

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 #046**

\* \* \* \* \*

At the age of ten and a half years, I was led to the knowledge of Jesus by the remission of sins. My peace and joy in the Lord abounded; and for some weeks subsequent to my justification, I felt nothing contrary to perfect love which casteth out fear; constantly rejoicing in God, and endeavoring to serve him with all my powers. My heart seemed to cleave to him with increasing intensity of love and firmness of purpose. But soon I felt the rising of depraved nature, and had to contend with evil dispositions which I discovered were lurking within, and rebelling against the King of kings and Lord of lords, who, though he reigned in my heart, had not yet fully destroyed the man of sin, but had subjugated him, and bound him, (as it were, hand and foot,) so that he could not have dominion over me. Yet, though thus subdued, he still remained, and was continually striving to regain the ascendancy, and usurp the throne of which the adorable Redeemer had possession. To prevent sin from having dominion over me, was my unceasing effort, and my soul was pained and grieved inexpressibly, to feel the workings of this vile enemy within: often did I weep in extreme anguish of spirit on account of it, for I was not then aware that it was my blessed privilege to have this foe cast out and utterly banished from my heart. But shortly after this period, there came a holy man of God, to preach in the place of my residence. As a good and faithful shepherd, he soon sought out the lambs of the flock, and as I was the youngest and most tender one, he made me an object of peculiar care. With unremitting solicitude he watched over me, and assiduously strove to guide me into "the good and the right way of the Lord." He did, indeed, lead me (with all the flock of which he had the pastoral care) to living fountains of water, and green pastures of grace. Most clearly, and forcibly, and constantly, he preached the doctrine of full salvation, as the privilege of all the children of God; and O, with what avidity did my hungry, panting soul, seize the living bread, and drink this life-giving water? This was just what I wanted! In the fullness of my soul, I exclaimed "This is the way I long have sought,

And mourned because I found it not;  
My grief a burden long has been,  
Because I was not saved from sin --

And now The King's highway of holiness  
I'll go, for all his paths are peace!"

O, what an unutterable joy sprung up in my soul, in the blissful hope of being delivered out of the hands of my enemies, that I might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of my life. From that hour, in which it was first presented to me as my privilege in Christ Jesus, I sought it with unremitting diligence and earnestness, and I think I may say, I that hour presented myself to God "a living sacrifice," -- that hour gave myself to him "in the bonds of an everlasting covenant" and that hour began to "reckon myself to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." This, I think, was about six months after my conversion to God; yet I did not, at that time, receive the evidence that the work was fully wrought. It was several months after, that I was made to "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory," in possession of that precious gift, the witness of the Spirit, that my heart was cleansed from all unrighteousness. And never, never could I forget the felicity, -- the ineffable bliss of that hour! So great was the "weight of glory" which filled my soul, that it prostrated my body, deprived me of physical strength, and of all my external senses: for some time I was unconscious of what was passing around me; I was in communion with heaven, and my blessed Redeemer seemed so near to me, that I could see him face to face, and so was I overwhelmed with the glory of his countenance, and so captivated with the words of unutterable love which he spoke to my heart, that I could neither see nor hear aught beside. When I received power to speak, I endeavored to tell those around me "how great things God had done for me;" and I was afterward informed that such was the power of the Holy Spirit accompanying my words, that all were melted to tears, and many commenced seeking to be "made partakers of like precious faith." How clearly did this demonstrate that it was the work of God -- for a little, ignorant, feeble child to be thus empowered to speak words that would affect the hearts of persons advanced in years and in knowledge! How manifestly was divine "strength made perfect in weakness!" It is to magnify the grace of God, that I thus allude to the effect produced by the relation of the manifestation of divine love to me when a child. I am fully sensible that it was all of grace. What a confirmation of the truth of the words of inspiration -- "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord!"

