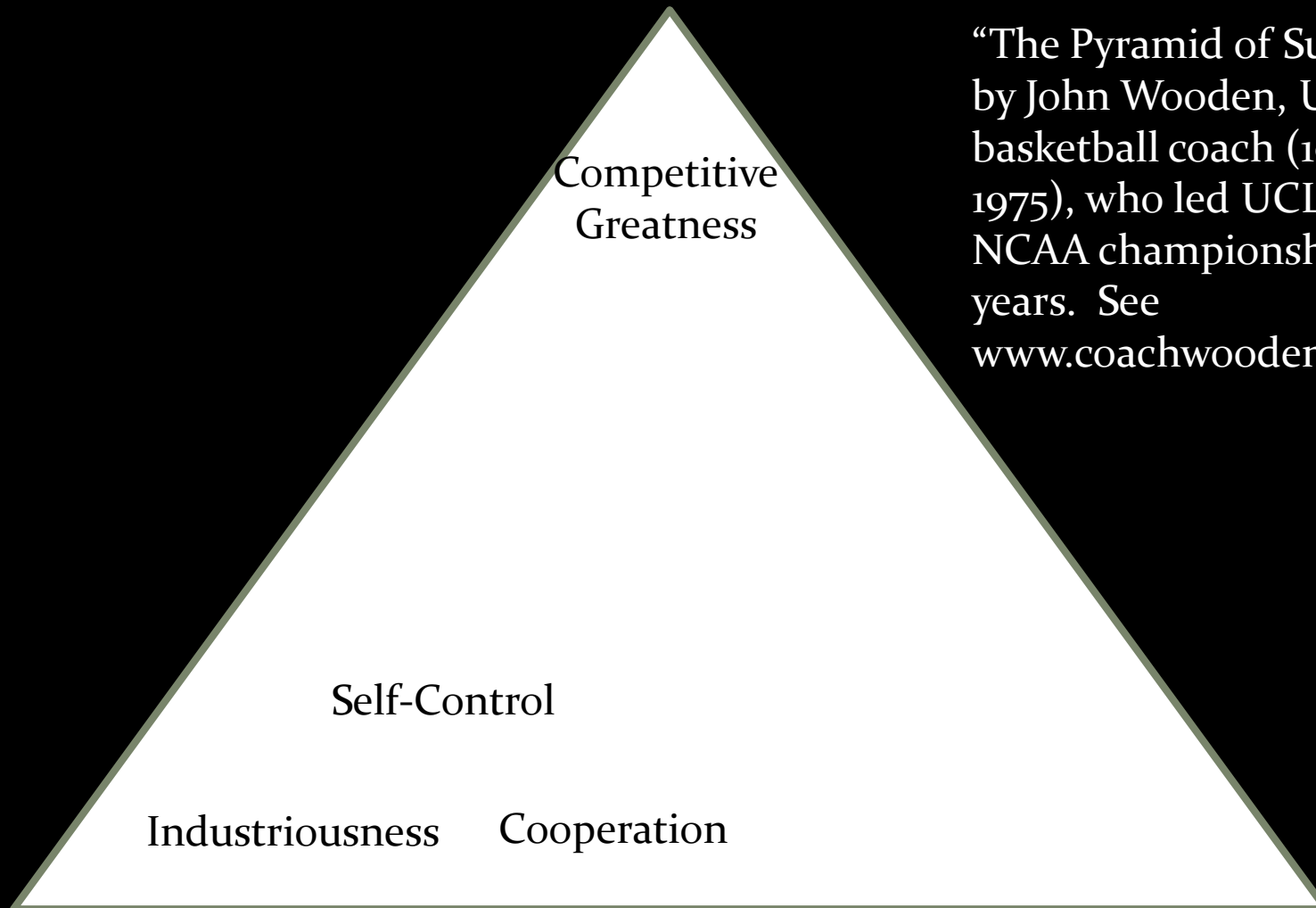


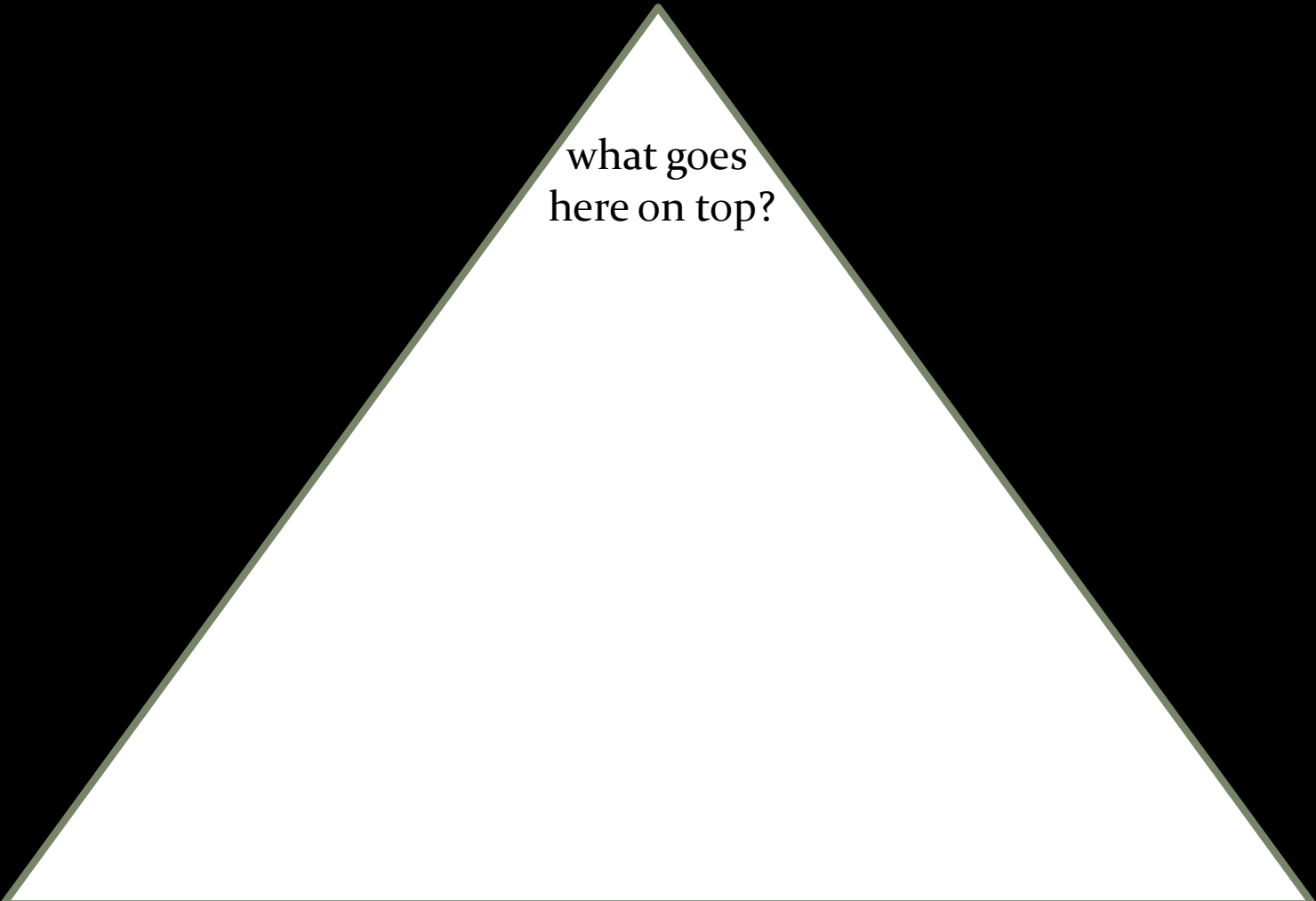
How Do I Grow
Spiritually?

The Development of Basketball Players



“The Pyramid of Success”
by John Wooden, UCLA
basketball coach (1959-
1975), who led UCLA to 10
NCAA championships in 12
years. See
www.coachwooden.com.

The Development of Christians



what goes
here on top?

