

Five Steps

Restoration preachers used variations on this outline to present the gospel:

Believe	Hear	Believe
Repent	Believe	Repent
Confess	Repent	Confess
Be baptized	Confess	Be baptized
Receive the Spirit	Be baptized	Live faithfully

What do people understand from this?

Common Misunderstandings

- Believe: blind leap
- Repent: stop doing bad stuff
- Confess: tell everyone what you did wrong
- Be baptized: optional
- Receive the Spirit: Pentecostal
- Live faithfully: flawlessly

Believe

- Believe is the verb, faith is the noun of the same Greek root word.
- Characteristics of biblical faith:
 - Understanding the resurrection as evidence
 - Recognizing the need for a sacrifice
 - Acceptance of the Bible by evidence
 - Realistic hope of heaven
 - Trust in the promises of God
 - Accomplishing the humanly impossible
 - Telling others

Repent

- Setting aside one way of thinking in favor of another. Choosing a new set of priorities.
- This change of mind causes a change in behavior.
- The kindness of God prompts repentance.
- Biblical repentance happens once.
- God responds with forgiveness.
- Repentance leads to eternal life.

Confess

- Acknowledge who is in charge.
- In some cases (23%), this included telling of past behavior, although the point was to warn others of the futility of excuses.
- Involves speaking.

Be Immersed

- Symbolism
 - Sins washed away
 - Sanctified
 - Living sacrifice
 - Resurrected to a new life on earth
 - Resurrected to eternal life at Judgment
 - Freed from slavery to sin
 - Miraculous unity
 - Transformation begins
 - Rescued from an evil world
- They just did it.

Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit

- Acts 2:38
- Seal or pledge (2 Corinthians 5:5, 2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13)
- Evidence (1 John 3:23 – 24, 4:12 – 13)
- Effort by us (Ephesians 5:18, Luke 11:13)
- Do not quench (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit

- Jobs
 - Romans 5:5
 - Romans 8:9 – 16
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - Galatians 3:2 – 5
 - Galatians 5:22
 - Ephesians 3:16

Live Faithfully

- Revelation 2:7 Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.
- 2 Peter 1:2 – 11 Growth in character makes our election sure.
- 1 John 2:6, 3:3, 3:16 Imitate Jesus
- 1 Peter 2:2 Long for the pure milk of the Word.