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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #056

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The following experience, as will be observed, was written at different times and comprises not only a general account of the Lords dealings, but also a particular account of private exercises as extracted from a diary. The length of this article will be no barrier to its being read. The editor only regrets that he has not room for further extracts.

I read, with deep interest, the "Guide to Christian Perfection," and find myself thereby enlightened, strengthened and encouraged in the way of holiness. The subject of heart holiness has been to me the last year, one of all-absorbing interest. And not only heart holiness, but a holy walk, a holy life, a holy conversation, a life of entire symmetrical holiness; -- an aiming to be in the world as he was, our blessed Pattern, our holy Redeemer. I say, for the last year, holiness to the Lord has been my motto. I have been a professor of religion sixteen years, but I never heard of the doctrine of entire holiness, as a thing to be realized in this life, until February, 1839. When I tell you that I do not belong to your order, and had never been at all associated with a people of this belief, you will be able to account better for my ignorance. In the good providence of God, I went, last February, into a Methodist protracted meeting. I heard a sister there speak, as I never before heard man or woman speak. A holy composure sat on her countenance, and she seemed to me to be breathing the atmosphere of heaven. She spoke with the simplicity and love of the beloved disciple, who leaned on Jesus' bosom. I sought a private interview with her. I opened to her my heart. I told her I lived in a state of daily condemnation, and I had never indulged a hope of living above this state. Then, for the first time in my life, I heard of Jesus, a present Savior from all sin. We knelt side by side and prayed; she, to a present God, clearly seen in and through Jesus; I, to the Great Unknown, to God, afar off. The news of this salvation, a salvation from sin, was good news, glad tidings. This, thought I, is worthy of the Son of God; this is indeed peace on earth. I seemed to see, if this were true, it was the healing balm for all my woes. I will not undertake to describe my past experience. I will turn away from this long dark chapter of my history, only with saying, I remember three different periods of this experience, when, it now seems to me, I might easily have entered into this state of entire consecration to God, and perfect love in the soul, had I met with

such a friend to guide me. But I cannot excuse my sins, my unbelief of God's Word. There God, even my unprofessedly, had always called me to holiness, and I may say in truth, that I never read and meditated upon His Word, without seeing and feeling the difference between the gospel standard, and that by which I was living. I had only one interview with this sister, as she left town, having been here only on a visit. Alone, unaided, except by the Spirit of God, I pursued the doctrine of heart holiness. I came to the word of God with a determination to lay aside my former creed; to forget the experience of those dear servants of Christ I had long known and loved, and understand for myself what the salvation of the gospel was. Being so situated as to be able to control my time, I

laid aside all work, excepting the more necessary and peculiarly pressing family duties, and devoted my time, for eight weeks, to the study of the Bible. I commenced with Paul's writings, and often read one epistle through four or five times before I went to another; dwelling on his expressions, and endeavoring to find out all his meaning. From the epistles I went to the gospels, and from the gospels to Isaiah's glowing descriptions of the church. I soon became speculatively convinced, not only of the extent of God's requirements, but of the obligation and the ability of the Christian to fulfill these requirements in and through Jesus, who I saw was manifested to take away our sins. I now set myself, by prayer and supplication, to seek the Lord. I fasted, wept, and prayed. Passages of this import, "if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him;" "if ye have not the Spirit of Christ, ye are none of his," were searching texts. The Spirit of God accompanied the word, and it was like a two edged sword piercing my heart. But I had come to the Bible to receive and believe it all, and my eye fastened on the promise of our Savior, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Blessed, sweet promise, my heart swells with emotion while I repeat it.

