

The Five-Fold Plan of Salvation

by John St. Clair

I have identified five steps to go through with a person whom I am leading to Christ. Of course, I first have to determine whether the individual is willing to listen to me and then I must determine whether he or she is saved. Details of that are listed on the soulwinning script that I have developed in the field together with established soulwinning strategies and techniques.

These are five steps that the prospect must take in order to receive salvation according to the scriptures. The first is the prospect must recognize that he is a sinner and understand the consequences of sin. The second is he must hear the gospel message. Thirdly, he must believe the message. Fourthly, he must confess with his mouth and believe in his heart that God raised Jesus from the dead with a resurrection body. Fifth, he must call on the name of the Lord to be saved.

The Sin Problem

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

By deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight. For by the law is the knowledge of sin. Rom 3:20

*For the **wages of sin** is death; but the gift **of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 6:22-23

Before presenting the gospel, which is the way of salvation, it is necessary first to show a prospect that if he does nothing about it, he is a sinner condemned to death and hell as the just reward for his sin. This is what people are saved from.

It is necessary to ask the prospect if he recognizes that he is a sinner. You may have to define a few common sins to convince him. Once the prospect knows he is lost, he will be motivated to hear how he can be saved. Romans 3:20 may be quoted in case the prospect thinks he will go to heaven based on being a good person.

Hearing the Gospel

*So faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** by the word of Christ. Rom. 10:17 NASB*

*And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians **hearing** believed, and were baptized. Acts 18:8*

*This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the **hearing** of faith? Galatians 3:2*

*For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of **preaching** to save them that believe. 1 Corinthians 1:21*

¹³*And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;*

¹⁴*Who shall tell thee **words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.** Acts 11:13-14*

¹*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;*

²*By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

³*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;***

⁴*And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

⁵*And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

⁶After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

⁷After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

⁸And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 1 Corinthians 15

The second thing the prospect needs to do after recognizing he is a sinner is to hear the message of Jesus Christ, that is the cross, burial, resurrection and subsequent appearances of Christ. In soul winning, we are actually preaching the gospel to individuals and small groupings of persons. This is the oral presentation of the elements of the gospel, which has from New Testament times been the bearer of faith for salvation.

At this time many people, while believing that Christ died on the cross, do not believe that He was raised from the dead in a glorified body and appeared alive for forty days as was prophesied in the scriptures. (Thou wilt not suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption) and witnessed by the Apostles and other disciples.

Believing the Gospel Message

The message consists of words whereby people may be saved as the angel told Cornelius. The faith to believe is a gift through grace delivered by the foolishness of preaching. The message (ho rhema Christos) has the power to save all who believe it. That is why we call our gospel ministry rhemapower.

Confessing with the mouth

It is not enough just to believe in the heart but the one who has heard and believed the gospel message must confess his belief with his mouth, especially that he believes that God raised Jesus from the dead. How many times did Jesus ask people if they believed what He said? "Believest thou this?" That is why I ask people who have heard the gospel if they believe it. It will do a person no good to pray a sinner's prayer if he doesn't believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. See 1 Corinthians 15 on the results of failing to believe the resurrection.

Calling on the Name of the Lord

"How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?" Paul wrote, indicating that there is an order in which these steps are to be presented. The gospel is to be presented to people who recognize they are sinners and need to hear it! The gospel must be heard, believed and confessed or calling on the name of the Lord will be ineffective.

I use a form of the sinner's prayer to lead the prospect into calling on the name of the Lord for salvation. I have the person pray after me recognizing that he is a sinner and needs Christ's salvation. I have him ask forgiveness for his sins and invite Christ into his heart. I have him promise to God to serve Him the rest of his life.

When I finish the prayer I go over the fact that with Christ in his heart the scripture says that he is guaranteed to go to heaven and he can be sure of that. Most people can sense that Christ is in their heart and know that something real has happened to them. This is the best part of soulwinning for the soulwinner—seeing the miracle of new birth happen right before your eyes.

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