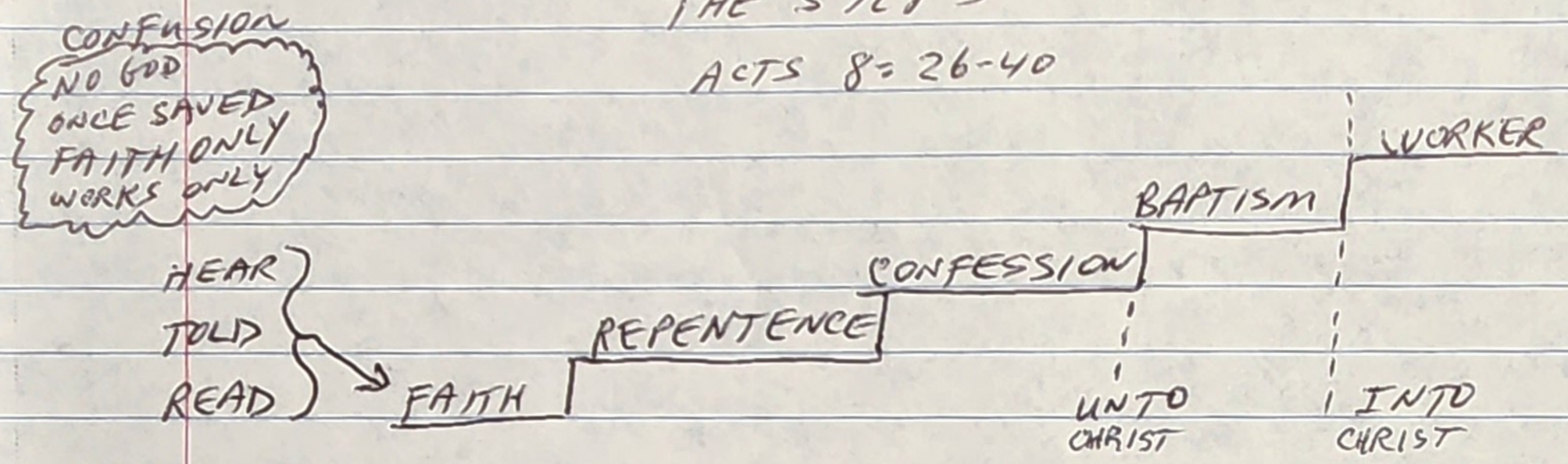
Loco
8-78

Lorenzo
11-16-86
3-21-93
Seymour
1-87

6-8-97
5-11-08
5-13-12

THE STEPS

ACTS 8:26-40



I. FAITH - Allegiance to duty or a person: belief and trust in God.

A) Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1) While the object of faith cannot be seen, its presence has a vital impact on our lives.

2) II Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

a) NEW YORK CITY., ETC.

1) We believe it is there because that is what we read and was told.

b) We have this assurance - or faith - that something we want is going to happen - even though we cannot see it. THE FAITH THAT JESUS WILL RETURN, AND HOPE THAT WE WILL BE READY FOR HIM.

B) Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

1) We believe that God created the world out of nothing by His command. LOOK AROUND YOU AT THE BEAUTY OF THIS WORLD. FAITH OF A BETTER LIFE.

C) Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

1.) Faith is the confidence that God does exist, and the conviction that He rewards those that earnestly seek Him.

B) Ps 62:8 Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us.

1.) When a severe storm is upon us, we seek shelter until it is past; TORNATO SHELTER.

2.) In the times we are troubled and feeling low, Go to God in prayer - He is our shelter from the storms of this life.

II. REPENTENCE - To turn from sin and resolve to reform ones life.

1.) Turn AWAY from sin and reach for God.

A.) Isa 55:6-7 Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

1.) The decision to come to God involves submission.

2.) God feels compasion and love for us and extends His mercy to us.

B.) Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the ~~sower~~ SOWER, and bread to the eater.

1.) Gods word is gentle and life-giving; Isaiah refers to it like the gentle rain that waters the earth and causes life to spring up.

GET YOURSELF READY FOR RETIREMENT; YOU MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE IT, BUT YOU SHOULD BE READY. GET READY FOR THE LORD TODAY - TOMORROW MAY BE TO LATE.

2.) God is a loving and forgiving God, and we need to seek out the Lord, now, before it is too late.

c.) Lk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

JESUS

1.) This story of the lost sheep pictures ~~God~~ searching for the person who strayed away.

2.) Jesus draws attention to the joy that the shepherd feels as he finds the lost sheep and brings it home.

HEAVENS

3.) The "joy in heaven" ~~is~~ ~~God's~~ joy for the repentant sinner.