While pleading this promise, kneeling before God with the words on my lips, I felt a sweet assurance that my prayer was heard; a sensible peace entered into my soul. I arose and returned to my Bible with new emotions. Now I saw and believed. I should have said, that as soon as I believed that holiness was to be attained in this life, I immediately commenced perfecting myself- that is, I labored to control every sinful emotion, and herein I advanced externally, but found my heart was ill at rest. But after this peace or love entered into my soul, nothing moved me. I thought if every friend on earth should die, my happiness could not be effected. I had but one desire, viz: that God's will might be done. I seemed to have no will of my own. I could conceive fully of the feelings of martyrs, and it seemed to me an easy thing to yield up life for Christ's sake. Indeed, I felt, to die is gain. I read my own heart's emotions in the strong language of Paul and David. Christ was my all in all. I could say, "Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none on earth that I desire beside thee." The presence of Christ was as much of a reality as if he had been in the flesh, sitting by my side; and as I read the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth, I received them as fully as if I had heard his own voice. Thus my feelings ran for several weeks; my soul seemed completely under the power of love. I knew of no contrary emotion existing there. I had been conscious, in weeks prior to this state of love, of the Spirit's power on my heart, particularly in setting home the truths of God's word, but I now receive a special manifestation, as much of a reality to my soul as the sun light to my eye. It came gently, yet powerful and overpowering; it was like a mighty rushing wind in the soul, extending itself through all my bodily frame. I said, "Lord, I am thine, entirely thine: come life or come death, I am wholly consecrated to thee." I seemed now to know what is meant by the Holy Ghost. This manifestation brought me nigher to God than ever before. I could now say, Father, Abba, Father. I seemed joined to Christ; the oneness I cannot

define: but our Savior prays, "that they may all be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us," and I think I know what he meant, and received the very thing he then prayed for. I could now say, "I live, yet not I, Christ liveth in me." I felt strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Now came various temptations, and in various ways; but out of them all the Lord delivered me, and he doth yet deliver, and I believe he ever will, if I only confide in him. I do know that my Savior hath power over Satan, and through him I expect to conquer every foe. Sometimes I have been in heaviness through manifold temptations, doubtful of the path of duty, and variously tried, yet have I never lost my faith and love. As with the desperation of a drowning man, clinging to some rope, extended to draw him to shore, thus have I held on to the promises of God, determined never to cease my hold. Often have I come, pleading, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," and on his promise anchored my soul, though in darkness, beset with temptations. For the last year I can say, the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith on the Son of God. Blessed be God, his word is as immutable as himself. I have known much of this world's happiness. Riches, friends, and intellectual pleasures have ever been spread out before me: but all, all I have ever enjoyed, now seems as nothing, compared with my happiness the past year. I have now found rest to my soul; everlasting life and blessedness has dawned there, and the prospect is widening, and I sometimes get an open vista into heaven. The sunlight of God's countenance, the great God, whose beautiful works I everywhere behold, and have so often admired, -- even the terrible God, who rideth in the chariot of his anger to destroy the rebellious nations from off the earth, this God is my God; the sunbeams of his love rest upon me; upon me, a poor, frail child of dust, once all polluted with sin, but now a joint heir of Christ, a partaker of his holiness, with immortal glory full in view. Glory, glory be to God; glory and praise for ever and ever. Amen. Do I then shrink to give up all for Christ? Do I withhold my heart, my whole heart? O, no. How much I love the first and great command I cannot tell; how much I love that Savior, who atones for past offenses, and now frees from condemnation by enabling me to fulfill this command, I cannot say in words. I trust my life will tell the story of my love, and in death I expect to praise his name, and throughout eternity to love and adore. O, could I speak to the Christian world, I would proclaim, "His name is Jesus, to save us from our sins. Be it unto thee, according to thy faith."

EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

In the April number of the Guide for the year 1840, I gave some account of the gracious dealings of the Lord with my soul; how he had brought me out of darkness into marvelous light; how he had won over my heart entirely to himself, making me to count all things as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord. And now, nearly four years from this date, I am again permitted to record on the pages of your little periodical, sacred to holiness, the continued goodness of the Lord to me. Hitherto, from that time, I may say, the Lord has been my helper. While I have continually felt myself to be as a house in ruins, and liable to fail, yet has the Lord been my prop; on all sides my supporter and help. Praise to the goodness of the Lord; praise the Lord with me, O ye saints of the Lord, whose eyes shall read this record. Praise him for his goodness to thyself; praise him by a life devoted to his service.

