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A CATECHISM ON THE SECOND BLESSING
By B. A. Cundiff

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INTRODUCTION

This is not the first attempt of the Author of this book at book making; he has made two successful ventures before. A "Theological Catechism" was his first, and "Scriptural Holiness," very recently issued from the press, his second. From a conference acquaintance of many years with the Author, and more recently an intimate acquaintance, growing out of the relationship sustained between myself and the Author, as preacher in charge of a work in the bounds of the district over which I have the honor to preside, I do not hesitate to endorse what Dr. W. B. Godbey says in his introduction to the Author's book on "Scriptural Holiness," that "his preaching is the most scriptural I ever heard," and that in this respect the book which he now commits to the public is like his preaching, "biblical, radical, thorough, and unanswerable." It is written in the form of question and answer, a very satisfactory way of presenting a subject. The Author draws exclusively upon the Bible and the Methodist Discipline for his arguments in defense of the Methodist doctrine of holiness. The Author is well known in Kentucky, and his reputation as a successful defender of the doctrine's of Methodism is extending in other States. May this book be more largely in demand than even "Scriptural Holiness," which has already passed into a second edition.

S. C. Allen

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A CATECHISM ON THE SECOND BLESSING

QUESTION 1 -- What is the necessity of the second blessing, or second work of grace?

ANSWER -- To destroy original or birth sin.

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QUESTION 2 -- Why is this necessary?

ANSWER -- Because original sin is not destroyed in conversion.

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QUESTION 3 -- Why is it not then destroyed?

ANSWER -- Because it cannot be repented of, nor pardoned.

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QUESTION 4. Why can it not be repented of.

ANSWER -- Because we are not responsible for its existence.

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QUESTION 5 -- Can persons commit original sin?

ANSWER -- They cannot.

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QUESTION 6 -- Will persons be punished for original sin?

ANSWER -- They will not. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father."--Ezek. 18:20.

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QUESTION 7 -- Does God convict the sinner for original sin?

ANSWER -- He does not, but for actual transgressions.

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QUESTION 8 -- Why does God convict the sinner for actual and not for Original sin?

ANSWER -- Because he is responsible for his actual sins, but not for "the original sin."

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QUESTION 9 -- What is actual sin?

ANSWER -- "Sin is the transgression of the law." -- I John 3:4.

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QUESTION 10 -- When the sinner is convicted, repents, and believes, does God blot out all his sins?

ANSWER -- He does. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." --Acts 3:19.

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QUESTION 11 -- But does God do an imperfect work?

ANSWER -- No, it is a perfect work to pardon sins, and to regenerate the soul. No one "can forgive sins but God only." -- Mark 2:7.

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QUESTION 12 -- Who alone can regenerate the soul?

ANSWER -- God. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration." -- Titus 3:5.

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QUESTION 13 -- What does God do for us in regeneration?

ANSWER -- He saves us from all our actual sins, and imparts divine life to the soul.

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QUESTION 14 -- Does this divine life give us divine love?

ANSWER -- It does. "Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." -- Rom. 5:5.

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QUESTION 15 -- Does original sin (or carnality) remain in the regenerated soul?

ANSWER -- Yes. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." -- I Cor. 3:1.

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QUESTION 16 -- Is the babe in Christ a new creature?

ANSWER -- Yes. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." -- II. Cor. 5:17.

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QUESTION 17 -- Can we be new creatures in Christ, and yet have original sin in us?

ANSWER -- We can; and this shows the necessity of the second blessing.

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QUESTION 18 -- Is this the "residue theory?"

ANSWER -- Yes; it is "sin in believers."

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QUESTION 19 -- Did Mr. Wesley reject the residue theory?

ANSWER -- He did not, but taught it as a Bible doctrine. See his sermon, No. 13.

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QUESTION 20 -- Was this a new doctrine in the days of Wesley?

ANSWER -- "That there is no sin in believers, is quite new in the church of Christ; that it was never heard of for seventeen hundred years; never till it was discovered by Count Zinzendorf." -- 13th sermon.

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QUESTION 21. -- Can the sin that remains in the believer be destroyed?

