

The Message • Pastor Ron Smith

Eternal Life

John 17:1-3



The Truth

What is eternal life?

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.



The Truth

How do we get to know God?

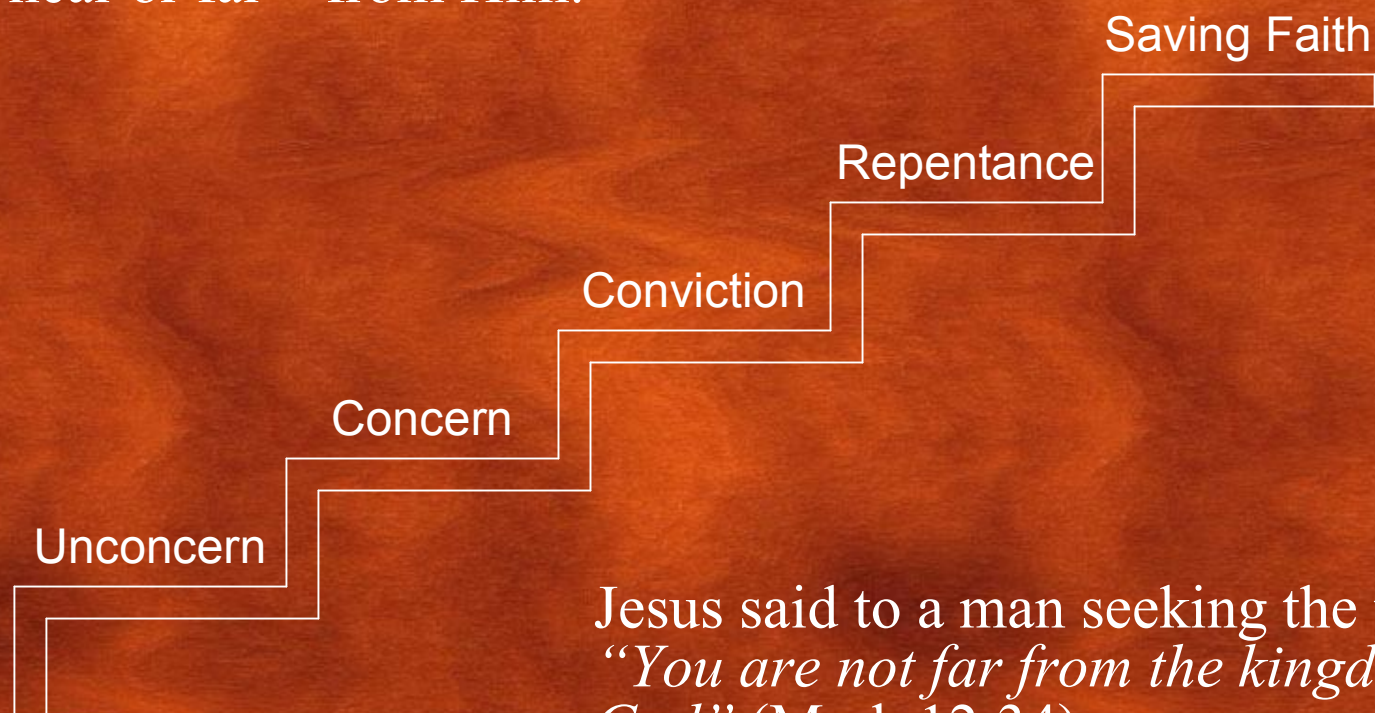
Jesus said, “It is written in the prophets,
‘And they shall all be taught by God.’
Therefore everyone who has heard and
learned from the Father comes to Me”
(John 6:45).



The Truth

Every person is on one of these 5 steps.

Your attitude determines your distance from God. Each “step” describes a heart attitude toward God and this determines your distance – near or far – from Him.



Jesus said to a man seeking the truth,
*“You are not far from the kingdom of
God”* (Mark 12:34).