In this continuation of my experience, in the sunning up of the feelings of several years, I am at a loss where to begin, and what to say; how to give the right expression, the average weight of feeling. But through every change I think I can say in truth, I have maintained one purpose -- one fixed and unalterable desire, to glorify God by the constant exhibition of the spirit and temper of

my Lord and Master. I account it my highest happiness to have known the Lord Jesus, as a pattern for imitation, in interior purity, and in on ward conformity to the will of God. I have been made happy (as happy, it seems to me, as a mortal in the body can be) in the love of God. Hemmed in, and checked and chastened on all sides, by my own weakness and frailty, I have had occasion continually to look towards myself with feelings of deepest self abasement. I think I have made progress in the lesson of humiliation, and have not only felt myself to be nothing, but become willing to be anything or nothing as the Lord pleases; looking to the accomplishment of God's will as the one desire and sole delight of my heart. That beautiful expression of the Lord Jesus, "Lo, I come to do thy will," has often been before my mind, and as an affectionate, obedient child, I have come to my heavenly Father, breathing this as the one desire of my heart. I have been daily fed and nourished by the word of God. It has been to me a well spring of life. I have been greatly blessed in committing to memory the 119th Psalm; meditating on the Word, my soul has gained new life and strength. As the tree planted by the rivers of water is flourishing and fair, so prospers the soul that is fed from the living fountain of God's word.

The prevailing state of my mind has been in no wise that of high emotions. On the contrary, there has been great calmness, placidity, and quiet of mind; a freedom from excitement or agitation of feeling. I have often thought that peace was the peculiar, the special state of mind belonging to Christ's disciples, as he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." But while this has been the prevailing state of my mind, I have not been exempt at times from conflicts, from severe and close temptation. Heart searching and soul trying questions have often come up before me; temporary causes of disquietude have sometimes arisen. The Lord knoweth my frame, the peculiar structure of my mind, my situation, my temptations, and is my Friend and Helper; this has been my comfort in every tribulation. Trial has only brought me nearer to himself; made me to love holiness more, and increased my desire for more perfect likeness to my blessed Lord. All is well, while my heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

March 30, 1839. -- This month has found me in the diligent and prayerful study of God's word; in the examination of a new truth, which has of late, for the first time, been brought before my mind, viz: the realization of present entire sanctification to God. The result of this investigation is a deep and thorough conviction that this state may be realized, through the abounding grace of God given in answer to believing prayer. I henceforth set myself to seek the Lord; to seek full redemption in the blood of Jesus. My prayer is, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

April 20. -- The Lord is with me to set his seal to truth by the operations of the Holy Spirit on my mind. The Word is applied to my heart and conscience; the Spirit aides me in prayer, and I am already blessed. One evening, especially, while in prayer, I received a draught from the river of life, a satisfying portion, which quenched my thirst. My faith laid hold on Jesus -- a present Savior. As the tempest-tossed mariner enters the quiet haven and is at rest, so my soul was calmly anchored; all was well. I reached the spot where was safety. As I pass on from day to day, I find increasing sweetness in the word of God. The promises are so many jewels of gold; I seize them: I bind them round the neck; I press them to my heart; I search for them, as one searches for hidden treasure.

I feel a tenderness of spirit I never felt before; a melting, a dissolving heart; a walking softly, as if God were present, and bending towards me, with all his heart of love. I cannot sin

against him. Every thought and desire is lost in the sweet perception of God's presence, in the desire to please him. As the little child, that cannot walk, stretches forth his hands to his parents, and the parent comes and helps him, so I stretch forth my hands to God, and he comes and helps me, -- he leads me; yea, he carries me.

April 30. -- Retired one morning for prayer and meditation. Before I had opened the Bible, while sitting and meditating, the Holy Ghost came upon me, and the power of the highest overshadowed me. God had come into my heart in truth, in reality. I was pure, for God himself had breathed upon me. The exercises of mind which followed this baptism of the Spirit, were a sense of purity; a feeling that I was wholly the Lord's; that God was in Father:-- I had free and perfect access to Him; that I was united to Christ. I seemed to myself to have been born again.; to have come into the kingdom of God as really, though not as fully, as if I had entered heaven itself. I had no interest but that of God. All my thoughts and feelings centered in him, as if God were myself, and I had no being out of God. If I looked to find myself, my former self, it was not there.