From that time, I went forward in the way of holiness with undeviating steps, and rapid pace, for some length of time, (I think about nine or ten months,) and then, by listening to the advice of some, whom I considered wise counselors, I had a season of spiritual darkness, which, however, was of short duration. I was advised to cease professing the attainments of holiness; they said I could show it by my life and conversation, without professing it; and it would appear more humble and becoming, especially as I was a little child; and I was always ready to receive instruction and counsel from older Christians, and therefore yielded to their opinion, believing they were influenced by the good Spirit. But I soon discovered that the holy flame in my heart began to grow dim; I was alarmed, and began to search for the cause, praying with great fervency of soul to have the fullness of love restored to me, which I felt I had in a measure lost; yet I could appeal to the Omniscient one and say, "Thou knowest that I love thee! Thou knowest that since I laid myself upon the altar, and gave myself an offering to thee, I have never taken the sacrifice away; I have never removed the offering thence; I am thine, blessed Jesus, only thine, wholly thine! I will ever be thine! But where, O, where, is that fullness of peace, and joy, and light and love? Where is that sweet communion with him whom my soul loveth -- that constant intercourse with heaven? I can not, will not, rest without this! After having drank at the fountain of bliss so copiously, I cannot be

satisfied with a scanty supply. The holiness I must have! I did not long wrestle thus in earnest believing prayer, before the windows of heaven were opened, and a plenteous effusion of holy love was poured into my heart, and again I rejoiced in possession of the fullness of love. I then saw clearly that it was my duty to speak more frequently on this subject, and on every suitable occasion to proclaim the riches and the glory of this great salvation. I discerned more perfectly the way in which I ought to walk: that I must look to God's word and Spirit for direction, and not depend so much on frail mortals for guidance. The language of my heart from that time was, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and I was enabled to pursue the narrow path with renewed ardor and diligence, and made rapid advancement in the knowledge and love of God. For several years my course was steady, and my happiness in God continually increasing and abounding. In the year 1835, I left the place of my birth, and residence from my childhood up, and came to the place of my present residence. In the society here I found some of "the excellent of the earth," but the church in general were not deeply devoted to God. I soon discovered that there was a peculiar repugnance felt by many to the profession of entire sanctification, and was informed that several who had for many years enjoyed this blessing, had long since ceased to profess it. I thought, now if I profess it, I shall stand entirely alone, and I shall be considered arrogant and assuming. They will say there are mothers and fathers in Israel who have so long shown the fruits of holiness, and they do not speak of it publicly -- and lo, here comes a stranger, and elevates herself above these devoted souls, who are well known as the excellent of the earth. This was too much for me -- for by reasoning with the evil one I was, like Samson, "shorn of my strength." I yielded to the tempter, and resolved to hide the gift of God that was in me, though it was still my purpose to live wholly devoted to God, and to guard the sacred treasure of holy love in my soul with great care. The thought of losing this precious pearl, was the most distant from my mind.

But, alas, how vain were my efforts to retain this hallowed enjoyment! I had grieved the Holy Spirit, -- clouds and darkness gathered round me, and I was filled with gloom and sadness. I besought the Lord, in fervent supplication, to remove the clouds, and again reveal to me "the brightness of his face," for without it I could not rest, -- I could not live. This earth seemed indeed as a barren wilderness, and my soul found no food, no sustenance -- it was famishing, dying. While engaged in prayer, my gracious, condescending Lord dispelled the darkness, and with unutterable joy I saw again the out-beamings of his glorious countenance, who was "the life of my delights," and again went on my way rejoicing. But alas, "the fear of man, which bringeth a snare," again brought me into darkness. Again I concealed the light which God had commanded me to set up before the world that they might glorify him; and what wonder that he withdrew it from me, when I would not improve it in showing forth his praise? But in the ever abounding goodness of God he again looked upon his rebellious child, and through Jesus, whose all-atoning merits I pleaded, and by faith could claim, he received me graciously, and again owned me for his child.

But after all this, I again hesitated to be a public witness of the efficacy of his all-cleansing blood, though I did speak of it to individuals, and urged it upon them as their privilege, and endeavored to be diligent in every good word and work, but still "kept back a part of the price," and consequently my enjoyments again declined. This vacillating course I continued to pursue till the winter of 1840, in the month of January, when I was led to seek, with all my heart, an entire conformity to the image of Jesus.

