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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #026

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From the earliest period of my remembrance, my thoughts and feelings have been religiously inclined. Not being blessed with pious parents, and on account of feeble health, having but few religious privileges, I remained in perfect ignorance of the way of salvation "by faith," till I was sixteen or seventeen years of age. At times my mental anguish was intense. My soul would frequently breathe forth the following sentiment of the poet,

"'Tis a point I long to know,
On it causes anxious thought;
Do I love the Lord or no,
Am I his or am I not?"

As soon as I understood in theory the way of faith, my purpose to be immediately saved, became fixed and unwavering. Suffice it to say, my mind became tranquil, and at times joyous. All the prominent evidences of being in a sanctified state before God, were freely imparted to my poor hungering soul. In this state I lived some twelve or fifteen years without having heard or understood anything definitely respecting the doctrine of entire sanctification. I now think, however, there were seasons in which I was in this state, though at the time unconscious of the fact. I loved God with all my heart; loved his will in preference to everything else, and delighted to meditate upon his glorious attributes. Some four or five years since, I became acquainted with one who understood this subject both in theory and by experience. By his personal efforts in my behalf; I became deeply interested to know and to experience all that was my privilege of the blessing of gospel holiness. Such were my desires for this, that it seemed at times as though soul and body would part. I viewed myself sinking, as it were, beneath a load I had not power to sustain nor power to throw off. I now came to a stand in my mind; and was for a short time unconscious of doing, or desiring to do anything, not even to hope, or to pray, or to yield the conflict. While in this state, in a moment there was an indescribable consciousness of the divine presence, which pervaded and filled my soul, and there was a stillness, an awe that dared not move. I sat in silence

(although in company,) for some time. I did not wish to move or speak lest that spirit should pass away from me. However, when I did move and speak, it remained; and for some days it seemed as though my soul swam like a mote in the sunbeams of atoning righteousness. I now believed for the first time that my soul had entered the Canaan of "perfect love."

Some time after this, while passing through severe trials, and manifold temptations, I began to doubt the genuineness of the work: unbelief grew stronger and stronger, till I gave up the idea that I ever had yet experienced the blessing. A year or two passed on, in which I enjoyed much at times, but made no pretensions of being in a sanctified state, though some of my friends thought and expressed themselves differently about me. This, however, afforded me no satisfaction, but rather added to my griefs. The Lord now raised me up another Christian acquaintance, who was diligent in his efforts to set me right again. He dwelt on the necessity of living for the present moment by faith, and being very careful not to attach any importance to frames and feelings. "Leave it, (he would say,) entirely with the Lord to give feeling, or no feeling, to give joy, or to give sorrow. Make and maintain the entire consecration, and then expect the fulfillment of God's promises." With these instructions I cheerfully complied. Since that time my soul has been in constant peace, though not always joyful. I sometimes weep, and sorrow, and grieve; but I am just as content and happy with these as with joyous emotions. I regard them as being equally the fruits of the Spirit. Faith looks up and claims the divine aid and presence in every duty. There is no shunning the cross, no parleying with temptation. God's will is law, yea, in everything the best for me. If life or death, prosperity or adversity, were proposed to me for a choice, I choose to refer it to the Lord to give that which he sees best. Thus I live day by day under the consciousness of entire submission, and with a constant resting on the atoning Sacrifice for every thing I have or want in time and in eternity. Had I been instructed in the outset of my religious course to make the entire consecration, and then to live and walk solely by faith, without attaching any importance to frames and feelings, I should have been saved years of mental conflict and useless toil.

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

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THE END