The Development of Christians



evangelism
local & global

skills

character

desires

faith

Reasons

- Personal
 - Beginning with my non-Christian parents, the more people I cared about, the more faith, desire, character, and skills I had to have
 - Continuing on to the whole world: The more I care about the world as God does, the more faith, character, and skills I need!
- Biblical
 - Every Gospel ends with a 'Great Commission' passage
 - So everything Jesus did with the disciples was training for evangelism, global and local

The Development of Christians



evangelism
local & global

skills

character

desires

faith

Case Study: What if the top changed?
What skills, character, and faith are
needed to have **nice comfy, Christian
community?**



Nice comfy
Christian
community

skills

character

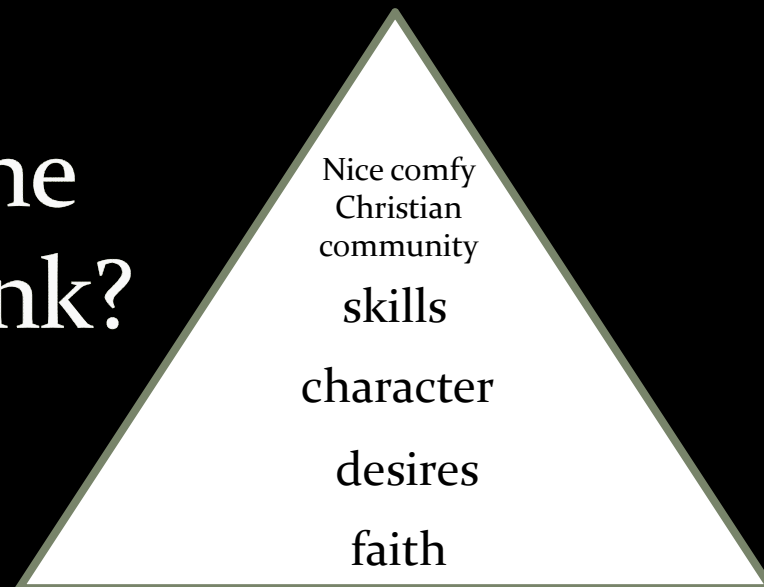
desires

faith

Case Study: What if the top changed?
What skills, character, and faith are
needed to have **nice comfy, Christian
community**?

NOT MUCH

Notice how much the
triangle would shrink?



Great Commission in the Gospels

- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19 – 20)
- But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ (Mark 16:7)
- Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46 – 47)
- As the Father has sent me, I also send you. (John 20:21)

Example: The Gospel of Matthew

- Structure
 - When Jesus had finished these words (Mt.7:28)
 - When Jesus had finished giving instructions (Mt.11:1)
 - When Jesus had finished these parables (Mt.13:53)
 - When Jesus had finished these words (Mt.19:1)
 - When Jesus had finished all these words (Mt.26:1)
- Ending
 - Great commission: On a mountain, overlooking the inheritance (Mt.28:16 – 20)

Example: The Gospel of Matthew

- Structure
 - When Jesus had finished these words (Mt.7:28)
 - Jesus' identity; our heart transformation (Faith and Character)
 - When Jesus had finished giving instructions (Mt.11:1)
 - Jesus' word is powerful, transformative (Faith and Character)
 - When Jesus had finished these parables (Mt.13:53)
 - Understanding kingdom growth, OT (Character and Skills)
 - When Jesus had finished these words (Mt.19:1)
 - Cross-cultural mission (Character and Skills)
 - When Jesus had finished all these words (Mt.26:1)
 - Courage and conflict (Character and Skills)
- Ending
 - Great commission: On a mountain, overlooking the inheritance (Mt.28:16 – 20)

Some Concluding Thoughts

- To avoid shallow evangelism and discipleship, I understand Jesus to be saving us from our **evil**, not just from our guilt. Hence social justice, relational reconciliation, personal holiness, prayerfulness and spirituality, and all other 'discipleship issues' named by Jesus in his teaching are part of our living, embodied witness to the world.
- God's heart is for the world, **this world**, not just the next
- The result of having God's heart towards the whole world is a constant, lifelong process of growth and worship – dynamic, challenging, and attractive
- Faith, character, and skills can and must be developed **simultaneously**, not sequentially