

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication  
Copyright 1994 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and  
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with  
the restrictions stated in the B4Ucopy.txt file on this CD.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Vol. II -- Unnamed Accounts

### ACCOUNT #083

MARIA \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The reading of Christian experience has so often been made a blessing to my soul, that I may not withhold a narrative of the way in which I have been led out of the spiritual Egypt.

It is now ten years since I was effectually aroused to seek the salvation of my soul. When the light of God's love first fell on my heart, I exclaimed the half was not told me, and inquired immediately -- "Lord what wilt thou have me to do." I saw my best services unprofitable -- I saw that He who redeemed me, had a righteous claim to all I possessed, and in the fullness of my heart; I consecrated myself wholly to the service of the Lord.

Although educated by Christian parents, I had never heard, previous to my conversion, that the Christian through faith in Jesus, may have complete victory over his foes before the hour of death. Soon after the power of regenerating grace passed upon my heart, I heard for the first time a full salvation preached. I listened, but could not receive it, neither might I deny it -- I was too little acquainted with my Bible to settle the point immediately, and I concluded to leave the matter before the throne of grace, praying for just that salvation which Jesus died to purchase. At this time I recorded the following:--

Today, have solemnly covenanted with God, to be wholly his -- to devote myself entirely to his service -- I feel assured he accepts the sacrifice I bring. -- Have asked in the name of my great advocate that my heart may be cleansed from all sin, and feel a firm confidence that he who hath promised will perform. My heart pants to be free from that which offendeth my Lord. Here follow still farther, expression of ardent desire to know more of God.

I have often thought, that if at this point, someone deeply taught in the science of holy living, had taken me by the hand, and taught me the way more perfectly, I might then have entered the rest of faith. But I was not left to myself -- I continually sought the Lord in ardent supplication -- to work his utmost work of salvation on my heart. And oh, how can I praise him enough, that he did bear my cry! In this state of heart, I one day sought my closet, and kneeling, looked upward as I opened my Bible to receive the divine illumination. Directed by the spirit, I opened to Romans 8th, and as I read the, blessing came -- the baptism of the Spirit. And although years have passed, I can never forget the hallowed sense of God's presence, that took possession of my soul.

As I went forth from that Bethel, language is far too tame to tell the love of God. Young in years, and not naturally communicative, I looked around inquiringly, to learn if all Christians possessed this open vision. I can never forget with what confidence I laid down to sleep, for all around me were the arms of infinite love. I thought that in the whole universe there was no place in which I could be unblest, for the love of God was my joy, and with such views of his excellence as were then mine, I could never cease to love him.

But I may not dwell here, but pass on to the story of my ignorance, for at that time I had never thought full salvation mine. I knew no difference at that time, between temptation and sin, when the Lord would prove me, and permitted the fiery darts of temptation to reach me. I let go my confidence and went out on the rolling billows of temptation without my anchor -- I forgot that the trial of my faith was precious. Alternate joys and fears were mine for eight or nine years, sometimes overwhelmed with the stupendous thought -- God my Father -- Heaven my home -- Christians my brethren an incorruptible inheritance mine, if faithful. I always loved the meeting for social worship -- the house of God even had greater charms for me than the hall of mirth, but the rest of faith was not mine.

In the summer of 1847, the Lord began to reveal to me how much I was dishonoring him, by living as I lived, and to incite in me an ardent desire to be, in verity, wholly his own. I had previous to this, become more established in the belief that a full salvation might be enjoyed by the Christian through faith in Christ. I ceased to mock God with formal prayer alone, and continually urged my plea before the throne, that I might be led into the right way, for I asked if mercies would not lead me, that affliction might be sent. I had many foes to meet -- After I met the insinuation, "religion, even if God does bless you, will never be to you what it was."

But I said I will believe God able to fill the most enlarged desire of an immortal mind. In August of the same year, I attended a meeting in the grove: I went praying that the Lord would break the lethargy from my soul. It was done, and earnestly I bowed before the throne, pleading for a present salvation. Days, weeks, and months passed by, and my impotent soul lay by the fountain of the water of life, unable to step in. But now a battle was pitched between the army of the Lord of Hosts and the powers of darkness. In other words Christians met daily to pray and to praise, waiting for the outpouring of the Spirit. My own responsibility as a professed Christian, lay upon me with such weight at this time, and I felt so much my perfect impotency, that I looked Jonah-like for some way to flee. But my way was hedged, and I prostrated myself low before the throne, praying for the whole armor; and yet it tarried. I gave all to God. Weary days were mine, and full oft my sorrowful heart said, "Oh, that I knew where I might find him."

At this point, one who knew the simplicity of the way, through faith in Jesus, and who also knew something of the struggling of my soul, said "will you kneel here, never to rise until you have the blessing?" The enemy's last strong hold was attacked. I had often been able to say he will do it, but to bring it to the present, and, reckoning on the immutable Word, say he does it, had always been beyond the power of my faith. For some moments my answer delayed, but within was a secret whisper, if you turn from this point you grieve the Spirit, and I said, I will.

As we knelt, my soul, all unconscious of the presence of others, said now, Oh, Father let thy own teachings guide me. The Spirit whispered, did you ever trust the Lord Jesus for any blessing, and he fail you; Oh, never, never -- Trust him now, was added -- He is able. Oh, said my captivated heart, I will trust him. And here followed a distinct consciousness that a future trust was an impossibility. It must be present. At this moment I saw such a fullness in Christ, that I think had I had the interests of more than one soul, I should have trusted all to Him, and I added I do trust Thee now, Savior.

I can go no farther, language is far too poor to tell the joy of heaven. The Lord Jesus came in to abide in my heart; I had no longer any fear; I was enabled to so reckon myself not my own, as to account my foes, the foes of the Lord Jesus.

As soon as I found the great salvation, an inexpressible desire for the deliverance of all the dear family from the strong chains of unbelief took possession of my soul. More than a year has passed, since, through faith in Jesus, my impotent soul was healed, and still I find increasing beauties in the way of holiness. The principle of faith assumes a new importance almost daily. As I watch the signs of the times, I have come to believe that a glorious morning has dawned on the church. But I must pause. My heart is too full of the great subject to trust myself farther. -- Maria

\* \* \* \* \*

Source: "Guide to Holiness Articles" Volume 16 (From June, 1849 to January, 1850) Part 1 --  
Edited by Dexter S. King

\* \* \* \* \*

THE END