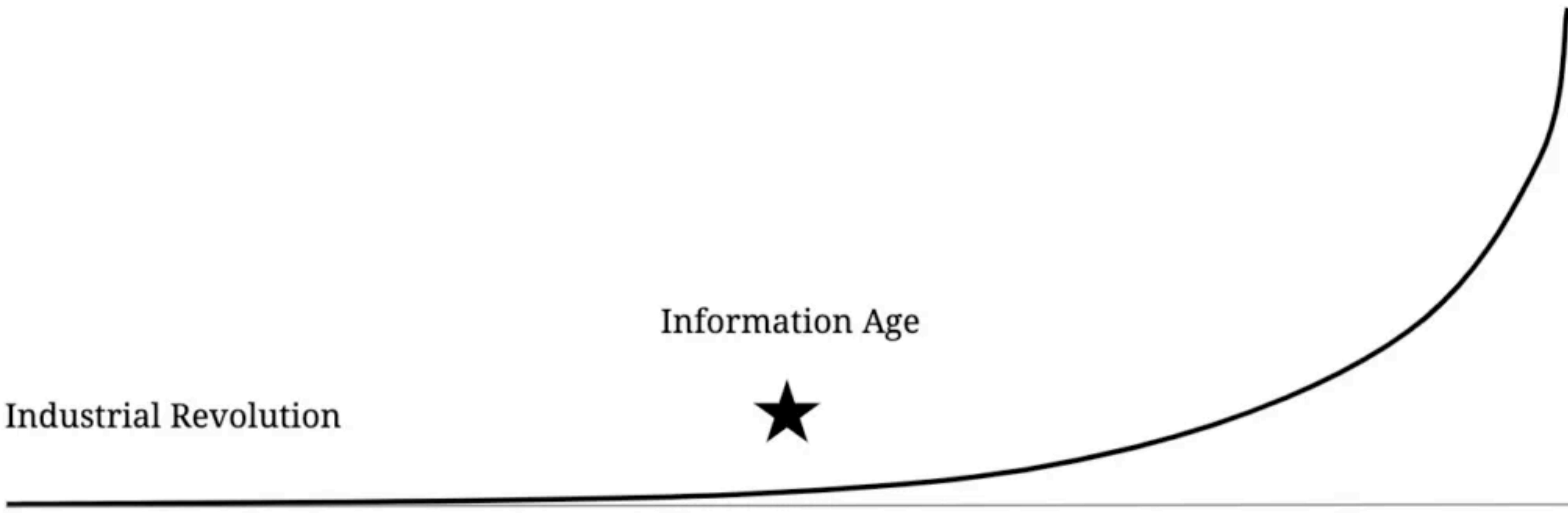
1950
Knowledge
doubles in
20 years

1980
Knowledge
doubles in
10 years

2000
Knowledge
doubles in
8 years

2017
Knowledge
doubles in
13 months

Today
Knowledge
doubles every
12 hours



The tie between information and action has been severed. Information is now a commodity that can be bought and sold, or used as a form of entertainment, or worn like a garment to enhance one's status. It comes indiscriminately, directed at no one in particular, disconnected from usefulness; we are glutted with information, drowning in information, have no control over it, don't know what to do with it.

Neil Postman

Matthew's Literary Design

Five Teaching Blocks

- Sermon on the Mount (7:28)
- Mission/Witness (11:1)
- Parables (13:53)
- New Community (19:1)
- Judgment (26:1)

Practicing the Way of Jesus

Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill...Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 5:17, 7:12

Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them
into practice...

Matthew 7:24

Models for Change

- Information

Discipleship is usually not a grand calling or a spectacular act of martyrdom. Rather, it is a set of Christlike instincts and reflexive responses of love that gradually take shape in our lives over a period of years. We immerse ourselves in Scripture and in awareness of his presence. Then, when we have to respond quickly to a life situation, we are more likely to act in a way that is a credit to our Lord.

Donald Kraybill

Models for Change

- Information
- Inspiration

Models for Change

- Information
- Inspiration
- Insight

Models for Change

- Information
- Inspiration
- Insight
- Willpower

Trying vs. Training

But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness. For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance. For this reason we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:7-10

Grace is not opposed to effort. It's opposed to earning...We do not drift into discipleship.

Dallas Willard

The general human failing is to want what is right and important, but at the same time not to commit to the kind of life that will produce the action we know to be right and the condition we want to enjoy. This is the feature of human character that explains why the road to hell is paved with good intentions. We intend what is right, but we avoid the life that would make it reality.

