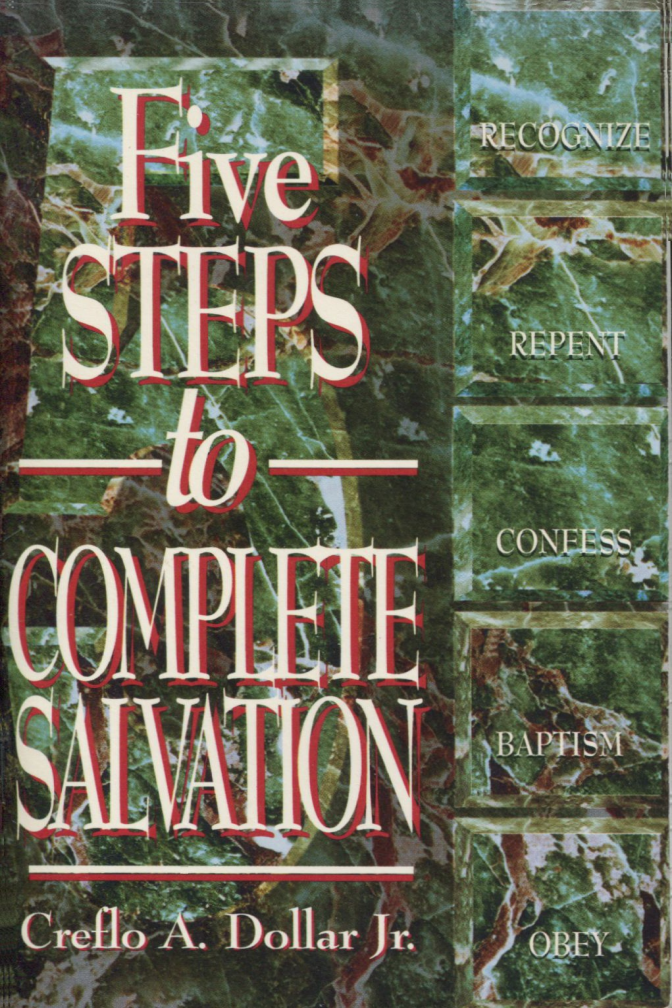

Five
STEPS
to
COMPLETE
SALVATION
Creflo A. Dollar Jr.
RECOGNIZE
REPENT
CONFESS
BAPTISM
OBEY

Five Steps to Complete Salvation

by
Creflo A. Dollar Jr.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked *Amp* are taken from *The Amplified Bible, New Testament* Copyright © The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977. Used by permission.

Five Steps to Complete Salvation
ISBN 1-885072-06-6
Copyright © 1997 by Creflo A. Dollar Jr.
Creflo Dollar Ministries
P. O. Box 490124
College Park, GA 30349

Published by Creflo Dollar Publications
P. O. Box 490124
College Park, GA 30349

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved under International Copyright

Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the Publisher.

Contents

Introduction.....5

1 The Great Commission.....11

2 Fishers of Men.....15

3 Drawing the Net.....19

4 Realize You Are A Sinner.....27

5 Repentance.....29

6 Confession.....31

7 The Sinner's Prayer.....33

8 Water Baptism and Baptism of the Holy Spirit.....37

9 Obedience to the Word of God.....47

10 Checklist.....49

11 Your Father's Business.....53

Introduction

Salvation is deliverance from the power and effects of sin. It is the state of breaking the authority of Satan over one's life and allowing the light of Christ, The Anointed One, to empower you through righteousness. It's the process of exchanging the thoughts, words and deeds of the world for the renewal of life found only in the Word of God. Simply put, it's the road out of Hell and the pathway into Heaven.

You've no doubt heard people refer to themselves as being "saved". Many feel that just because they believe in God, they are saved. Others base their salvation on the fact that they attend church.