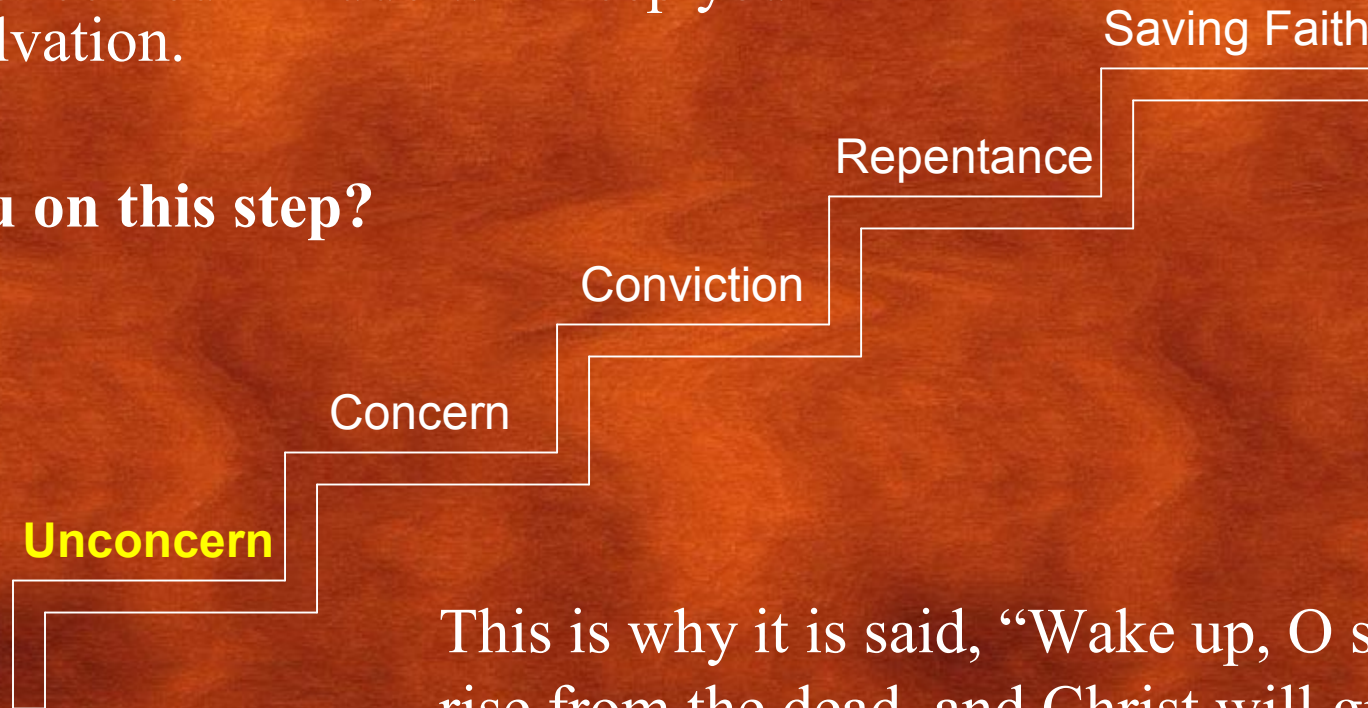


The Truth

You may know a great deal about Jesus and salvation, or very little. The important point is you do not really care.

An unconcerned attitude will keep you from salvation.

Are you on this step?



This is why it is said, “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light” (Ephesians 5:14).



The Truth

Concern

You are aware of your need and would like to find answers.

Something has caused you to awaken to your emptiness and spiritual need.



The Lord says, “You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

Are you on this step? This step can lead to . . .

The Truth



Conviction

You have a strong spiritual discomfort and guilt caused by the Holy Spirit showing you your sin and emptiness.

Do you hope to go to heaven by “being good” or “doing the best you can?” The questions you must ask yourself are, “Am I good enough? Have I kept God’s commandments 100% in thought, word, and deed?”

Unconcern

Concern

Conviction

Repentance

Saving Faith

Next, consider these important questions:

1. Have you sinned by breaking any of God’s laws?
2. Do your sins ever bother you?
3. How much? A little? Enough to do something about them?