One day, after having entered my closet, determined never to leave it till this blessed work was wrought in my heart, the Spirit of God revealed to me that I must come to a point to which I had hitherto been unwilling to come, or I could never receive the blessing for which I was seeking. I must resolve and covenant with God that I would no more hesitate to be a "witness" for him, no more yield to the fear of man, but be willing to bear the reproach of Christ, -- be willing to forsake all and follow him fully -- or he would take his Holy Spirit from me, and I should no more enjoy his favor. The time had now come when I must be a whole Christian, or no Christian; and now was the severe test. Could I bear to have my "name cast out as evil" -- to be called enthusiastic, presumptuous, arrogant? I thought of the priceless worth of the treasure I was to receive, the ineffable bliss I should enjoy, if I would make the sacrifice; and, O! in that moment, the glory, the value, the exquisite delight of that "unspeakable gift" absorbed my whole soul. I did not hesitate. I could not. I said, Lord, take my soul, my life, my all! I will forsake all and follow thee! I'll

"Gladly reckon all things loss,  
So I but Jesus gain!"

Yes, I will count it all joy even to be persecuted for Christ's sake, and rejoice to be counted worthy to bear the glorious shame of my Redeemer's cross! My gracious, longsuffering God accepted the sacrifice, and once again embraced me in the arms of his mercy! O, what bliss did I feel in realizing that he had indeed accepted the offering, and sealed me his! that henceforth I was "to live, not unto myself, but unto him that died for me and rose again;" that I was now to work, and speak, and think, for God alone. And from that time how gladly have I run at the bidding of my Lord! I have not stopped to ask if this or that would be pleasing to the church or to the world, -- if in so doing or speaking I should gain the approbation of my fellow mortals. I only ask, Will it please God? Is it the will of my adorable Redeemer for me to do or speak this or that? and whatever I believe to be in accordance with the word and spirit of God, that I endeavored to do. "And the peace of God, that passeth understanding, keeps my heart and mind through Christ Jesus." O, the blessedness of having a single eye! one object, one desire, one purpose, one aim -- for God to live and die! With deepest sorrow and regret I retrospect the period when, through my unfaithfulness, I grieved the blessed Spirit of God. How many were the dark seasons through which I passed, by reason of the clouds which I brought upon my own soul, when I might have enjoyed perpetual sunshine, had I diligently hearkened to the voice of the Lord, and faithfully obeyed his commands. O, had I always been willing to deny myself and take up my cross, how much farther should I have advanced in the blessed way of holiness! I am confident that this is the only way to retain the perfect love of God. There must be the spirit of sacrifice. We must be "crucified to the world, and the world to us," and our "life he hid with Christ in God." There must be no compromise with self, or earth, or sin; there must be an entire renunciation of all we have and are, if we would be conformed to the likeness of him who knew no sin -- if we would have the Savior to dwell in us and walk in us -- if we would be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

I would remark, with reference to my refusal or unwillingness to confess what God had wrought in me, I did not do this with a clear and full conviction that I was acting contrary to the divine will. Satan managed it so that I did not discern it thus. There was always something presented to my mind as a reasonable excuse for not professing this attainment: it was in no case my intention to act contrary to the divine requirement, or to incur the displeasure of heaven. Yet I

cannot believe that there was an entire abandonment of self at those times when I was led into that fatal snare; there was not a forsaking of all for Christ, otherwise I should have been so entirely under the Spirit's influence that I should have been guided into all truth, and would have seen clearly the way in which I should walk. From this I have learned the necessity of cleaving closely to the side of my Savior, and of looking to Jesus, moment by moment, to keep my feet from falling, and to save me from the power of the tempter; and while I live thus near to God, Satan, nor earth, nor self, nor sin, can have any influence over me. Pray for me that I may be preserved "blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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

\* \* \* \* \*

THE END