According to the Bible,

> *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)*

Confessing with your mouth and believing with your heart are the prerequisites to a life in Christ. Salvation is a multi-faceted process that begins with taking the five steps outlined in this book, and continues as you live a life that is totally pleasing to God. Becoming saved leads you out of the darkness of sin into the marvelous light of truth and holiness. You are agreeing to reject the ways of the world's society into which you were born, and accept the standards of God's

kingdom, into which you are reborn or "born-again."

When you make the quality decision to allow Jesus to become Lord of your life, you are agreeing to live by His Word and follow His commandments—turning your back on sin and embracing the righteousness that is Christ. Complete salvation involves prayer, meditation on the Word, tithing, righteousness and obedience to the voice and will of God. To do these things, it is necessary to learn of the many Bible truths and promises God has made (and kept) to those of us who have surrendered our lives to Him. But, as essential as these activities are, most people feel as though being saved shouldn't take such effort. You may be saying, "I'm not a bad person. I don't steal, I've never killed anyone and I go to

church occasionally I don't cheat on my mate, or my taxes. Isn't that enough?"

Well, let me put this in a way that you'll understand. Good without God is like a car without gas, or a bank account with no money in it—empty and non-productive. And, unfortunately, good without God doesn't count. Goodness cannot be equated with godliness. Some of the nicest people in the world will end up in Hell, unless they get saved and learn to live their lives God's way instead of their own. It's mandatory that you follow God's rules instead of making them up as you go, to justify your situations and circumstances. You will not get to Heaven because you're a nice person. However, you will get there if you are a person who loves God, and keeps His commandments.

I know this will come as a surprise to many of you, but you can't demand the blessings of God unless you're one of His. So, if you want to avail yourself of soundness, protection, peace and all that the Kingdom of God has to offer, *"... marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again."* (John 3:7)

1 The Great Commission

To be saved is to be born-again. Saved means you are set apart for Christ, The Anointed One, and you have His anointing on your life. Salvation is a gift available to all who change their attitude and direction away from sin, and believe on Jesus. This belief prepares you to confess Him as your Lord and personal Savior. The opposite of saved is lost, so if you picked up this book because you're not saved and want to be—praise God!—because your deliverance is at hand. If you are saved, and desire to know the procedure for bringing someone to Christ, your training is about to begin.

As Christians, we each have the responsibility of saving souls and bringing them into the kingdom of God. The mandate has been given to us to preach the gospel—the good news that Jesus is anointed to remove burdens and destroy yokes—to everyone we meet. In Mark 16:15 we are told to *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* Again, in Luke 14:23, we read that we are to go *"into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."* These are not suggestions, but commandments from God, and to ignore them is to be disobedient. Throughout the New Testament, Christ commands us to go out and save until every lost soul has been snatched from the clutches of the devil. God says in His Word, that He does not want even one soul to be lost, and it is

up to you and I to carry out His will in the earth. Every born-again Christian should possess the compelling love for others that gives one the desire to see them saved.

The gospel has not just been given to those who are pastors, or in leadership positions within a church organization. We are all our brothers keeper, and will answer at judgment if we fail to warn the lost of the dangers of living an unsaved life. God specifically admonishes us concerning this in His Word.

> *If thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from the error of his ways, that man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand. (Ezekiel 33:8)*

So you see, we're held accountable for

those to whom we fail to minister the gospel. Perhaps you have not been taught this before, but glory to God, you know of this commandment now. And, if you're personally seeking entrance into the kingdom, don't stop your search after reading about the mechanics of getting saved. Find a church where the Word of God is being taught in a way that you can understand. Sit at the feet of a shepherd who teaches you how to apply the Word to your everyday life. Being saved is not complete without assembling yourself together with others who are righteous. You must live the Word, rather than just read it.

2 Fishers of Men

You will always encounter someone who is without Christ in his or her life. For this reason, you as a Christian, should know how to minister salvation. You cannot rescue a soul from Hell if you don't know the procedure. And remember, according to the Word of God, it's your duty to get folks saved. In the past, most people have felt that this is an assignment given only to preachers, but you know now that is not so. Soulwinning, as it is called, is an assignment from God designed to enable those of us who love Christ to personalize His gospel.