D.) Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall recieve the gift of the Holy Ghost.

1.) Turn away from sin and you will be forgiven.

III. CONFESSION - An act of confessing - a formal statement of religions ~~beliefs~~ beliefs.

A.) Rom 10:8-11 Pg 1200

1) Speak the words from your heart and mean what you say.

2) Don't do it just to please someone else; say it to please God.

3) Don't be ashamed to make the confession that you believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

4) This is a total commitment - you can't be a part time Christian and ~~get~~ expect to get into heaven.

B.) Mt 10:32-33 pg 1024

1) The message the disciples carry is the most critical in the world.

2) Its not a message intened to bring earthly peace, for it will stir up opposition.

3) Yet its acceptance or rejection determines each persons eternal desting.

4) If we confess Christ before men, He will confase us to God.

5.) We can deny Christ not only with our mouth, but (ALSO) by our actions.

C.) Jn 12:42-43 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him; lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

1.) Here we have some people in a place of honors, and are looked up to.

2) If they confersed Christ they might lose that respect.

a) They put man before God.

3) We can see that today when preachers preach what the people want to hear - not what they need to hear.

D.) Rom 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

1.) If we do not confess Christ here - we will confess Him on the judgement day.

Faith
Repentence
& Confession } ~~Faith~~ Belief + trust in God
Turned from sin + are reaching for God
Confess that Christ is the Son of God
These steps lead us to Christ.

III. BAPTISM - A christian sacrement signifing spiritual rebirth and symbolized by the ritual use of water.

1) Baptize - dipped - to dip.
Greek - immerse.

A) Mk 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

REPENT FROM YOUR SINS AND CONFESS CHRIST → a) Believe that Christ is the Son of God, and Be baptized you will have that chance of a home with Him.

b) Believe not and you will spend eternity in Hell.

B) Acts 8:35-38 pg 1161

1) Immerse - all the way under. This is a burial and a spiritual rebirth. So your whole body (ARMS, LEGS Head - everything) goes under water.

2) Perhaps the most striking element in the story (Philip + the Eunuch) is that God led Philip away from an effective evangelistic campaign, that was reaching hundreds of people, to witness to a signal person.

3) Let us never forget that everyone is ~~special~~ important to God.

C) Rom 6:3-4 pg 1196

1) Being born again by baptism, wet on the outside, but clean on the inside & A ~~NEW~~ NEW LIFE TO LOOK FOREWARD TO TOO.

2.) This act of baptism joins us to Jesus so ~~completely~~ completly that His death and resurrection ~~became~~ BECAME our own.

3.) With this union with Christ we share in all that He ~~has~~ has, including the power of a new life -

D.) Mt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

a.) Christ is telling ~~His~~ His disciples to spread the Word, and baptize those that believe.

b.) Aren't we His disciples also?

1.) We need to remember that nothing (badness of others BEING ridiculed, FOR WHAT WE BELEAVE the government IN DISREGARD OF) can limit the power of the Gospel or prevail against those who obey Christs commands.

BAPTISM - Puts us into Christ.

V. WORKER - One that works - a person who works for wages. THAT HOME IN HEAVEN IS OUR PAY.

HIRE OUT TO WORK FOR SOMEONE FOR AN AGREEDUPON WAGE

A.) James 1:22-25 pg 1284

1.) Judge hears the case and listens to the facts presented and makes his ruling, BASED ON WHAT IS PRESENTED.

LAWYER DOES NOT PRESENT ALL THE FACTS.

a) God has the Book of Life - is your name in it?

2) Don't say one thing and then do something else - we are to read the Bible, study it, and live the life as a Christian.

3.) Just listening to the Word of God won't help us with the tests that He gives us. A commitment on our ~~part~~ part in following Christ will lead to a blessing in all that we do.

I never knew you, DEPART FROM ME YE WORKERS OF INIQUITY →

B.) Rom 2:13 For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

1.) Don't just be hearers - but doers.

C.) James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

1.) James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

2.) The kind of faith that justifies a person before God is a faith that expresses itself in works.

a) Any faith which is not accompanied by works is not a saving kind of faith.

3.) You have to have a working faith. Don't sit back and let someone else carry the load.

VI. CONCLUSION

A.) II Tim 4:6-8 pg 1267

1.) Paul felt that he was ready to die and live with Christ.

a) Can you say this?

2.) FRCB

a) How far up the STEPS are you?

b.) Did you miss a step and fall?

3.) Christ wants to help, He has His hand out.

a) Won't you take His hand and let Him remove that burden of sin off of you?