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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

### **GEORGE SHADFORD (One of Wesley's Missionaries To America)**

George Shadford was one John Wesley's early missionaries to America, became a friend and worker with Francis Asbury, and he was a powerful witness to, and advocate of, entire sanctification. One writer describes Shadford's Christian experience and character thus:

"For nearly fifty four years, Mr. Shadford had enjoyed a sense of the Divine favor, His conduct and conversation sufficiently evinced the truth of his profession. For many years he had professed to enjoy that perfect love which excludes all slavish fear and if Christian tempers and a holy walk are proofs of it, his claims were legitimate. Maintaining an humble dependence upon the merits of the Redeemer, he steered clear of both Pharasaim and Antinomianism: his faith worked by love. Truly happy himself, there was nothing forbidding in his countenance, sour in his manners, or severe in his observations. His company was always agreeable, and his conversation profitable. If there was any thing stern in his behavior, it was assumed; to silence calumniators and religious gossips. In short, he was a man of prayer, and a man of God."

To a great extent, George Shadford was God's channel for bringing Holy Ghost revival to America just before, and as, the Revolutionary War was began -- and, in the following description of that revival by another writer, bear in mind that Shadford was one of the "Preachers of Methodism" to whom reference is made:

"Such was the success which the militant Preachers of Methodism pushed forward their conquests amid the tumults of the Revolutionary War. This Great Revival was as remarkable, in some respects more remarkable, than the Great Awakening under Edwards, in New England. It was more durable. I have had occasion to cite frequently the report which Jarratt made of it to Rankin for Wesley. He says, 'One of the doctrines, as you know, which we particularly insist upon, is that of a present salvation; a salvation not only from the guilt and power, but also from the root of sin; a cleansing from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, that we may perfect holiness in the fear of God; a going on to perfection, which we sometimes define by loving God with all our hearts. Several who had believed were deeply sensible of their want of this. And I have been present

when they believed that God answered this prayer, and bestowed this blessing upon them. We have sundry witnesses of this perfect love who are above all suspicion."

Whether the episode in the following quotation occurred before, or after, Shadford's mission to America, I am not sure, but it shows that his father also received The Second Work of Grace:

"When his father was taken ill of his last sickness, Mr. Shadford was preaching in Yorkshire. When he came near home, a friend told him that his father lay dying. As soon as the good old man saw him, he was much affected; for he greatly longed to see him before he died. He said, 'Son, I am glad to see thee; but I am going to leave thee; I am going to God; I am going to heaven.' Mr. Shadford said, 'Father, are you sure of it?' 'Yes, (said he,) 'I am sure of it. I know that my Redeemer liveth. Upward of four years ago, the Lord pardoned all my sins; and half a year ago he gave me that perfect love that casts out all fear. At present, I feel a heaven within me. Surely this heaven below must lead to heaven above.' 'When (saith Mr. Shadford) I saw he was departing, I kneeled down by him, and with fervent prayer commended his soul to God; and I praise His holy name that he died in the full assurance of faith."

George Shadford's successful advocacy of entire sanctification stretched from before his mission to America, through his ministry following his return to England, and until his death:

"He had, till the end of his life, more than a hundred persons under his care as a Class Leader. At an inspection of them by Jabez Bunting it was found that "more than ninety were clear in their Christian experience, and many of them were living in the enjoyment of the perfect love of God."

"This old soldier of the cross, worn out with infirmities and labors in both hemispheres, had at last a triumphant end. When informed by his physician that his disease would be fatal, he broke out in rapture, exclaiming, 'Glory to God!' While he lay in view of an eternal world, and was asked if all was clear before him, he replied, 'I bless God it is;' and added, 'Victory, victory, through the blood of the Lamb!' Two friends, who were anxious for his recovery, called upon him, and when they inquired how he was, he replied, 'I am going to my Father's house, and find religion to be an angel in death.' His last words were, 'I'll praise! I'll praise! I'll praise!' He fell asleep on the 11th of March, 1816, in the 78th year of age."

Source: Written and Compiled by Duane V. Maxey from various sources in The HDM Library

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THE END