

**Developing a model for  
understanding the role of  
perseverance in trials within  
marketplace ministry**

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## Intended Purpose

- Address a gap in narrative identity theory
- Acknowledge the role of perseverance in providing meaning and significance to the times of trial
  - Perseverance as a core component of how Christians are instructed to navigate trials (James 1:2-12)
  - Perseverance not acknowledged or addressed in literature on narrative identity
- Equip others to
  - Minister to others during times of trial
  - Navigate through their own trials

## Defining Terms

Trials

Perseverance

Narrative identity theory

## Addressing the Gap

- Narrative Identity Theory – Trial’s meaning is created through reflection on one’s past self.
- James 1:2-12 – Trial’s meaning is found in perseverance and the resulting character development.
- Applying a biblical framework to narrative identity theory suggests that meaning can be created as an individual goes through a trial

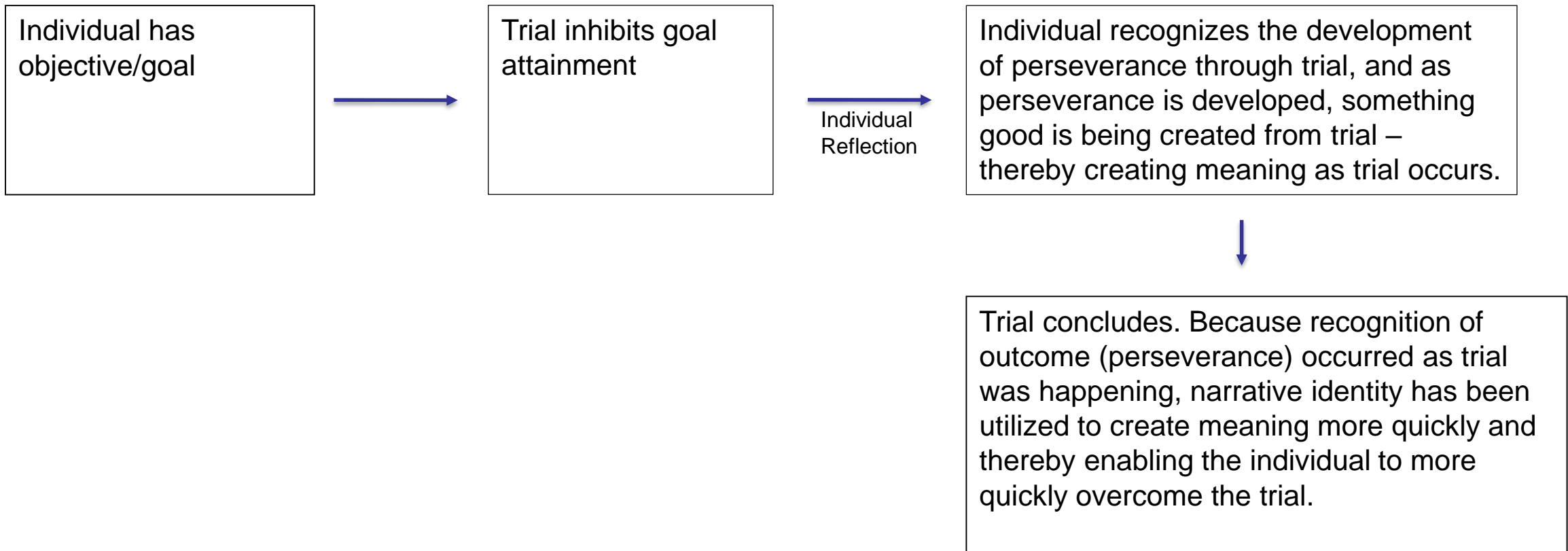
## Limitations & Challenges

- Assumptions of narrative identity theory
- General application of admonitions to believers?

## Existing Model



## Proposed Model



## Individual Reflection

Increasing Reliance on God

- Personal Memory
- Help from Others
- Help from Bible
- Prayer

Consistent with Narrative  
Identity & Christian Worldview

Distinctly Christian Worldview



## Summary Thoughts

- Giving meaning to trials as an individual goes through trials may increase likelihood of overcoming challenging circumstance.
- Christians know from Scripture and experience the truth of James 1
  - How might this influence nonbelievers acceptance of model?
- Successful trial navigation will enable individuals to apply skills to future trials they encounter.

## Continuing the Conversation?

1. Under what conditions can faith reliably and validly inform behavioral science?
2. How do we apply insight to the development of younger professionals?
3. How might this approach inform integration at the intersection of faith and learning?
4. What does this mean for our teaching?

## Thank You

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