Don't allow the devil to deceive you into thinking you can't handle this task. You no longer have to wait until Sunday to bring folks to church to get them saved, because now, you'll be able to minister salvation yourself. The steps are simple and easy to understand. And believe me, as a result of learning how to bring someone into the kingdom, you will get the opportunity to try these steps out on someone who needs and wants Jesus to come into their life.

"Come ye after me and I will make you to become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17) Jesus was telling the disciples in this scripture that He was about to turn them into soulwinners. He assigned to them (and all us modern day disciples), the task of fishing men out of sin and catching them up into righteousness. Don't think for one

moment that you or the person you bring to salvation have to be perfect. Don't make the mistake of not getting saved because you feel unworthy, or not approaching someone for salvation because that person doesn't conform to your idea of what a Christian should be. Being ready for Christ has nothing to do with a person's habits, behavior or lifestyle, but everything to do with a person's willing heart. Besides, Jesus invites all to come as they are. A fisherman catches the fish first, and then cleans it, not the other way around. Once the person is saved, clean-up or transformation will begin, but don't fail to minister salvation because you've judged a person's character. Don't neglect getting saved because your own character doesn't presently line up with the Word. Come to

Jesus first, and then let His power and anointing change your life.

3 Drawing the Net

One of the necessary elements of bringing someone to salvation is sharing the gospel. How much do you know about Jesus? Do you know about His anointing to prosper you, heal you and deliver you from bondage? Do you know that His ministry on earth began when He was 30 years old? And, that He was able to perform miracles only after the Holy Spirit came upon Him? Do you know that Christ is not Jesus' last name, but translated means "The Anointed One and His Anointing"?

What I'm trying to point out is this: In order for you to be an effective witness,

and bring someone to Christ, you need to be able to share the information of the gospel. If you don't know it, start by reading the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Within these pages you'll get an introduction into the life of Christ, and a look at His anointed ministry When you are ready to share this information, invite the person needing salvation to trust Jesus as their Lord and personal Savior.

Generally speaking, you will be administering these steps to someone who has expressed a desire to come to Christ. However, in some cases you will initiate the contact, and the candidate may not be as ready to accept Christ, as you are eager and compelled to see him saved. Since you don't know what's going on in a person's heart, you have to

attempt to "draw the net" to see if that person is indeed ready. Drawing the net is a term derived from fishermen, and it literally means to land the fish. Often, we as Christians minister to our unsaved friends and family members, and invite them to church, but fail to take them across the line from sin to salvation. We wrestle, argue, and sometimes even reprimand these folks, and still end up walking away in defeat.

The majority of people you talk about Christ with can be saved if you understand the reasons why, and methods of how to draw the net. Realize that this unsaved person must take Christ by faith, in the same way you and I had to come to Jesus. As Christians, we must encourage that person to exercise their faith in the Lord Jesus. It's one thing to

believe that Christ exists intellectually, it's another thing to go beyond that intellectual belief, and have faith in your heart that the gospel is real.

In order for a person to make the decision to come to Christ, he has to be told of the promises of God, and gently led to step out on those promises. In other words, through your testimony about what God can do and has done for you, the unsaved one will see that God is faithful to fulfill the promises He has made. This is the purest example of biblical faith—to take God at His promise, and step out on His Word.

If you have taken the initiative to get saved on your own, know this: God is not man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19). He promises in His Word to never leave

you nor forsake you. He is the reason you are able to take each breath, and greater than any problem you will ever face. Life without Jesus Christ is not living, but existing each day in a world devoid of peace, joy or understanding. He says in His Word, *"Verily, verily I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep."* Jesus is your entrance into the Kingdom of God. No one comes to the Father except by Him. *"All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them."*

Whatever, or whomever you served before you decided to come to Christ tried to steal you out of God's hands. But, Glory to God, He chose you before the very foundation of the world. Your heart has been set toward Him, and your ears have been closed to the voices of strangers.