May. -- A sweet peace of mind have I enjoyed this month, calm, delightful, and almost uninterrupted. Have suffered in two instances, being tempted; realized who Satan was. Was in an agony for a few moments, lost in the thoughts that were pressing upon me -- I had sinned. Prayed earnestly to God, and soon found peace and joy restored to my bleeding bosom. To sin against him whom my soul ardently loves, how can I endure it. Have been enabled to visit from house to house, particularly amongst the poor. I find the precious word more and more precious to my soul; I live upon it, even as body is sustained by food. I find here a table spread which more than meets all my wants. It seems to me that only one promise of the true and faithful God would be enough, would satisfy me; but how an do I find.

Have an abiding sense of God's presence, and at times my heart seems not only filled, but to overflow with the love of God. No clouds nor darkness overshadow my path; my faith receives no check: it seems fixed immovably on God. Have felt a strong desire to declare publicly, yea, to all the world, could my voice be heard, what a Savior I have found one that makes whole; but am hindered. I mourn as a child who so loves he fears to grieve his parent; as one whose heart is full, and yet is forbidden to speak. Was greatly comforted, in this strife of feeling, between love and fear, as I opened to and read again and again, 1 Peter, iv. 1: "Forasmuch, then, that Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm ourselves likewise with the same mind." O, what sustaining power did I find in this chapter. Verily, I went in the strength of that meat many days. O, Lord, thou knowest I desire only to do thy will. Let me but know thy will, and it is done, if all the world despise me. I sacrifice nothing when I give up all the world to thee.

May 25. -- After much deliberation, and many weeks of prayerful study of God's Word with reference to this duty, was led this evening, at a public prayer meeting, to declare the greatness of the salvation I had experienced. Now, Lord, have I sacrificed all to thee; a willing sacrifice thou knowest. Be thou still my God, and joyfully will I bear reproach and shame.

June 20. -- My peace this month has been abundant; like the river, ever flowing. And my joy, at times, has risen high, even as the swollen river, overflowing its banks. New sources of joy arise in my contemplations of God, and God alone is the object on which my mind rests. It seems a waste of thought to dwell upon myself, on my past sins. God's forgiveness seems so complete, my

sins so blotted out, as if no more remembered, that I cannot name them. My poor, famished soul, so long oppressed in darkness and in sin, having found new wings on which to rise and soar, scarcely dares look back, but hastens on to know more and more of God.

June 27. -- For the first time since I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost I felt the sudden rise of an indignant emotion. Hitherto my mind had been so kept and raised above external influences, that nothing from this source has seemed to reach and move it. Retired immediately for prayer and humble confession. Found it good to prostrate myself before the Lord; to ask and to receive forgiveness; yes, receive forgiveness. Such were my views of God, such my sense of Godly sorrow, that I could not come from the place of prayer unforgiven, unblessed. I realized that the blood of Jesus is ever flowing into the heart of the humble and contrite, to wash away sin. Read with great comfort the 86th Psalm -- "Bow down thine ear, O Lord; hear me, for I am poor and needy." Am distressed, at times, from a fear of self-seeking, while actively engaged in the cause of Christ. This suggestion is as the viper's sting; it enters into and deeply wounds my spirit. I cry unto the Lord; I spread out my case before him as it is. O Lord, thou knowest I have forsaken all for thee. Yea, my own life -- my reputation in the world, and that which is most dear. I desire only to do thy will and pleasure. No one suggestion so often tries my mind as this, self-seeking, self-gratulation. Lord, I abhor it. I feel myself to be a worm, and less than nothing, only as thou dost breathe upon and give me spiritual life. I do not, I cannot take any glory to myself. Not of myself, but of thy grace and goodness to me do I make mention. I am willing to speak, or willing to be silent, only let me glorify thee.

