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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #020

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In 7 days after I first began to examine the doctrine of holiness, in the evening, as I retired alone to my room, I felt a desire to continue in calling upon the Lord until I obtained a cleansing. I felt a greater degree of encouragement than usual. The promise, "He that cometh will come and will not tarry," was presented to my mind several times with unusual force. I felt to say,

"Lord, I cannot let thee go except thou bless me."

I endeavored, with all the earnestness I was able to exert, believably to lay hold on the promises, especially those contained in that part of the new covenant where it is said, "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you:" at the same time praying that I might approach the Mediator in faith for an answer to his own prayer, which he offered in behalf of his people; and also striving to yield myself up to his sweet control, believing that every necessity of my nature, every demand of my being, was met in Him. Suddenly, before I had labored long in this manner, the thought came to my mind, Why not yield now; and instantly I felt such a sinking into the arms of the Savior, such a filling down before God, as I never before experienced. I felt myself deserving of hell, yet my heart was filled with that "perfect love" which "casteth out all fear." I thought I should feel no fear if admitted into the immediate presence of my Judge. The thought of being one day thus admitted, was glorious beyond expression. The presence of the triune God seemed a reality, and my heart was deeply affected with an adoring awe and reverence. And yet I have no language to describe the love which seemed increasingly to fill my heart. I can only say it was filled to overflowing. There was a rapture in the name Jesus!

After some time I thought of the change wrought in me, and whether I believed that every demand of my being was met in God. I thought of some things which had heretofore occasioned me anxiety. But immediately there was a promise of Scripture applied which seemed exactly suited to

my case, and I felt not the least anxiety. I could cast my "burden upon the Lord," and truly "he sustained" me.

While engaged in prayer for others, I was filled with an ecstasy of joy, and thus remained until weary nature found repose in sleep.

The next morning was a new day to me. As I walked abroad I could see God in everything, and felt that every demand of my nature was met in God. In every plant, leaf and flower, and in all the works of creation, particularly in the human countenance, I saw marks of creative power and wisdom of the divine Author far more clearly than ever before. During three weeks succeeding, the state of my mind was much the same. Such a confiding trust and confidence in God I never felt before. My heart was filled with love, and I was kept constantly in perfect peace. Sin appeared truly to be that detestable thing which God's "soul hateth," and I desired greater evidence that my heart was "cleansed from sin." I could pray for nothing less than to be cleansed and kept continually from all sin. But I found it difficult to distinguish between sin and temptation. I felt I needed the abiding witness of the Spirit. After being favored with the privilege of conversing upon subject with some Christian friends who enjoyed the blessing of sanctification my views became less obscure. I was reminded of some passages of Scripture which afforded me consolation. Light was thrown upon the subject, and a blessing was let down into my soul more and more. The Holy Spirit seemed increasingly to witness with my spirit that the wrought in me was of a purifying nature. The joy I experienced at times was so great, it almost seemed, if it should be long continued to so great a degree, that the spirit would burst its tabernacle of clay. And when visited with acute bodily pain, I felt that I could not say I was afflicted; for it seemed sweet to suffer, because it was the divine will that I should; and, though unknown to me how long it would be continued, yet it seemed as if it would be sweet to suffer so long as our compassionate Father saw best.

It is now twelve weeks since I was met with a blessing. During this time spiritual things have constantly appeared realities. I trust I have experienced that "peace which passeth understanding," and felt love to God, and no feelings other than those of love, and deep compassion, for any of the human family.

Although I have not recently felt so much of those rapturous joys which I at first experienced, yet on the whole my joy has increased. I have constantly more of a realizing sense of the divine presence. I enjoy a deeper peace within, and feel my heart more drawn out in prayer to God.

The love of Christ, as manifested towards one all unworthy as I am, is wonderful! Truly his love is infinite. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

The Lord has not only manifested himself to me in days which are past, but I can say in the language of another, "I now feel his presence; my heart is stayed on the Lord; Jesus is precious; and I feel an increased determination to give up all for Christ, for he is worthy -- he has blessed my soul beyond my highest expectations." To him be glory everlasting.

What I enjoyed in former years seems now but very little, compared with what I have of late experienced. The last change in my feelings seems greater than the one when I first indulged the hope that my sins were pardoned. This mercy has undoubtedly been bestowed in answer to believing prayer.

Notwithstanding I do not doubt but the Lord has blessed my soul, I feel that there is no safety even for a moment but in looking to him, who alone "is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy."

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

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THE END