Are you on this step? Conviction can lead to . . .

The Truth

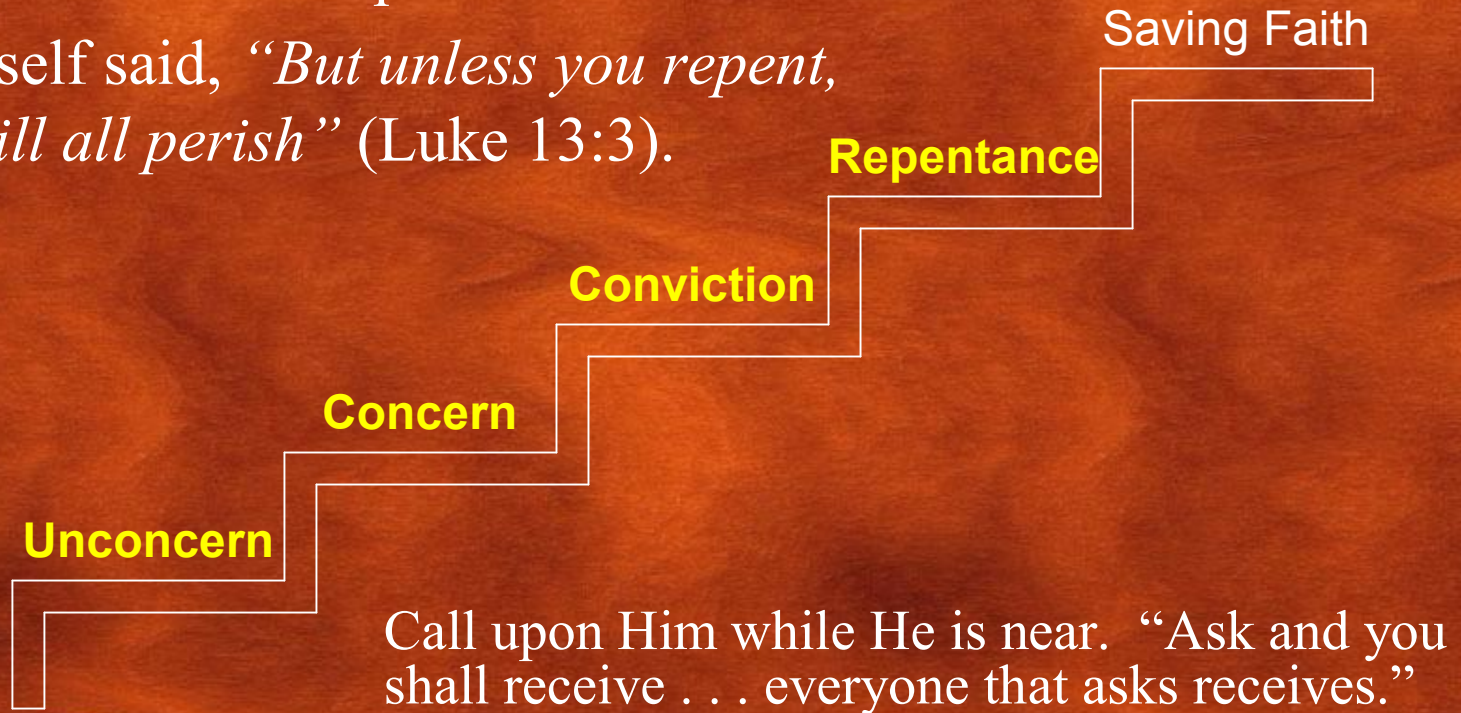


Repentance . . .

. . . is mentioned over 55 times in the New Testament.

How important is it to repent?

Jesus himself said, *“But unless you repent, you too will all perish”* (Luke 13:3).



If you are on this step, take the final step.

