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A mature member will be able to articulate their need for a savior, Jesus Christ.

SIN'S BEGINNING IS NOT SO MUCH THE EVIL WE CHOSE, BUT OUR HEART'S DESIRE TO CHOOSE IT.

The goal of this milestone is not to help us see our need for a savior. We've already acknowledged that in our testimonies. This milestone is about understanding yourself a little more clearly and to example and articulate this understanding to someone else.

So, let's start off with a fundamental question: What is salvation and how do you know you need it? Well, salvation provides something ... saving. This is elementary at first, but deeper than we might think. How do you know you need saving at all? Saving from what? Part of knowing yourself means knowing when you are in trouble and what you are in trouble from.

What I need saving from will make a huge difference regarding who can save me. If I'm in real danger of drowning, I need a trained lifeguard, or at least someone who can swim pretty well. That same lifeguard may not do me any good if I'm stuck in my house and it's in flames. Send in the fire department!

We are going to use this burning home metaphor to help us visualize our situation, so understanding what we need saving from is a good place to start. Just remember, in this metaphor, it's *your* home and it's *uncontrollably* on fire.

Eph 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Read Romans 1 and leave it open for reference.

Q. In your own words, what do (did) you need saving from? Or, what does your burning home represent?

AWARENESS/CONVICTION

How do we become aware or convicted that something about our lives just isn't right? Is it just a head thing, an observation, a feeling, or is it more than that? Can we just decide to notice the house is on fire, or does it need to be revealed to us? These questions point us to an uncomfortable truth...that we are blind about the death sentence of our own sin unless someone who can see helps us see.

John 16:8-11 And when he [the Holy Spirit] comes, *he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

This 'seeing' is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He convicts us of the housefire through His Word both spoken and written; He is the Spirit of Truth and will convince us of the truth of our situation.

John 16:13-15 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (14) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (15) All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Just because we now see fire does not necessarily mean we acknowledge the danger it represents. It may seem pretty safe. The smoke smells kind of good and it feels nice and warm in the chilly air. Besides, if it gets a really unruly, I can always put it out ... somehow.

If no one warns us of the danger, we will never know we are hopelessly trapped. But God knows and He makes sure there are warnings given. He calls out to us in several ways to tell us we are in trouble:

- **Scripture**

Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- **Prophets and Preachers**

Matt. 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, (2) “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- **Jesus Himself**

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”

Q. Take some time and think back. How did you know you needed saving at all? Or, how did the awareness and acknowledgement come to you?

REPENTANCE

Lastly, we are brought to the gift and blessing that is repentance. This is our opportunity to act. We’ve become convicted of sin and we acknowledge we are guilty of it. We are not just in a burning house; we are the burning house. If something doesn’t happen, we know we are doomed.

Repentance is our one chance to turn away from the sin that is destroying us and toward our one and only hope to be saved, the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hear the warnings and just turn.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, (15) and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; *repent and believe in the gospel.*”

Matt. 3:2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Jesus)

Acts 8:22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

Luke 13:1-5 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. (2) And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? (3) No, I tell you; but ***unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*** (4) Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? (5) No, I tell you; but ***unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.***”

Q. Do you recall the moment you turned away from your sin? What was that like for you?

As you reflect on your answer, spend some time in thankfulness to God for the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the offered blessing of repentance.

SUMMARY

Three things our loving God does inside each of us to bring us face-to-face with the Savior, Jesus Christ.

First, He gives us an **AWARENESS** and **CONVICTION** of sin in the world and in ourselves. Each of us is not just in a house on fire, we are the house.

He brings us to the **ACKNOWLEDGMENT** that the fire of our sin is killing us and that we cannot save ourselves.

He calls and empowers us to act, to **REPENT**; turn away from the sinful life we've lived and look up for the salvation that's been sent.

CONCLUSION

Being able to clearly talk about why you need a savior is important to you own mind and important for anyone you may have to communicate it to. Preparing yourself through some clarifying study is great preparation for those moments.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. Does being able to articulate your own salvation testimony give you more compassion for people who work for/with you? If so, how could you demonstrate that compassion?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **KMI Lesson 0.2, 1.1**
- **Bible Reading**
[Romans 1](#)
- **RightNow Media @WorkStudy**
Salvation
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/790605>

