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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #019

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I have been for more than twenty years a professed follower of Christ. It pleased the Lord, after many and strong temptations to despair of his mercy, to give me a clear view of the way of salvation by a crucified Savior, which view brought such a peace to my soul, that I thought I never more should doubt. Although I have never since indulged in those distressing apprehensions of my spiritual state, with which many apparently devoted Christians seem to be troubled, yet, I have had much occasion to mourn over a backsliding heart, and my course has been like most professed Christians, that of sinning and repenting; and when I have heard Christians despair of getting beyond this state in this life, I never could feel fully satisfied that it must be so. At one time my attention was much aroused, by hearing a clergyman relate the exercises of his mind. I thought if this is the privilege of one, it must be of all. I could not rest until I sought and enjoyed a greater degree of the presence of God. Since that time my mind has been more favorably impressed with the doctrine of sanctification. At one season, after a deep sense of the unreconciliation of my heart under some peculiar trials, I was enabled, by earnest prayer, to feel such an entire renunciation of my own will, that I could rejoice in every dispensation of Providence toward me, whether prosperous or adverse, and wished only to live to do the will of God. I felt that nothing short of entire conformity to the will of God could satisfy me, and I could not but believe God was able and willing to satisfy these desires. But for want of proper instruction, and a fear of expressing all I felt, lest I should be thought self-confident, I did not emerge fully into the blessed liberty of the gospel. By unbelief, and the fear of man, I lost, in a degree, that sweet communion with heaven, which, for a long time, I enjoyed, and often mourned over a stupid and unreconciled heart. Though I enjoyed a comfortable hope, and many precious seasons, yet there was an inconstancy in my faith, which I was sensible was not in accordance with the Bible. I felt deeply the need of a more elevated faith and piety in myself, and in the church generally.

A little more than a year since, while brought low by a lingering illness, I was brought to a deep sense of my ingratitude and unbelief, in not living up to the light I had received. I felt it would be just in God now to leave me in darkness until death, and I could ask for nothing but submission

to his holy will. A view of the Savior, however, calmed my fears, and enabled me to look with composure at death, because it would release me from a possibility of again dishonoring him. The prospect of a partial restoration to health brightened, but the thought of living at the same half-hearted rate as formerly, was truly painful. I found I was not wholly dead to the world. About this time, I was favored with an interview with one who enjoyed perfect love. By conversing with her, I was led to look at the subject in a somewhat different light from before, viz: as possessed, and enjoyed by simple faith in Christ, and not by our own efforts. Some numbers of the Guide fell into my hands, also the Memoirs of J. B. Taylor, which served to increase my interest, although there were still difficulties in my mind respecting receiving sanctification at once, as I had been accustomed to consider it a progressive work. But when I opened the Bible with a sincere desire to know the will of God concerning his children on earth, and with a determination to receive and acknowledge what I should there find to be truth, however it might conflict with my own preconceived opinions, or with the opinions of others, my difficulties soon vanished, and I could no longer doubt but this was his will, even our sanctification, and that it was the duty and privilege of every Christian to attain it. Though unbelief would often suggest my former failures, notwithstanding all my prayers and efforts, and also of those far more devoted, who exclaimed bitterly against themselves, still I felt there was safety in trusting in the immutable word of God; surely he was faithful who had promised. I trust I was enabled deliberately, not only in view of sickness and death, but of life and health, to make an unreserved consecration of my all to Christ, and to feel that in whatever situation I might be, holiness to the Lord must henceforth be my motto. I could now yield myself a willing subject to the sanctifying grace of God, believing he would work in me according to the good pleasure of his will. Soon a heavenly calm possessed my mind, a sense of the divine glory surrounded me, and my whole soul seemed in sweet harmony with the holiness of God. There were no rapturous emotions, but I felt

"The sacred awe that dares not move,
And all the silent heaven of love."

How easy now seemed the divine requirement, to love Him with all the heart, and my neighbor as myself. I felt a peculiar tenderness of conscience, and feared nothing but to offend my Savior. Being still feeble in body, I could not endure strong mental exercises; and as the change in my feelings was not sudden, nor characterized by strong emotions, I was soon tempted to doubt, whether it was really what I had been seeking for. I prayed earnestly for a fullness of joy and an undoubted evidence, but the more I sought for this, the less my evidence appeared, until I was willing to leave all with God, to give either a crumb or a full meal. My peace then returned, and blessed be God, it has continued like a river, to flow broader and deeper to the present time. Never before did I feel so much my entire dependence on all-sufficient grace, and such a confidence that it would be given in every time of need. Like a little child, I have looked into the Bible for instruction, and O, what an inexpressible glory has beamed therefrom! A new blessedness has appeared while receiving Christ as a Savior from all sin, -- a present Savior, a full Savior. How glorious the consideration to one who has all her life, in some degree, been subject to bondage! Truly I can now say, the Holy Spirit has led me into the truth, and the truth has made me free. I no longer feel like a wanderer, but like a child at home. My weary soul now rests in Christ, and finds "his yoke easy, and his burden light." With entire confidence can I now commit all my interests, temporal and spiritual, into his hands, and feel that they are safe. My greatest desire is to know, and to do, the will of my heavenly Father, and to possess all the mind of Christ.

I feel deeply interested in the progress of holiness. With all my heart can I bid Godspeed to those who are engaged in promoting this blessed cause, for which the Savior left the realms of glory, suffered and died.

I rejoice that the subject is exciting so much interest in the different denominations of Christians. May the time speedily come when all darkness and prejudice shall flee away, and the Christian church become truly what its great Head designed -- "the light of the world." May His kingdom fully come, and His will be done on earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

Source: "The Blessing of Perfect Love"
by D. S. King

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THE END