ANSWER -- It can.

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QUESTION 22 -- When?

ANSWER -- Now.

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QUESTION 23 -- By whom?

ANSWER -- The Son of God. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." -- I John 3:8.

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QUESTION 24 -- Is original sin the work of the devil?

ANSWER -- It is neither the work of God, nor man, but of the devil.

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QUESTION 25 -- What must we do, or be, that the Son of God may destroy this indwelling sin?

ANSWER -- We must be crucified with him. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed." -- Rom. 6:6.

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QUESTION 26 -- Is this a spiritual crucifixion?

ANSWER -- It is. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." -- Gal. 5:24

QUESTION 27 -- What do you understand by "the flesh?"

ANSWER -- The carnal mind. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me." -- Gal. 2:20.

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QUESTION 28. -- What is the object of crucifying?

ANSWER -- To put to death, or destroy. "That the body of sin might be destroyed."

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QUESTION 29 -- Why is original sin called the body of sin?

ANSWER -- Because it has a real being until it is destroyed.

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QUESTION 30 -- Do we cease from sin when "the body of sin" is destroyed?

ANSWER -- We do, "that henceforth we should not serve sin."

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QUESTION 31 -- If we commit sin, are we the servants of sin?

ANSWER -- We are. "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." -- John 8:34.

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QUESTION 32 -- Can we be made free from sin; in this life?

ANSWER -- We can. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." -- Rom. 6:22.

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QUESTION 33 -- Do you teach sinless perfection?

ANSWER -- We do, if you give this definition: "Sinless; Free from sin."

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QUESTION 34 -- Do you teach that you never have sinned?

ANSWER -- By no means. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." -- I John 1:10.

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QUESTION 35 -- Do you teach that you cannot sin?

ANSWER -- We do not. Solomon says, "If* they sin against thee, for there is no man that sinneth not." -- I Kings 8:46. *NOTE. The "if" here implies a contingency: they may or may not sin. All are liable to sin, but are under no necessity for doing so.

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QUESTION 36 -- Do you teach that the sanctified are as good as Jesus was when he was here among men?

ANSWER -- We do not. We teach that we may be pure from sin, as he was. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." -- I John 3:2,3.

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QUESTION 37 -- Does perfect love bring us into this pure state?

ANSWER -- It does. "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." -- I John 4:17.

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QUESTION 38. -- Does perfect love place us above temptation?

ANSWER -- It does not. If it did it would place us above our Lord, and "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." -- Luke 6:40.

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QUESTION 39 -- Was Jesus tempted just as we are?

ANSWER -- "He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." -- Heb. 4:15.

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QUESTION 40 -- Can we be tempted and not sin?

ANSWER -- We can if we trust in Jesus. "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." -- Heb. 2:18.

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QUESTION 41. -- Does perfect love prevent growth in grace?

ANSWER -- It does not. If it did it would place us above Jesus, and he "Increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." -- Luke 2:52.

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QUESTION 42 -- Can a converted person grow into sanctification, or perfect love?

ANSWER -- No; it is impossible to grow into a divine blessing.

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QUESTION 43 -- Is entire sanctification a divine blessing?

ANSWER -- It is; we receive it from God. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." -- I Thess. 5:23,24.

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QUESTION 44 -- Does entire sanctification destroy original sin?

ANSWER -- It does.

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QUESTION 45 -- If both parents are sanctified wholly, Will their children come into being sanctified?

ANSWER -- They will not. Children do not come into being holding the same relation to God which their sanctified parents do.

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QUESTION 46 -- Do all children hold the same relation to Adam, and to Christ?

ANSWER -- Yes. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." -- I Cor. 15:22.

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QUESTION 47 -- Were all that fell in Adam, redeemed by Christ?

ANSWER -- They were. "Therefore as by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." -- Rom. 5:18.

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QUESTION 48 -- What relation does the child hold to Adam?

ANSWER -- The child, as to its relation to Adam, comes into being with original sin in the soul, and mortality in the body. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." -- Rom. 5:12.

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QUESTION 49 -- Have all committed actual sin?

