

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 1994 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with
the restrictions stated in the B4Ucopy.txt file on this CD.

* * * * *

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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #028

* * * * *

In the days of my childhood, I was powerfully awakened by the Spirit of God, to a sense of my danger, as a sinner out of Christ, while reading the memoir of a pious lady. I saw myself a guilty, condemned sinner, before a just and holy God. I resolved at once to renounce the world, and live a Christian life. Soon the Lord spoke peace to my soul. The evidence of my acceptance with God was clear and satisfactory. I almost thought I was living in a new world. I felt that the Savior was in me and all around me.

"Jesus all the day long
Was my joy and my song."

Soon after this, a member of the church in the place where I resided, came to converse with me respecting the happy change I had recently experienced. I rejoiced to see him, fully believing him to be one of the faithful followers of the Savior, having had the privilege of but very little religious conversation. After sitting a few moments in silence, he asked me "If I loved God." I answered, yes. Said he, "Have you had no doubts respecting it?" None, I replied. Turning to my mother, who also was a member of the same church with himself, he replied, "It is very strange that she has had no doubts." He said very little more, and left the house. I was much disappointed. Feeling, as the poet expresses,

"Weaker than a bruised reed."

I expected, through his conversation, to receive strength and encouragement to walk the narrow, happy way. I had not learned that I must doubt my conversion, if I would be a Christian: nay, I had not so received Christ. And I now believe it to be the theory of the adversary. For a while I rejoiced in the smiles of my heavenly Father. But having very few religious privileges, and being surrounded with opposition from within and without, I soon began to decline in my spiritual life; and before one year had passed away, I found I had almost imperceptibly deviated from the

way that leads to God. I made many weak attempts to return, but as often failed; till finally I retreated back into the world, and suffered the enemy to gain the victory. Often while joining the gay circle, would the grieved and insulted Spirit of God find way to my heart, gently whispering, "When sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Thus I lived, proving by experience, that "the way of transgressors is hard," until twenty-one years of age. About this time, a minister came into our village, and preached a few times. My health being very poor, I was not able to attend his ministry; but he, with true apostolic zeal, taught publicly, and from house to house. He sought and found the stray lamb. He assisted me in returning to my Father's house. Again my soul rejoiced in God my Savior. I now united with the church; but being mostly confined at home by ill-health, I enjoyed but few religious privileges. I now felt that I only lived to love and serve my God. But soon, "the foes that lurk within," commenced their warfare, and often allured me from the path of duty.

In 1840, I felt the need of a closer walk with God. Although hearing but little said on the subject of holiness, I now began to see it my privilege to live in a state of entire consecration to God. The promises of God encouraged me to seek for it; but here I met with great difficulties; the way was too narrow for me. I could not make the required sacrifice. I now concluded to live as near the Lord as I could without the blessing, hoping it would finally be well with me. But still, at times, I was powerfully convicted for a pure heart.

In 1841, the Lord raised me up another spiritual friend, in sending Bro. M____ to labor on the circuit where I then lived. He was a humble, devoted follower of Christ. From my first interview with him, I was convinced of the necessity of being holy. About this time, a sister in the church sent me a few numbers of the Guide; which proved to be just what I needed, to explain the way of faith to my understanding. I now resolved to give myself to the Lord without reserve. Often when attending the public worship of God, would my soul be filled with such a sense of the divine presence, as scarcely to be able to restrain my tongue from shouting the high praise of God: but the pride of my heart would not permit this. I would not be a shouting Christian on any account. I had heard some people shout, and praise the Lord, whom I considered to be Christians, but thought they were "zealous overmuch," though humble and happy. I often wished myself as happy as I supposed them to be, but I also wished to appear respectable at all times in the eyes of the world. I now clearly saw, if I would be holy, I must also be humble. I daily mourned my distance from the Savior. The burden of my prayer was, --

"O, for a closer walk with God."

But how to make the required sacrifice; how to be willing to have my "name cast out as evil for the Son of man's sake," and be called a fool and an enthusiast; how to meet the scorn and ridicule of friends and relatives, and perhaps be an outcast from their society, as yet I found not.

About this time, Bro. M____ was to preach a lecture near our place of residence; after the lecture, there was to be a class meeting. The time arrived, and I with many others attended. Bro. M____ dwelt on the subject of entire sanctification: his words, attended by the energies of the Holy Spirit, reached the inmost recesses of my heart. I was blessed with a sense of the divine presence of God; the Spirit bade me give God the praise. I shrunk from the cross, still feeling a strong aversion to such exercises. Here the Spirit left me, and darkness filled my soul. Here the pride and stubbornness of my heart were clearly discovered to me. Pride and the esteem of the

world were not yet laid upon the altar: but, still resolved on obtaining the blessing, I promised the Lord, if he would permit his Spirit once more to return to my disconsolate heart, I would endeavor to obey him in all things. Soon the Holy Comforter returned, with peace and love, into my soul: the same duty was presented, -- again I hesitated; my good name; how can I give that up? It was suggested to me, "If you submit to that requirement, you will never again dare to show yourself in good society, but must mingle only with the low and ignorant." Language fails to express the anguish of that moment! The conflict was severe! "The enemy thrust sore at me." Such was the darkness with which I was surrounded, I feared the Spirit had taken his everlasting flight; but he who died to destroy the works of the devil, drew near "with the tokens of his passion," and engaged in my behalf. Again I dared to promise my merciful God, if he would permit his Spirit to return, I would be his without reserve, come life or death. I now felt the consecration to be entire. All was upon the altar. How solemn; how interesting that moment! I felt I was waiting for the fire to descend and consume the sacrifice. Presently I felt the Holy Spirit descending with his heavenly influences, and resting upon me; and ere I was aware, the praises of my Redeemer were sounding forth from my enraptured soul. By faith in the atonement, I claimed the blessing mine. I no longer regarded appearances; the old man of sin had received his deathblow. The Lamb had gained the victory! "Glory, glory, glory be to God," was now the language of my heart, while my bodily powers were nearly overcome by the weight of divine love resting upon me. O the victories of the cross! I could exclaim with the poet,

"Tis done; thou dost this moment save,
With full salvation bless;
Redemption through thy blood I have,
And spotless love and peace."

I was willing the whole world should hear me shout the praises of my Redeemer. After the sermon was over, class meeting commenced. We had a heavenly season. When spoken to, I related the exercises of my mind during the sermon, and also acknowledged what the Lord had done for me. Class-meeting being over, I returned home. All nature presented a new aspect: and although encumbered with the cares of a family, I lived above the world. The Bible was far more precious to me than ever before. My views of the atonement I can never express; so perfect, -- so exceeding broad. With joy I was enabled to bear the cross in confessing before the church and the world what great things the Lord had done for me. From that time to the present, I trust I have walked in the "narrow way." I still feel that I am a "sinner saved by grace." Now, when the enemy tells me I am out of good society, I can say, while I am blessed with the presence of the Father, Son and Spirit, who will dare to say, I am out of good society? When it is suggested that my company is low and ignorant, I can say it is only with the lowly in heart I love to associate. Glory be to God! We know Christ, and him crucified. I find no other way to dwell in the secret place of the Most High, but by perseverance in the path of duty. By the assistance of grace, I am resolved to abide in the ship until I gain the port of endless rest. Glory be to God.

"And when I quit this cumbrous clay,
And soar on angels' wings away,
My soul the second death defies,
And reigns eternal in the skies."

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

* * * * *

THE END