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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #061

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Consider how this witness received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, through the ministry of Rev. Arnold Hodgin, in a graveyard in Nampa, Idaho. He was a gravedigger in a Catholic cemetery. Mr. Hodgin said he was spiritually dry enough to "make you sneeze." Sunday night he came to the altar for the blessing, but he was unable to pray through that night. The next morning he took his pick and other tools to cut his way through three feet of frozen turf in digging the grave. He completed the grave one hour before time for the arrival of the funeral cortege. It was bitter cold, so he dropped into the open grave for protection from the elements. The Lord suggested to him, Now this is a good opportunity for you to pray through." He acted upon this persuasion and knelt down in the grave, pouring out his heart to God for the baptism with the Holy Ghost. He yielded his all to Christ. His praying prevailed, and he came out of that grave with tear-dimmed eyes, rejoicing with the blessing. Just at that time he looked down the way and saw the hearse and the followers coming; he stood near the grave in a mood opposite to that of the mourners, while the Catholic priest mouthed his ritual over the remains of the departed soul.

Rev. Seth C. Rees, while preaching on the New England coast, from the topic of receiving the Holy Ghost, related the incident of a man coming under mighty conviction for the experience. At the conclusion of the service he apparently sought with great earnestness to receive the Holy Ghost in the second definite work of grace, but he did not succeed in his efforts on that occasion. He was a butcher by trade. The next morning he got down to the shop early; on going about his work, his duties took him into the icebox, and the Holy Spirit suggested that he tarry and pray for his heart's desire. After a few moments of earnest, desperate praying he came out of the icebox rejoicing, with Holy Ghost fire burning in his heart.

But, friends, these days it is not necessary for you to go to the cemetery to find a spiritual graveyard, or to the icebox to find refrigeration. The reason more folks are not receiving the Holy Ghost is because the average church is either dead or frozen. In spite of these handicaps, no one

need go without the blessing, for here we have examples of two men, one receiving the blessing in a graveyard and the other in an icebox.

Source: "Sanctification, The Price of Heaven," by Fred M. Weatherford

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THE END