I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief (Satan) cometh not but for to steal, kill and destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:7-12)

Those who are unsaved must make a decision. They must make a choice whether to stay in the world's system, or enter in the Word of God system. They must choose life, (God) or death (Satan). To not make a choice is to default to the devil. God so wants to see you saved that He further states: *"... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life."* (Deuteronomy 30:19) Simply ask: "Do you know Jesus as your Lord and personal Savior, or are you saved? Once the decision is made to accept Christ

as personal Lord and Savior, the five-step process can begin.

4 Realize You Are A Sinner

The first thing you have to do is to get the candidate for salvation to realize that he is a sinner. He may take exception to this, but explain that being born of a woman is the only prerequisite for this title. It has nothing whatsoever to do with how a person lives his life, or whether or not he prays or goes to church. Such activities as fornicating, swearing, stealing and killing are the fruits of sin, and are not what makes a person a sinner. You are a sinner first by birth, then by your activities you produce the negative fruits of sin. *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"* (Psalm 51:5) Don't allow offense to stop you

before you begin. Recognize and accept that because of the actions of Adam and Eve in the garden, we're all branded with the stigma of being sinners, merely by the fact that we are born into this world. Until a person is born-again, he remains in the state of sin into which he was first born.

5 Repentance

To repent means to change one's mind, to change one's heart and to change one's direction. The sinner is now facing a life of sin. To repent is to make an 180-degree turn (half circle), and go in a new direction with a change of mind and a change of heart. The decision has been made to turn away from darkness and toward the light—to step out of the world and into the Word. The reason you don't want to make a 360-degree turn, or a full circle, is because to do so will put you back in the same place of sin where you started. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us of all*

unrighteousness." Repentance does not just mean that you are sorry for the sinful things you've done. No, it's much more than that. To repent is to ask forgiveness for your sins and to never do them again. You make a decision to walk completely away from your former activities. If you don't succeed the first time, go to God, ask for forgiveness and repent again. The Word of God is not a cloak for wickedness, but as a born-again Christian, you now have an advocate with the Father, and have a right to call out to Him for mercy. When you go to God and ask Him to forgive your sins with a repentant heart, He takes every sin you've ever committed in life and casts them into the sea of forgetfulness, remembering them no more. The process of salvation is not effective unless repentance takes place.

6 Confession

Your heart and your mouth must work together to bring salvation to pass. Remember in Romans 10:9-10, the Bible tells us *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Words are spiritual containers that bring life to the process of salvation. You receive the Word in your heart, and believe what you read and hear. In order to release what has been deposited in your heart, you have to make confession with words. These words will change your life and chart your course toward Heaven. Prior to this, your words were driving you straight to Hell. The words you confess

when you get saved serve to kick Satan off the throne of your life and put Jesus on. You see, before you made the decision to get saved, whether you were a nice guy or not, Satan sat on the throne of your life. To not make a quality decision to serve God by getting saved is to make by default, the decision to serve the devil. Once confession is made that Jesus is Lord, and that God raised Jesus from the dead for your sins, the born-again experience has taken place. Basically, it takes three steps to effect salvation. In order they are; 1.) admitting and recognizing that one is a sinner; 2) repentance by turning away from sin toward righteousness; and 3.) confession that Jesus is Lord, and sits on the throne of your life.

7 The Sinner's Prayer

At this point you will solidify the salvation process by leading the candidate in a prayer of repentance and salvation. There's no need to get deep here, all you have to do is repeat the first three steps in a prayer.

Ask the person to raise his hands as an act of submission to Christ. Have him repeat this prayer:

Father, in the name of Jesus, I confess right now, and realize that I am a sinner. I repent of all my sins. I make an 180-degree turn away from all my sins. I change my heart, I change my mind, I change my direction and I turn toward Jesus Christ. I

confess with my mouth that God raised Jesus from the dead, and I believe in my heart that Jesus is alive and operates in my life. I thank you Lord that I am saved, Amen.

