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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #043

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It is now nine years since God forgave my sins, and gave me a clear evidence of my acceptance with him. Soon after my conversion, I became convinced of the necessity of purity of heart, and made several attempts to obtain it. At times I believed I had gained the full blessing; again, would be far from it. In this fluctuating state, I remained till I entered the ministry and received my first appointment. I then felt deeply, that I could not preach the whole gospel, unless I preached holiness; and though I often touched the doctrine, I dared not preach it definitely, until I was myself in possession of the blessing. In August, 1837, I attended campmeeting at Eastham, for the sole purpose of finding this priceless pearl. For several days I struggled, visited every praying circle, and listened to every one whom I heard talk on the subject; but found no relief. On the contrary, I seemed to be farther from the prize I sought. At length, almost in despair, I retired into the depth of the forest to commend myself to God, as my last, my only hope. While praying, I was enabled to believe the word of the Savior, "I will; be thou clean." Immediately, O wonder of mercy! I felt the work was done, and I was saved. I had previously supposed rapturous, overwhelming joy the invariable and immediate result of Sanctification; but I now found it to be (in my case, at least, and I believe it to be so generally,)

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

All idols were taken out of my heart, and I calmly exclaimed, "Now I have none but Christ."

I returned home in the same peaceful frame, and told my people what God had done for me. I lived in the full blaze of Gospel love for a few weeks, frequently speaking of the great blessing, until, in an evil hour, I concluded that, while I still enforced it on others, I would say nothing of my own personal enjoyment of it, lest by often referring to myself I might appear an egotist. After I thus resolved, I soon had occasion to cry, "O, my leanness." I lost the witness, and went mourning.

I am thus particular, that others may see and shun the rock on which I fell. I soon began to neglect urging its necessity on others, either from the desk or in my visits; for how could I enforce on men a duty which I was neglecting? From this time, unbelief had a great ascendancy over me. After some ineffectual struggles to regain what I had lost, I gave it up, and concluded to enjoy all that I could in a justified state, and hoped to do some good, and get to heaven finally. In this state I remained till the next summer, when I was again brought into this glorious liberty. Since that time I have been enabled, with the exception of some intervals, to rejoice in the fullness of the blessing. Praise to God, I retain it, as I received it, by simple faith.

"This, this alone, my soul can save."

And this does save me from turmoil and from slavish fear. I trust my present and eternal all with Christ. I am able to claim, constantly, the promise, "Lo, I am with you." This is the glory of our holy religion. May the church universally come up to its enjoyment. It must be done. I repeat it, the church must enjoy it. Holiness and effectual "personal effort," which is destined to be the mighty instrument in the conversion of the world, go hand in hand.

May the hallowing tide of the atoning blood flow till the church and world shall be, by the Savior, "purified unto himself, a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

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

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THE END