July 18. -- Truly all things have become new. I seem to live in a new world, and to breathe in a new atmosphere. As I look upwards to the visible heavens, my soul itself seems transported thither. In the sun's pure rays, in the moving clouds, in the pure blue ether, I myself am soaring. As I descend and look around me, all nature is clothed with new beauties, such as I have never seen before. I gaze upon the trees, the fields and flowers, with intense delight. I listen to the sounds of nature, to the wind, to the smallest insect's notes, to the music of the birds, and all seems melody and praise to God. Voices of music, and instruments of music, which to the worldly ear have worldly charms, to me are sacred, holy sounds, on which my spirit rises higher up to God. Nature and nature's God are all identified, and from the objects around me I derive great holy enjoyment. God, the great, the good, is all around me, wherever I turn my eye. He is within me, a portion of myself. In him I live and breathe. I seem to myself to be in longer earthly, groveling, but my whole spirit lifted up to God, as if I were united, coherent with him. I now know what heaven is, as I never conceived before. I seem to be no moment separate from God. I now see how God can fill and take up the whole being, so as to become the life, the soul of its existence. I lie down at night unwilling to slumber, to interrupt the conscious union of my soul with God, but in my dreams I am still with him, and I awake with the same union of mind, with the same burning emotions of love, as with which I slept. There is a living flame of love in my bosom, which the live coals, all glowing and radiant with heat, seem aptly to represent.

July 28. -- The love of God is still abounding and overflowing in my bosom -- yes, overflowing; my delight in God is beyond expression blessed. I have found the Lord, the true and only God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth, and the Author of my Spirit, and he is my God. What more do I desire? Lord, it is enough to possess thee, to call thee my God. Thou dost fill my

soul with thyself. O, blessed being delightful existence to know and enjoy God. Now I thank thee for my existence as I never could before. He only lives who lives in God.

July. 31. -- Received, a few nights since, a special token of God's remembrance of me, which greatly cheered and comforted my heart. I returned from church conference depressed, not finding in the breasts of others any response to my own feelings, and under the influence of much that was discouraging committed myself to sleep. I awoke at dead of night, surrounded by God's presence. Surely he had come, or sent some angel visitant to bear up my spirit which was drooping. My reflection was, what can I not do, what can I not bear, sustained by God? One other such angel visit at dead of night, I would here record, two months since; it was light, glory, and blessedness in my soul, which banished all sleep, and kept my eyes waking, and strengthened me for the performance of a cross bearing duty which immediately awaited me, and I knew it not.

Am still often anxious on account of self seeking I want to feel that I am wholly rid of self, and living purely, simply for God, and to God. I long to be wholly free from all self-entanglements, and live and breathe only for God.

Sent. 23. -- Have been called, in providence, to spend much of this month in company with others, and have had less opportunity for retirement and prayer than usual. No withstanding this, I have realized much of the (and may I not say in truth the continued) presence of God. Surely, I have been kept by the Good Shepherd, and have not passed from beneath his watchful eye. Wherever the Lord calls his children to go, there he will be with them, and surely my prayer has been, "If thy presence go not with me, carry me not up thence." Have realized something of the feelings expressed by Madam Guyon in the verse,

"To me remains nor place nor time,
My country is in every clime;
I can be calm and free from care
On any shore, since God is there."

But I find it good to be alone again with God. I cannot mingle in the world for enjoyment; duty only calls me from my retirement. I have found short interviews desirable, and all approach to disputation unprofitable. To be a child of God, and speak only when I can glorify him, requires great simplicity, and in the main but few words. Have had some trials and sorrows of mind; realized something of Paul's experience in the passage, "troubled, yet not distressed: perplexed, but not in despair," &c.

26. -- Would record, with gratitude to God, that my mind is at rest on a subject which has caused me some anxiety, and which I have often prayed over. While praying, a view of the subject was presented to my mind, which fully settled the question. I bless the Lord, who hears and answers prayer. O, how much is that childlike confidence in God worth, which approaches him, expecting to be heard and answered, and to be directed by him in the path of duty. O Lord, do thou enable me to possess more and more of the simple prayer of childlike faith and trust in thee.

