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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

ACCOUNT #071

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"After meeting the society, I talked with a sensible woman, whose experience seemed peculiar. She said: 'A few days before Easter last, I was deeply convinced of sin and in Easter-week I knew that my sins were forgiven, and was filled with 'joy and peace in believing.' But in about eighteen days I was convinced, in a dream, of the necessity of a higher salvation, and I mourned day and night, in an agony of desire, to be thoroughly sanctified, till, on the twenty-third day after my justification, I found a total change, together with a clear witness that the blood of Jesus had cleansed me from all unrighteousness.' " (Journal, June 23, 1761.)

We have known a large number of persons of every age and sex, from early childhood to extreme old age, who have given all the proofs, which the nature of the thing admits, that they were 'sanctified throughout;' 'cleansed from all pollution both of flesh and spirit;' that they loved 'the Lord their God with all their heart, and mind, and soul and strength;' that they continually presented their souls and bodies 'a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,'--in consequence of which, they 'rejoiced evermore, prayed without ceasing, and in everything gave thanks.' And this is no other than what we believe to be true Scriptural sanctification." (Sermons, Vol. II, p. 247.)

"Agreeably to this is the plain matter of fact. Several persons have enjoyed this blessing, without any interruption, for many years. Several enjoy it at this day; and not a few have enjoyed it unto their death, as they have declared with their latest breath calmly witnessing that God had saved them from sin, till their spirit returned to God." (Sermons, Vol. II, p. 174.)

"In the evening I spoke to those at Manchester who believed that God had cleansed their hearts. They were sixty-three in number, to about sixty of whom I could not find there was any reasonable objection." (Vol. VII, p. 381.)

"At our love-feast in the evening (at Redruth) several of our friends declared how God had saved them from inbred sin, with such exactness, both of sentiment and language, as clearly showed they were taught of God." (Journal, 1785.)

To Miss Elizabeth Hardy, 1761: "The plain fact is this: I know many who love God With all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. He is their one desire, their one delight, and they are continually happy in Him. They love their neighbor as themselves. They feel as sincere, fervent, constant a desire for the happiness of every man--good or bad, friend or enemy--as for their own. They 'rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks.' Their souls are continually streaming up to God in holy joy, prayer, and praise. This is a plain, sound, Scriptural experience, and of this we have more and more living witnesses." (Works, Vol. VI, p. 737.)

To Mr. Furley, 1762: "For me, I shall only once more state the case. There are forty or fifty people who declare (and I can take their word; for I know them well), each for himself: 'God has enabled me to rejoice evermore, and to pray and give thanks without ceasing. I feel no pride, no anger, no desire, no unbelief, but pure love alone.'... Here is a plain fact. You may dispute, reason, cavil about it just as you please. Meantime, I know, by all manner of proof, that these are the happiest and holiest people in the kingdom. Their light shines before men." (Methodist Magazine, 1856, p. 988.)

To his brother Charles, 1766: "That perfection which I believe, I can boldly preach, because I think I see five hundred witnesses of it." (Works, English edition, Vol. XII, p. 122.)

To L. Caughland, 1768: "Blessed be God, though we set a hundred enthusiasts aside, we are still 'encompassed with a cloud of witnesses,' who have testified, and do testify, in life and death, that perfection which we taught these forty years; This perfection can not be a delusion unless the Bible be a delusion too. I mean 'loving God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves.' " (Journal, Aug., 1768.)

Source: John Wesley's Journal, Sermons, Works,
Methodist Magazine -- as quoted in "The Better Way"
by Beverly Carradine

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