The Old Five Step Plan of Salvation
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)

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.