Remember, the title of this book is "Five Steps to Complete Salvation". The process is not complete until you take care of two more steps. You don't want folks to get born-again and have them end up backsliding within a week or two. No, they need to have a real stake in this process and not treat it lightly, as if they were signing up for aerobics classes. There's something about getting personally involved in a process that allows it to become more meaningful and lasting. So, the next two steps encourage participation on the part of the newly saved. It's at this point you can sharpen your knife in order to scale the fish you

are about to ultimately reel into the kingdom. Glory to God!

8 Water Baptism and Baptism of the Holy Spirit

This is one step, but it involves two different activities. Both are outward manifestations of salvation. The first is natural, and the second is spiritual. Once the person is saved, you should encourage them to receive water baptism. Why? Well, first of all if it's good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for you.

> *And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. (Matthew 3:6)*

Water baptism is a symbolic representation of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Once you become a Christian, believe and are baptized, you go down into the water, in effect dying to yourself and taking on the nature of Christ. This is where the death symbolism comes into play. Being put under water is symbolic of burial, and when you're brought up out of the water, that is a representation of the resurrection of Christ. Because this is an outward sign of an inward change, you must be born-again to truly participate in water baptism.

The second baptism is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues. If you have never spoken in tongues yourself, have never led a person to get filled with the Holy

Spirit, or never even heard tongues spoken, you're about to witness the glorious manifestation of one of the gifts of the Spirit. The evidence of speaking in other tongues is just that—a gift given freely from God to His born-again children. The first step in receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to get your candidate to understand that God gave this gift on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is already here, there is no need to tarry or wait around, and there is certainly no need to beg. Gifts, as you know are given freely, and the only thing you have to do with a gift is to receive it.

> *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them (the disciples). And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the*

Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:3-4)

Secondly, the only qualification for receiving this gift is that you must be born-again. 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 receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)*

Thirdly, help the person understand that it is scriptural to receive the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

> *Now, when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of*

the Lord Jesus). Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:14-17)

You lay hands as a point of contact to release your faith, and combine it with the candidate's faith. Let that person know that he can expect to speak in tongues when you lay hands on him. Explain to him that when you are born-again, a change takes place on the inside, that your spirit is re-created and ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is something he must receive on his own by faith. The fourth step is that you make sure to tell the person what to expect, otherwise he might have every idea imaginable about the experience. Tell him that he is to speak, and the Holy Spirit will act on his vocal cords, lips and tongue and put supernatural words on

his lips that may sound like babble. But, the candidate must open his mouth, supply the sound and do the speaking, which is called yielding to the Spirit. The Holy Ghost is a helper, but He will not do your praying for you. You have to yield your tongue and vocal cords and the utterance comes from inside. Utterance is a word defined in Greek as "expression" or "words." This expression comes from the inside as you yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit.

> *And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues... (Acts 19:6)*

The Holy Spirit does not speak in tongues, you do the speaking in tongues. Some people believe that the Holy Spirit

takes their tongue and begins to talk, but to do so would override your will. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman and cannot and will not do that. Speaking in tongues is a matter of saved Christians worshipping God and praying to Him in the Spirit. Be mindful of the terms you use to give instructions so as not to confuse, or in some cases, frighten the candidate. The candidate himself will have to disregard all fears he might have from previous discussions about speaking in tongues. It may be necessary to assure him that he will not receive a substitute for the Holy Spirit, since some people are actually concerned they will receive a demonic spirit rather than a holy one. Do you see now why it's necessary to be saved before you can receive your heavenly prayer language? Once saved, there are no

demons on the inside of you, just the Holy Ghost sitting on the throne of your life. A person might be fearful as I was fearful when I first received my prayer language, that I might be saying things to God that were not Christlike. The Bible says, *"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God; for no man understandeth him...."* (1 Corinthians 14:2) I didn't know what I'd be saying, and wanted to make sure. If this is the case, let your candidate know that there is nothing to fear, reminding him that fear is not of God.