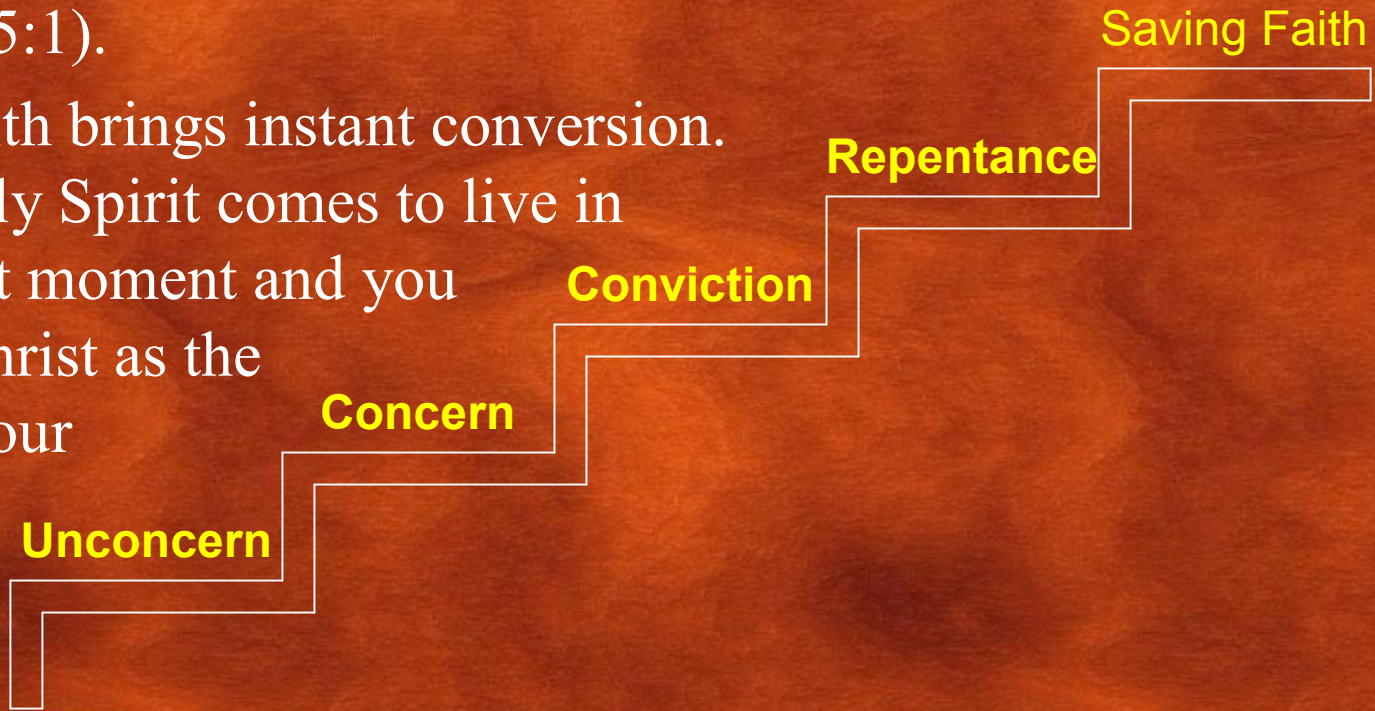
The Truth



Saving Conversion

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

Saving faith brings instant conversion. God's Holy Spirit comes to live in you at that moment and you receive Christ as the King of your life.



The Truth

How You Can Know You Are Born Again:

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

1. **If we keep His commandments.** We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands (1 John 2:3).
2. **If we love our brothers.** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death (1 John 3:4).
3. **By the witness of the Spirit.** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children (Romans 8:16).



The Truth

New life in Jesus Christ produces these changes:

1. **A desire to know the Bible.** *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 2:2).*
2. **A desire to obey Jesus Christ.** *If you love me, you will obey what I command (John 14:15).*
3. **Distress over sin.** *There you will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done (Ezekiel 20:43).*
4. **Concern for the lost – for sinners – for those who have no assurance of saving conversion.** *Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21).*



The Truth