ANSWER -- No; but all are born with a sinful nature. "So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

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QUESTION 50 -- Does sin exist as a state in the unborn child?

ANSWER -- It does. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." --Psa. 51:5.

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QUESTION 51 -- Is the child naturally inclined to go astray?

ANSWER -- It is. "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." -- Psa. 58:3

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QUESTION 52 -- Does original sin revive and cause the child to commit actual sins?

ANSWER -- It does. "I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." -- Rom. 7:9

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QUESTION 53 -- When was Paul alive, without the law?

ANSWER -- When he was a little child.

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QUESTION 54 -- At what time did the commandment come?

ANSWER -- When he reached the age of accountability to God.

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QUESTION 55 -- What sin revived?

ANSWER -- Original sin.

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QUESTION 56 -- What death did he die?

ANSWER -- A death in sin. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." -- Ezek. 18:4.

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QUESTION 57 -- Is any of Adam's fallen nature in the child?

ANSWER -- There is, and therefore we pray, "O merciful God, grant that the old Adam in this child may be so buried, that the new man may be raised up in him."

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QUESTION 58 -- Has the little child "carnal affections?"

ANSWER -- He has, and we pray that they may die. "Grant that all carnal affections may die in him, and that all things belonging to the spirit may live and grow in him." -- Discipline.

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QUESTION 59 -- What relation does the child hold to Christ?

ANSWER -- A justified relation, being redeemed. It is placed under the law, and protected by it.

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QUESTION 60 -- Was Christ born under the law?

ANSWER -- He was. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law." -- Gal. 4:4.

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QUESTION 61 -- Why was Jesus born under the law?

ANSWER -- "To redeem them that were under the law, that they might receive the adoption of sons." -- Gal. 4:5.

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QUESTION 62 -- Did Christ redeem all who were under the law?

ANSWER -- Yes. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." -- Gal. 3:13.

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QUESTION 63 -- Will the child be saved if it dies before it transgresses the law?

ANSWER -- Yes. It would be impossible for it to be lost.

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QUESTION 64 -- Why would it be impossible?

ANSWER -- Because it is under the law and protected by it, "Unto justification of life."

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QUESTION 65 -- Will original sin be in the soul of the child when it enters heaven?

ANSWER -- No it would be impossible for the soul of the child to leave the body without passing under the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost.

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QUESTION 66 -- Does the child need sanctification?

ANSWER -- It does; and for this we pray, "Almighty and everlasting God, we beseech thee for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt look upon this child: wash him and sanctify him with the Holy Ghost. " -- Discipline.

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QUESTION 67 -- Will it be known in heaven that the child was defiled by sin, redeemed by Christ, and washed in the blood of the Lamb?

ANSWER -- It will. "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." -- Rev. 7:14

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QUESTION 68 -- Will there be perfect uniformity in heaven?

ANSWER -- Yes. All will be clothed in white robes, and strike the same note of Praise, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God and unto the Lamb." -- Rev. 7:9, 10.

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QUESTION 69 -- Does conversion place us above the little child?

ANSWER -- It does not, for "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." -- Matt. 18:3.

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QUESTION 70 -- Does conversion destroy original sin?

ANSWER -- It does not, or it would place the convert above the little child.

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QUESTION 71 -- Is the new birth the lowest standard of religion that will save the soul?

ANSWER -- It is. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." -- John 3:3.

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QUESTION 72 -- If the convert dies before committing an actual sin, will he be saved as a little child?

ANSWER -- He will, for he has "become as a little child."

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QUESTION 73 -- If the convert commits actual sins, must he repent, believe and be pardoned before he can be saved?

ANSWER -- He must, for no man can be saved in his sins. "He that committeth sin is of the devil." -- I John 3:8.

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QUESTION 74 -- Can a man be of the devil and a child of God at the same time?

ANSWER -- He cannot. "No man can serve two masters." -- Matt. 6:24.

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QUESTION 75 -- What has become of those good people who professed religion, lived a justified life, and died without professing sanctification?

ANSWER -- They are all in heaven; Jesus sanctified every one who died in a justified state.