> *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to*

your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11:11-13)

Also, in 1 Corinthians 12:3-4 (Amp), the Bible tells us:

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking under the power and influence of the (Holy) Spirit of God can (ever) say, Jesus be cursed! And no one can (really) say Jesus is (my) Lord except by and under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.

Once you've gotten past this point, encourage the candidate to open his mouth wide as an act of faith. You can't receive the Holy Spirit with your mouth closed, you must yield your instrument of speaking to Him. Speaking in tongues is actual cooperation between you as a

Christian and the Holy Spirit. You enter into the supernatural by what is being said, not because of who is doing the talking. And, just in case you're in the presence of others who are already filled with the Holy Ghost, don't allow them to crowd around the person you're ministering to, everyone speaking at once. To do so would just cause confusion, an that is not what's needed here because it is not of God.

9 Obedience to the Word of God

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous. (1 John 5:3)

As a born-again, spirit-filled Christian it is essential that you obey the Word of God. However, you can't obey the Word if you don't know the Word. The only way for you to live a successful life as a Christian is to stay in constant fellowship with the Father. You have to read your Bible daily, pray, exercise your faith and allow yourself to grow in the things of God. If you do not presently belong to a

Bible teaching, faith believing, Spirit-filled, Word based church, find one and attend so that you can grow spiritually.

10 Checklist

Make sure that you cover every step of the salvation process, from getting the person saved, to the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Complete Process of Salvation

1. Admit/recognize that you are a sinner. (Psalm 51:5)
2. Repentance. (1 John 1:9)
3. Confession. (Romans 10:9-10)
4. Baptisms—Water/Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:6) (Acts 2:3-4, 38) (Acts 8:14-17)

5. Obedience to the Word of God. (1 John 5:3)

Seven Steps to Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Understand that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:38)
2. Salvation is the only qualification necessary for receiving the Holy Spirit baptism. (Acts 2:38)
3. Laying on of hands is scriptural. (Acts 8:17)
4. Explain to the candidate what to expect. (Acts 19:6)
5. Disregard all fears about receiving a counterfeit. (Luke 11:11-13)
6. Open mouth as act of faith to receive Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

7. Don't crowd person or shout instructions. (1 Corinthians 14:33)

11 Your Father's Business

As a final measure, if the candidate has not received his prayer language after the seven steps have been ministered, instruct him to repeat "hallelujah" rapidly, which is the highest praise one can give to God. Then, tell him to stop saying this at some point and to speak anything but his native language. After this, the prayer language should flow freely as the candidate yields to the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this step is to help the person relax and center his attention upon the Lord, which will drive out any apprehension or doubt. As a result, this will help position him to be in a mode to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus won nearly all of His followers from His own personal efforts, going up to the different disciples while He walked through town, and inviting them to follow after Him. As such, He is the perfect example of winning souls, and made it a priority in His ministry.

Everywhere you go you can see people perishing and dying in their sin. Jesus is on his way back, and many are in desperate need of salvation.

> *The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2)*

Isn't it time you were about your Father's business?

There are wonderful benefits to living and abiding in the presence of the Lord. Benefits that can only be received once a person makes the quality decision to accept Christ, The Anointed One into their life.

Five Steps to Complete Salvation will take you from where you are, to where God has designed you to be – in His presence.

In this thought - provoking book, Creflo A. Dollar Jr. leads us to the understanding and admission that we are all born into sin, and concludes with guidelines on how to walk in holiness, and live a life totally pleasing to God.

The information contained in *Five Steps to Complete Salvation* will enable you to lovingly bring someone who is lost in the darkness, into the marvelous light of salvation. It is an introductory lesson of how to fellowship and walk with God.

These five inspirational steps lead you directly to the Kingdom of God. Make the decision to either take them for yourself, or share them with a friend.