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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

### ACCOUNT #075

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#### HAD THE EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEY KNEW WHAT TO CALL IT

Dr. A. O. Hendricks, former pastor, evangelist, and college president, and now a missionary to the West Indies, was a young preacher holding one of his first campaigns in Minnesota when this episode occurred. Because he was a Scandinavian himself and was in Scandinavian territory he announced that he would preach in the Norse tongue in the afternoon service. Attracted by the announcement, a mature Swedish woman sat in his congregation that afternoon.

As the young preacher expounded the way of holiness, it was obvious that she was moved by some deep emotion and was greatly excited. The sermon came to an end, and she asked the privilege of speaking. In her broken English, which I shall not attempt to reproduce, she said:

"What you preached about this afternoon I got in my heart in my home over twenty years ago. I did not know what to call it, but what you preached this afternoon is what I got. I was sanctified wholly. I was a young mother with a growing family. I had recently given my heart to Christ, but as I faced the problems of raising my family I knew I must have more grace than I had if I was to keep a successful experience of grace. While the men were in the field and the older children were at school, I knelt down by a chair in the kitchen with my Bible opened at the New Testament. God very graciously opened His Word to me, and I opened my heart to the blessed Holy Spirit that day. I have lived a life of victory ever since. I did not know what to call it until today, but what you preached this afternoon is what I received that day in my kitchen."

I was holding a pioneer revival in northern Nebraska a few years ago, and at an afternoon prayer meeting I told the above episode. Before I was through speaking it became evident that the lady who was largely responsible for our coming to the community and holding the meeting had something on her heart. Here was the testimony she gave after I got through speaking:

"I had an experience similar to the woman you just told us about. I lived in a South Dakota community and knew nothing about the saving grace of Christ. Then an evangelist came through our country and held services, and I gave my heart to Christ. My first husband had died and I had married again. We had a large family, five of my first family, five of my husband's first family, and four by our second marriage. It was often a case of 'your children and my children fighting our children.' It tried my patience beyond the breaking point many times. Finally in desperation I went to the place of prayer. I had read in Matthew, 'When thou prayest enter thou into thy closet and shut the door.' I had no other closet than my clothes closet, so in my simplicity I pulled the clothes closet door shut behind me and vowed I would never leave until I had enough of God's grace to meet every need of my heart. God heard and honored my heart's cry, and I came from that closet a sanctified woman. I did not know what to call it. Some years later I heard a holiness preacher proclaim the glorious truth of this blessing, but I did not have to seek it, I already had it, and it was helping me to raise my family of fourteen with victory."

As a result of that testimony two or three other women entered into the sanctifying grace of God in the afternoon prayer meetings. Instances could be multiplied of men and women who have realized their need of a deeper work of grace and have found deliverance from the indwelling nature of sin at the foot of the Cross.

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Source: "The Double Cure" by Joseph Gray

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THE END