

Please be patient, God is not finished with me yet.

The first word of the Gospel is "repent." The opening sentence to the gospel message of Jesus, John the Baptist, and Jesus' disciples was, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Christian Salvation, in my view, is not an instantaneous event. It is an ages-long process. All were redeemed on Calvary. They just don't all know it yet and for this reason they are not experiencing a relationship with Christ that is available to all because of Calvary. Repentance is a change of mind or attitude toward God, when God opens our eyes and removes the blindness and enables us to enter into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. It may be equated with a change in the direction of our lives. We need to keep in mind that repentance occurs in degrees. We don't usually start out by repenting of every known sin and completely turning from every ongoing sin. We start out as "*babes in Christ*," in the words of the Apostle Paul. We don't become perfect right away. Becoming perfect is an ages-long process of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. No one is "completely" saved in that sense. The goal of our salvation experience is to become like Christ in every respect and become perfected in heaven one day. Repentance should not be equated with praying a sinner's prayer and then thinking that we are now done with it. We should not regard our salvation experience as something that occurs only at one single moment in time. I like the acronym that was popularized many years ago by Bill Gothard: PBPGINFWMY - "Please Be Patient, God Is Not Finished With Me Yet."