Dec. 9. -- Am now enjoying, for a number of weeks, a season of leisure, away from home; a freedom from care, which furnishes much time for reading, meditation and prayer; also, special

opportunities of Christian communion and fellowship with God's people. Yet I ask myself, and with feeling, What are circumstances, however favorable, without God? They are as the wood and coals without fire; they are nothing.

"Were I in heaven without my God,
T'would be no joy to me."

Yet may I not, do I not expect and claim blessing here? Has it not been my prayer, "If thy presence go not with me, carry me not up thence." And hath he not said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee?" I cannot indulge a doubt but what my God will be with me here. My desire is unto him, and in confidence is in him, that he will be with me, and sanctify and bless to me this opportunity.

Dec. 25. -- Christmas day. Memorable day! A time when God appeared, and permitted me to plead with him as face to face; as a man with his friend. It was as when one of old plead and prevailed. Through the Spirit's power I had access to God, power to plead, and prevailing prayer; yea, my prayer was turned to praise. Surely the Spirit maketh intercession in us, for things agreeable to God's will. The blessing I sought was on its way; it speedily came. Next to the sanctification of my own soul, no greater blessing could I have asked. And now, what thanks shall I render? I feel myself to be a weak, unworthy worm of the dust. I was never so dissatisfied with myself as now; my praises seemed so small, so inadequate. I wanted an angel's harp, and angel lips. As the poor imprisoned bird against the wires, so I use my little strength, and then fall back disheartened, to be nothing; yea, nothing myself; absolutely nothing; and God all.

Jan. 1. -- On this morning of the new year, I consecrate myself without reserve to the Lord God Almighty, to be his, soul, body and spirit. I look back to the period, nine months since, when the Holy Ghost was shed on me abundantly, and I realized that I was indeed sanctified to the Lord. And I have inquired solemnly, earnestly, with a sincere desire to know the truth, whether I have preserved myself sacred to the Lord; whether I am still wholly his, and living alone to glorify him. One trying point, especially, has come up before my mind, viz: whether I have fulfilled that requisition of the apostle, "Whatsoever ye do, whether ye eat or drink, do all to the glory of God." A tender point, one on which I have often examined, and sometimes condemned myself. Upon strict examination of my feelings, it is a consolation to me this day to feel that I am ready, yea, desirous, to make any sacrifice in this respect which love to God requires.

Jan. 7. -- Music, sweet music! not of earth, but from heaven; angel harps, blending harmoniously, softly, sweetly! Such music I heard in a dream, a vision of the night, and it carried my soul up to heaven. A happy feeling is in my soul; the sound thereof is in my ear as I review it. O, to dwell for ever in such enchantments, where music is all around me, and every sound harmonious praise to God.

Jan. 10. -- Enjoyed once more, and for the last time, another delightful interview with Christian friends. These interviews have been rich in blessings to my soul, for into these little companies Jesus himself has come. Yes, it is his presence that has made these interviews so blessed. As daylight to the eye, so is the presence of Jesus to the soul. I will endeavor always to

bear in mind, distinctly, prominently, that I am to look alone to him to refresh and comfort my soul, and no less in a social meeting or in an interview with friends, than when alone in my retirement.

May 10. -- For a short season, last night, was severely tried by a pressure of evil suggestions. I seemed to be entangled as in a net. While struggling for free spiritual breath, and asking in anguish of spirit, Can I hold on, and hold out, and continue to reckon myself holy to the Lord, this passage, "He suffered, being tempted," came powerfully to my relief. There was strength in the thought, that temptation was not necessarily sin; that Jesus knew and sympathized in my anguish: that He was present, and that by his authority this blessed passage was brought to my mind. Thus was my grief and disturbance of mind changed to a calm, settled repose, and I slept. It was like reaching on the bosom of Jesus.

