

The Way

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In a recent article, I told of how my personal salvation was not attained in an instant, but that it was a process. Unlike Paul, formerly Saul, it did not happen all at once. Saul, if you recall, was a Centurion who spent his time persecuting and executing some of the first to follow the teachings of Christ and the New Covenant. Then, one day, as he was riding to his next conquest, a bright light descended upon him. The light was Jesus. Jesus had a short conversation with Saul, renamed him Paul, and the conversion was done. Paul was saved and later sainted for his subsequent work.

I cannot relate how those among us today feel that they were saved, and saved in short order, but suspect that for most of us, it has been a long haul.

In birth, each of us have traits that are good and those that are undesirable. I offer myself as an example. As a child, I had a terrible temper and would explode at the slightest irritation. I had to first acknowledge this, and then work to control it, finally eliminating it. This is what many Christians refer to as the path to Personal Holiness. Each person, through self-examination, can identify proclivities which are in opposition to Personal Holiness and then, through self-discipline, exchange that for something more desirable. For example, trading temper for forgiveness.

After repeating the process several times, the desired and Holy trait becomes an embedded part of our character and personality.

Perhaps it was this process that Jesus referred to when He said, "I am the Way." Perhaps He meant that each of us has the ability to achieve self-purification simply by using Jesus as our guide and adopting Personal Holiness.