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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #070

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I united with the Baptist Church at the age of seventeen. I had but very little light, but hoped I was a Christian. I remained in this state about twenty-three years, when the Holy Spirit showed me I was not what a Christian should be. Through his help I sought and found Jesus precious to my poor heart. I knew, without a doubt, that Christ was my Saviour, but I found that there was inbred sin in my heart, and oh, it grieved me to think I still had sin there. I saw pride and anger (which were my darling sins), and I felt I must get rid of them.

The blessed Saviour soon led me to see that it was my privilege to be saved from all unrighteousness. I asked, how could I worship God in spirit and in truth when there was sin in my heart? Still, I did not feel that I was condemned, but felt my Father owned me as his child. I felt as I never felt before. All glory to his holy name! I was alive to God and his cause. I soon found that this doctrine of salvation from all sin was rejected by most of my brethren, but the Lord still led me on, amid all opposition. I had deep and earnest desires after God. I felt that nothing could satisfy me but to know that I was what God would have me be. I felt he would have me saved from all sin.

I attended meeting nearly every evening for several weeks, part of the time at the Baptist church, but most of the time at the Methodist meetings, they being nearer by. My desire after God increased, and one night I went to the Methodist meeting, and as soon as the minister got through preaching, he gave an opportunity for speaking. I arose and told my feelings. The minister invited all that desired the blessing of holiness to come forward for prayers. I was the first one that came forward, but soon four or five more came forward with me. We knelt for prayers. I prayed, and others prayed for me. While here, God blessed me as never before, but still I did not feel the work was done.

I went home with a heart burning with the love of God. I retired to my bed, but was so happy that I could not get to sleep for some time, but finally did, and in my sleep I dreamed that I

saw a light, and I was exerting myself to reach that light. I soon awoke, my heart still burning with the love of God, but felt the work was not done yet. I still held on to God in prayer to cleanse my heart from all sin. In a few moments I felt a quiet rest; no ecstasy of joy, but all seemed calm and peaceful.

The next day I felt a more perfect resting in Jesus than I ever had before; but I soon felt I must have a clearer evidence that I was saved from all sin, and I began praying for the full assurance. In two or three days the witness came. I knew the blood of Jesus cleansed me from all unrighteousness. I felt it all through my soul. Praise his holy name! I rose, but soon felt like getting down to pray again, and, with an eye of faith, I saw myself at the feet of Jesus, gradually sinking into my Saviour. I was filled with God, and for almost twenty-four hours I could not ask a favor of God, for I was entirely satisfied, and

"Drew from heaven that sweet repose
Which none but he who feels it knows."

Since that time, in the strength of my loving Saviour, I have endeavored to walk in all the light that God has given me. I feel that the school of Christ is a blessed school. While writing, I feel the sweet assurance that Jesus saves me from all sin, and still my cry is:

"Nearer, my God, to thee;
Nearer to thee."

The more I learn of my blessed Saviour, the more I see and feel that without him I am perfect weakness, perfect folly, and perfect sinfulness, Praise God for a perfect Saviour who can save to the uttermost.

Source: "Experiences of the Higher Christian Life in the Baptist Denomination" by John Q. Adams, New York: Sheldon & Company, 500 Broadway. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. 1870

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