

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 #050

* * * * *

When about sixteen years of age, I trust that God, for Christ's sake, forgave my sins. I neglected to connect myself with any church, until about a year afterwards; I then joined the M. E. Church. The situation in which I was then placed was anything but favorable to my advancement in the cause of piety. I was surrounded by youthful associates, who regarded not the things of religion, and, although not openly vicious, were filled with pride and vanity. It is not much to be wondered at, that I soon declined into a state of coldness and inactivity. I offer this not as an apology, for young as I then was, I well knew, that let others do as they might, it was my duty to live soberly and righteously. Some months after, I was baptized; and this, I believe, was the beginning of better days with me. My minister enjoyed the blessing, and was instant in urging it upon the church. I believe that from him I heard the first sermon that I ever heard upon the subject. To me, it was a convincing one. I immediately became convinced that this was something which I did not enjoy. I began to search my Bible, to converse with Christians, and to pray much upon the subject. In my Bible I read, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord;" and again, "Be ye holy," &c. Many of my Christian friends exhorted me to strive to become holy, and the Spirit of God whispered, while I prayed in secret, "Thou art called unto holiness."

I had, in common with many others, conceived the opinion, that this blessing was only to be enjoyed by persons of such master minds as were possessed by a Wesley, a Bramwell, a Fletcher, and others equally great and renowned; and had, therefore, as too many are now doing, satisfied myself with a medium share of enjoyment. When I heard brother B_____ urge upon each individual member of the church, to seek for entire holiness of heart, and heard many of the brothers and sisters tell how the blood of Jesus, as applied to their hearts, washed from "all sin," I was, as before observed, convicted, and cried unto the Lord in the bitterness of my soul, to make me also, entirely his. My friends all took a deep interest in my case, especially my sister-in-law, with whom I boarded; and often did she urge my suit at the throne of grace, and earnestly entreat, that my youthful soul might be filled with the fullness of that gospel, which had so effectually saved her. But, notwithstanding all the exertions of myself and friends, my trouble of mind daily

increased. Many, who were fellow seekers with me, stepped into the pool, and were healed. I wept I prayed I struggled -- I agonized. It seemed to me that I must feel more pungent grief, have greater sorrow for past coldness, before I could be

"Plung'd in the ocean of his love."

But when, after many days of trial to prepare myself for the blessing, I gave up in despair of success: then it was, that God made my extremity his glorious opportunity. It was at one of my stated seasons for secret prayer. Never did I feel as I then felt. All my interests for time and eternity, seemed to hang upon that moment. My feelings became every moment more and more intense: the earth receded; the heavens lowered; my faith grew stronger; until, at last, losing sight of self, and grasping with the firm grasp of faith upon the promises of God, I could say

"Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do."

That struggle sealed my victory. In a moment, O, how changed! Love flowed into my heart like a river; every feeling and passion seemed changed, and, in the sentiment of the poet, I could cry,

"Forever here my rest shall be,
Close to thy bleeding side."

My prayer was turned to praise, and had I been in possession of ten thousand souls I should have given them all to Jesus, so lovely, so exceedingly beautiful did he appear.

Since then I have passed through various scenes; I have been variously circumstanced and tried; but whenever I have put my trust in the Lord, I have ever found him a "present help." Praise God for the fullness, the freeness, and preciousness of the Gospel. I have not had continually the witness of my full acceptance, but most of the time I have been able to hold the blessing as I received it -- by simple faith in Christ.

It rejoices my heart to hear of so many who have received this priceless pearl; but when, O, when, will the church be freed from the very appearance of evil. May God in mercy speed the time Then will cease all strife and contention. Then, and not till then, will the church be able to exert a holy and salutary influence upon community; and Christianity be wiped of a stain which has long stigmatized and debased her. Brethren, enlist anew in the ranks of Christ, and come up to the help of the Lord of hosts, against the mighty.

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

* * * * *

THE END