July 4. -- Memorable day! spent in delightful social intercourse, in prayer and praise, and holy conversation with a beloved member of the household of faith. While conversing on doing the whole will of our Father, we found our minds enlightened, and increased in spiritual understanding and knowledge of his will. Such interviews, where heart meets heart, are grateful indeed, and refreshing even as the streams of water to an eastern traveler. Sometimes I have questioned, whether I did not neglect too much the customary social intercourse. If so, it arises, in part, from a fear of finding such intercourse unprofitable to myself and to others. There are visits of mercy, to the sick, the poor, the afflicted, which admit of no question, and which I hasten to perform; but other calls, the customary calls of society, admit of a question in my mind, Can I thereby do good, and glorify God? Still I would not restrict myself to any rigid rule of duty, knowing that wherever the Lord calls his children to go, he can there bless, and make them a blessing. But to be "unspotted from the world," without a mark or sign of worldliness, and yet in the world, is a difficult lesson.

July 11. -- Have enjoyed, of late, sweet fellowship with Jesus, -- have had a view of him as my Companion by the way; as my Beloved, on whose arm I am to lean through my earthly pilgrimage: to whom I am to look up for counsel and guidance; yea, who is himself engaged to watch over my steps, and keep me from falling; who is the bridegroom and protector of my soul; one engaged to support, defend and bless me.

July 16. -- "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Can he not renew the heart in holiness, and preserve it holy? Is it not his desire we should be holy; and while my own desires concur with his will, can the malice of devils prevent it? have they any power at all against God? against man, when his strength and reliance is in God? Whatever others may do or doubt, I must I stand alone, as did Abraham, believe God. I know what he has promised he is able to accomplish. Let me alone, ye fiends of darkness, and ye unbelievers in the church of Christ. I cannot grade my faith by yours. I must believe in God, to fulfill his word, his will in me now, even now. Thus shall the world know there is a God, who killeth the life of self, the natural man, and raises up that heart, a holy temple, for his worship, his praise. I thank God, for increasing faith in the doctrine of present sanctification, for a firmer grasp upon the truths of his word. I find the way of holiness less and less encumbered with difficulties. I can more easily distinguish between temptation and actual sin -- a point which has often much perplexed and distressed me.

To know more and more of God; yea, as much as mortal can know, has been my desire of late. But while considering today his greatness, his power, I found my mind unprofitably lost in the

vast contemplation. Then how gratefully I turned my eye to Jesus, as God revealed; as the God I can study; whose ways I may imitate; whose precepts I may follow. Says Paul, I desire to know nothing but Jesus, and him crucified. Henceforth be this the desire of my heart, to know Christ, in order to be like Him. Yes, Christ shall be my lesson; and thou, O, Holy Ghost, my teacher, for, says Christ, "He shall testify of me." O, Holy Ghost, my teacher and comforter, sacrificing joyfully all other knowledge, I come to thee, to accomplish in me thine own office work. Behold me ready, (or, if not, make me so) to receive the knowledge of Christ. Thou hast taught me the way of Salvation through him. Do thou teach me, also, the way of life by him, by his example, his precepts.

Feb., 1842. -- To be a vessel, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, is my highest aim. I praise the Lord for the evidence I have that he does accept, and own me as his child. I received, a few days since, a special favor from on high, the sensible influence of the Holy Ghost, breathed upon me more powerfully than I had experienced it since that memorable period, two years since, when the glory of the Lord filled the temple of my heart, and made it fully subservient to himself. Similar results have followed. I have found the precious Word more precious in its application to my heart; have had increased happiness in God, and renewed desires to be wholly his. But, notwithstanding this gracious visitation, I find I am not exempt from powerful temptation. I was in great fear lest I should sin against, and grieve the Holy One. I could only look to Jesus and implore his aid, and while thus doing, or endeavoring to do, for I could not pray to my own satisfaction, my soul was set at liberty. On the following morning, as I awoke from sleep, I found these words had taken possession of my mind, "My strength is made perfect in weakness," and I thought I fully comprehended their meaning.