Dallas Willard

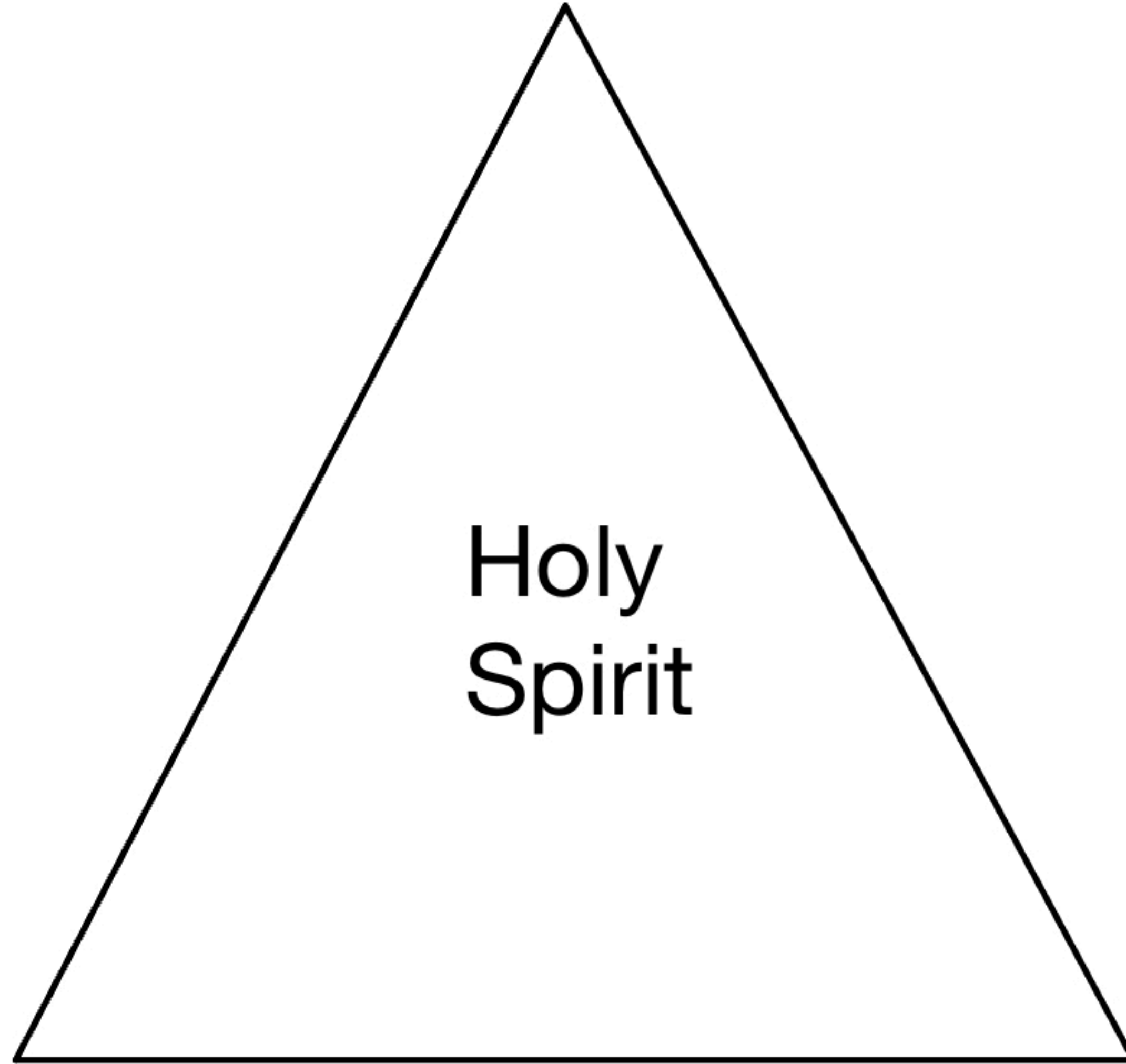
**If you want the life of Jesus, you have to
take on the lifestyle of Jesus.**

Truth

Holy
Spirit

Practices

Community



Disengagement Practices

- Solitude
- Silence
- Fasting
- Simplicity
- Chastity
- Secrecy
- Listening
- Study
- Sabbath

Engagement Practices

- Worship
- Celebration
- Service
- Prayer
- Healing
- Community
- Confession
- Submission
- Generosity

Two Builders

Phronimos vs. Moros

Jesus does not say that a house built on his words will glow in the dark or miraculously expand into a mansion, or in some other way become more impressive. The only impressive fact about this house is that it will be standing when the storm is over...Jesus almost always describes Christian life in terms of survival rather than sensation.

Dale Bruner

Astonished by Jesus

**Invitation: Practice the
Way of Jesus**

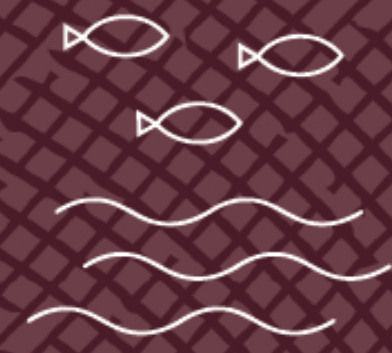
Identity

Realism

Experimentation

Community

Invitation	Resistances	Limitations	Practice(s)	Support
<p>Scriptural Anchor:</p>	<p>External:</p>		<p>1)</p>	<p>Friends:</p>
	<p>Internal:</p>		<p>2)</p>	<p>Guides:</p>
<p>God is always speaking & inviting us to the work of change. The first step is declaring your desire. Ask yourself: <i>What matters most to me right now? What single change could make the greatest impact in my life?</i></p> <p>Once you've decided, list your invitations as positive statements beginning with "I want..." Include a Scripture reference to anchor you in God's promises.</p>	<p>Everyone has learned resistances that protect us from the pain of change. On the top, ask yourself: <i>What things do I do, or not do, that get in the way of my desired change?</i></p> <p>On the bottom list your fears related to changing with "I'm afraid..." List the hidden commitments that flow from your fears with "I'm really committed to..."</p>	<p>Accepting our limitations keeps us grounded in reality. Limitations include season of life, health conditions, work, and relational systems. Ask yourself: <i>What circumstantial limitations do I need to accept as part of my current reality? What pain do I need to make peace with instead of avoiding?</i></p> <p>List your limitations with "I surrender..."</p>	<p>Formation practices help us align our whole person to God's loving invitations for our lives. Ask yourself: <i>Which practices could be most helpful in forming new habits, beliefs, and feelings that break through my resistances and free me to God's invitation?</i></p> <p>List these practices with "I commit..." Be sure to identify specific rhythms (time, place) that you want to create.</p>	<p>Ask yourself: <i>Who has God placed around me that is safe, trustworthy, and available to support me? Who is not currently represented in my life that needs to be here?</i></p> <p>List your support team by name with "I trust..." along with how you feel they could best serve you in this season and how often you plan to meet with them (individually or as a group).</p>



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