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QUESTION 76 -- Why do you believe that every justified person will be sanctified before the soul leaves the body?

ANSWER -- Because it is impossible for a justified soul to be lost, or, for an unsanctified soul to enter heaven.

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QUESTION 77 -- Can any, except the holy, enter heaven?

ANSWER -- They cannot. "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." -- Heb. 12:14.

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QUESTION 78 -- Can any one despise holiness, and not despise God?

ANSWER -- He cannot. 'For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man. but God.'" -- I Thess. 4:7-8.

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QUESTION 79 -- If God convicts the believer for sanctification, and he rejects it, does he grieve the Spirit of God?

ANSWER -- He does. "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." -- Eph. 4:30.

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QUESTION 80 -- If the believer grieves the Holy Spirit, by refusing to do his will in anything, is he not in danger of losing his justified state?

ANSWER -- He is. This is a good prayer for every believer: "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God; thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." -- Psa. 148:10.

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QUESTION 81 -- What is the will of God concerning every believer?

ANSWER -- "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." -- I Thess. 4:3.

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QUESTION 82 -- When we are sanctified, does the Holy Spirit bear witness to it?

ANSWER -- He does. "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us." -- Heb. 10:14-15.

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QUESTION 83 -- Did Jesus, by his death, make provision for our sanctification?

ANSWER -- He did. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." -- Heb. 13:12.

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QUESTION 84 -- As Jesus has made provision for the sanctification of believers, what have they to do but consecrate themselves wholly to God, and accept it by faith?

ANSWER -- Nothing. Jesus teaches this in his commission to Paul: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." -- Acts 26:18.

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QUESTION 85 -- Can the sanctified lose the witness to their sanctification, and not lose their sanctified state?

ANSWER -- They may, by failing to testify.

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QUESTION 86 -- Can they regain the witness by testifying?

ANSWER -- They can. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." -- Rev. 10:11.

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QUESTION 87 -- Can they lose their sanctification by failing to tell what God has done for them?

ANSWER -- They can. Mr. Fletcher says, "I received this blessing four or five times before, but lost it by not observing the order of God, who has told us: 'With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation'."

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QUESTION 88 -- Can the sanctified yield to temptation, commit sin and lose both their sanctified and their justified life?

ANSWER -- They can. "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world, through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled, therein, and overcome; the last end is worse with them than the beginning." -- II Peter 2:20.

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QUESTION 89 -- If the sanctified lose both their sanctified and justified state, are they not liable to greater punishment than the common sinner will have to endure?

ANSWER -- They are. "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace." -- Heb. 10:28-29.

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QUESTION 90 -- Can they regain their sanctified state?

ANSWER -- They can, if they do not go too far from God.

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QUESTION 91 -- Is it possible for them to go so far from God that they can find no place for repentance?

ANSWER -- It is. "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." -- Heb. 12:16-17.

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QUESTION 92 -- If God grants the grace of repentance, and we repent, believe, and receive pardon for all our sins, will we need a second work of grace, or cleansing?

ANSWER -- We will.

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QUESTION 93 -- Why will we need a second blessing?

ANSWER -- Because the devil injected his virus into our minds before we committed actual sins, as he did into those of Eve and Adam.

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QUESTION 94 -- Can the sanctified prevent the devil from again injecting this poison into their minds?

ANSWER -- They can. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." -- James 4:7-8.

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QUESTION 95 -- Did the devil thus try Jesus?

ANSWER -- Doubtless he did, for he "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

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QUESTION 96 -- If the sanctified suffer the devil to inject this virus into their minds, and commit sin; then repent, believe, reconsecrate themselves to God, and believe for cleansing, will God pardon and cleanse them again?

ANSWER -- He will; for, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." -- I John 1:9.

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QUESTION 97 -- Is unrighteousness sin?

ANSWER -- It is. "All unrighteousness is sin." -- I John 5:17.

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QUESTION 98 -- If all our sins are pardoned, and we are cleansed from all unrighteousness, are we fit subjects for heaven?

ANSWER -- We are. Our hearts are pure, and Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." -- Matt. 5:8.

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THE END