July 10. -- My mind has been drawn out unusually of late to pray that God would so control my whole mental being, as to bring every thought into subjection to himself. Why may not my intellect, my memory, my imagination be so subject to God, as to become a storehouse of holy thoughts and images? What measures shall I adopt to secure this object? I answer, faith in God. He can do it, and more specific faith may effect the object. As far as may subserve thy glory, O thou Eternal Mind, I would pray for an enlargement and improvement of my mental capacities. Save me from all vain imaginations, from idle and wandering thoughts. Save me from all unprofitable recurrence to past actions which cannot be amended. Let my mind rather be engrossed with God and present duty. I find it greatly for my spiritual benefit, yea, indispensable, to dismiss the thoughts regarding past exercises and acts, whether pleasing or painful; also, not to permit my mind to run in advance of the present time. I live only in the present moment, for the present passing moment only am I responsible. By thus taking care of each moment, my course of life will become comparatively easy, and I may expect to find grace equal to my necessities.

July 18. -- I now feel as if I had come into the central attraction of God. Sanctification of mind, every thought brought into captivity, has been my experience for a few days past. It is surpassingly blessed; beyond the power of language to express what it is to the soul, thus to find God. My heart has long dwelt with him; but O, this tossing to and fro, this scattering of the intellect -- where shall it find a basis, and rest at ease? It now seems to have stretched itself to God; or rather God, in answer to my prayer, has come to my mind, and let me know what it is to have my mind stayed on him, yea, united with his mind. O, blessed union with the Eternal Mind! Thus are the drops of Heaven's own bliss exhaled, and poured out, a delicious fragrance, into the soul of

man. O, let me be ever looking up, as the eagle towards heaven, nor stop, nor tire, until all I have and am, is wholly lost in God.

March 20. -- Today I enter on my _____ year. I can look back only on the three last years of my life with any degree of satisfaction. Each day of these years has found my heart in the same position, delighting in God and seeking his glory; finding all my happiness in doing his will. The years previous to this, I mourn over as years of darkness and sin, of lamentations, and bitter repentings; as spent without God, or without the enjoyment of God. How could I enjoy God, in his works, in his Word, while my soul was like the troubled deep, casting up mire and dirt? His works, so full of beauty, bespeaking such power and wisdom, I turned from them, for there came a voice to my soul, speaking condemnation. The holy word, where on every page I read, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart and soul, and might, and mind and strength," was condemnation. The blessed Sacrament, the feast of love and sweet communings with the Savior, I was there, a Judas. Is this religion; this the enjoyment of God; this happiness? My soul with all its energy says, No. Ruin and woe follow in the train of alienation from the blessed Lord God; and who wants his soul restored, and to feel conscious bliss, let him return unto the Lord with a heart of perfect love.

The enjoyment of God is a rich, a blessed experience; happiness indeed, and I reckon my life to have began when I found God, as revealed by the power of the Holy Ghost, in and through Jesus, to my soul. Then did the kingdoms of this world, and the glory of them, pass away; and all flesh became as grass, and myself an atom of creation, and GOD All in all. Then were the idols of my heart demolished, and my soul cleansed; it could easily have found a home among the pure spirits above, yea, heaven was in my soul, for the indwelling God, the Holy Ghost was there.

O, sacred temple! has it since been polluted? Father, thou knowest. I hope, I believe not. The foul breath of disease and death has often blown upon it, but the breath of the Eternal has consumed it, and O, shall I not say it, left the temple still his own? Lord, if it is so, I am wholly a debtor to thy grace. Thou knowest my weakness, -- through what straits of temptation I have sometimes passed; how near my feet have come to slipping, if I have not slipped. And thou hast seen the anguish that has almost overpowered my spirit, from the dread of sin. Yes, the thought of Thy presence has supported, has comforted, has cheered, when my soul was bordering on hell, on sin; and I still live, my soul is still alive to praise Thee -- to declare thy great goodness, thy faithfulness to one of the children of dust, of emptiness, of very weakness itself.

O come, ye hearts of love, let us worship and adore and praise the Lord our Maker, our Redeemer, our Sanctifier; the holy, holy, holy, Three and One, in whom our salvation is complete. In the beauty of holiness, in the secret depths of the soul, let us worship and love and adore, now and forevermore. Amen.

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

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THE END

