

The Old Five Step Plan of Salvation¹

Acts 11:13-14

Introduction:

- A. In order to emphasize the words by which we are saved, pioneer preachers used five fingers.
 - 1. It was easy for children and unlearned to remember.
 - 2. Each finger represented a step in the gospel plan of salvation – H. B. R. C. B.
- B. Denominational preachers could not answer it, so they ridiculed.
 - 1. “Five finger creed of the church of Christ”
 - 2. “Five finger formula of the Campbellites.”
 - 3. “Five steps of water salvation.”
 - 4. “Five steppers”
 - 5. “Bound to a system not to a savior”
- C. A few younger Christians are now questioning the “five step formula” of giving our hearts to God.
 - 1. It is considered too legalistic.
 - 2. It is considered too mechanical.
 - 3. It is considered a hindrance to establishing a “personal relationship with Jesus.”
- D. One cannot establish a personal relationship without obedience (John 14:15; Luke 6:46; 8:21)
- E. Which of the five steps can be omitted and one still be saved or establish a relationship with Him?

Discussion:

I. Hearing?

- A. One cannot believe without hearing? (Rom. 10:13-17)
- B. Hearing essential to spiritual life (John 5:25; 6:63, 68)
- C. Hearing is essential to trusting Christ (Eph 1:13)

II. Belief?

- A. With it we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6)
- B. Without it we will die in our sins (John 8:24)
- C. Without it we will be damned (Mark 16:16; John 3:18)

III. Repentance?

- A. All men ever where must repent (Act 17:30).
- B. It is repent of perish (Luke 13:3; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- C. Repentance is connected to forgiveness (Luke 24:47).

IV. Confession?

- A. Since confession is unto salvation, can we omit it? (Rom. 10:9, 10)
- B. Must confess and not deny before men (Matt. 10:32-33).
- C. Eunuch confessed before being baptized (Acts 8:36-38)

V. Baptism?

- A. Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- B. Baptism is to wash away sins (Acts 22:16)
- C. Baptism needed to be saved in Christ (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21; Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:27).

Conclusion:

- A. We ask, what is wrong with the “five step formula?”
- B. We ask, which step can we eliminate and still come to Christ and be saved?
- C. We ask, how can anyone have any kind of relationship with Christ, personal or otherwise, without these five steps?

¹Seed thought for this sermon gotten from an article by Larry Hafley called “No, ‘five step formula?’” published on internet.