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HOW THEY ENTERED CANAAN
(A Collection of Holiness Experience Accounts)
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

L. H. ZIEMER

Shortly after my coming to Mansfield, although I had had so wonderful an experience of salvation, I began to sense a deep spiritual need in the very center of my being, a crying out after God that I never dreamed was possible in this life. What it all meant, I did not fully understand. I had no Scriptural heart-knowledge of the sanctification taught in the Word of God. No one had ever spoken to me about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, nor taught me the importance of it. Therefore again the faithful Holy Spirit Himself was leading me into all this truth.

I was already fully convinced of the fact, "that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing." Also I was often very conscious of the lack of power in my preaching; so few people were convicted of sin. And then, too, there was a sad lack of courage to witness for my Lord, just at times when I should witness for Him. I knew and understood clearly that God was holy, but in myself I found the evidence that I was unholy; I knew that "God is love," but within myself I found stirrings of anger, of wrath, of bitterness, and of strife. Like the prophet, of old, I too cried in my distress: "Woe is me, for" I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." What was I to do?

Prayerfully I turned to the Word of God. All my heart's desires were going out to God, and my very soul was panting after God "as the hart panteth after the water-brooks." Then all at once the same flood-tide of glorious Gospel light shone in upon my soul, as at the first, only that the radiance of it seemed even more glorious now than before.

I fell upon my face and wept before the Lord; how long I do not now remember. Time was altogether immaterial. But presently, through my tears, I beheld Calvary. And there upon the tree I saw the bleeding, dying form of Jesus my Savior, "The Lamb of God," crucified and slain for me. The contortions of His agony were excruciating. And I saw Him not so much as bearing my actual transgressions and sins, but rather as the Sin-Offering, God's Lamb "made sin for me, that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21). I saw Him there suffering, bleeding and dying as the accursed one, under the awful curse of a just God, not only that I might be forgiven of my sins and justified through faith, but also that my heart might be cleansed from all sin and from

every unrighteousness, and my body indeed prepared as an holy temple of the Lord (I Cor. 6:19-20).

And now a holy, heavenly voice spoke to me, saying: "Lo, this hath touched thy lips: and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." Thus, in a moment of time, it was revealed to me, that "Christ is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Cor. 1:30); and that by that "one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Oh, glorious rapture of the soul! I arose, shouted, and sang, and laughed in the Spirit until I cried for very joy as the flood-tide of God's grace rolled in over my soul again and again with purifying and cleansing power. I felt the holy fire of God burning in my soul. The Holy Spirit had come to abide forever. The Lord Jesus Christ was baptizing me with the Holy Spirit according to his word and promise.

"Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" I had known already before this, but now "the peace of God which passeth all understanding" settled down upon me, henceforth to "keep my heart and mind through Christ" forever. In my spirit I worshipped the Lord. Instantly Romans 12:1 flashed into my mind, -- "I beseech you by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." To obey God meant His favor and blessing. So that very day and hour I made a complete surrender of myself to God, and in deepest, fullest consecration I not only spoke the words to Him, but also wrote them out before the Lord as follows:

"I call heaven and earth to witness this 17th day of June, 1915, that I now and forever give myself away, body, soul, and spirit, together with all I am or ever can hope to be, to God my Father, who has created me for His own glory, and to Jesus Christ my Lord, who saved me by His Blood, and to the everlasting control of the blessed Holy Spirit, my Sanctifier and Comforter, to love and to serve Him in sunshine or rain, in loss or in gain, in joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. Amen and Amen."

"Drops of grief can ne'er repay,
The debt of love I owe:
Here Lord I give MYSELF away,
'Tis all that I can do."

Experience has taught me that it is a good thing to do things definitely and thoroughly, when "driving stakes" for God. Then when the devil comes around afterward to vex and torment you, to lie about and accuse you, you can take him to the place where you have driven the stake for God, and resist him in the faith until he flees from you.

God asks no more of any of His children than a definite surrender of themselves to Himself. And He gives the Holy Spirit "to them that obey Him" (Acts 5-32). Immediately, therefore, upon this my consecration God witnessed again to my heart with a most gracious filling with the Holy Spirit.

And may I add this further word: This most gracious experience of the deeper life in Christ is no fanciful dream of emotionalism on my part. It is scriptural, actual, and true. I have continual evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit abiding in me. Daily and hourly He gives me power to overcome; by reckoning myself dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto Christ, I find that sin cannot have dominion over me. By His grace and power I am enabled to "walk in the light, as He is in the light," and so we have fellowship one with another, and His Blood cleanseth me from all sin. Day by day He cleanses me of all my faults, failures, shortcomings and sins, -- because, yielded to Him in spirit, soul, and body, these are errors of the head rather than of the heart. Before God's throne He Himself is "the propitiation, for my sins," keeping our fellowship unbroken and complete. Oh, praise His Name forever!

And what a difference this experience made in my life and ministry! I now had power to witness for my Lord that I never knew anything of before. Now, too, His Word was like a sharp, two-edged sword, and carried pungent conviction to the hearts of the hearers. Men began to cry out, -- "What must I do to be saved?" Whilst others hardened their hearts in sin, and gnashed their teeth at me in wrath and anger.

Source: "The Story Of My Conversion" by L. H. Ziemer

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THE END