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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

THOMAS SPENCER JOHNSON (Nazarene -- BMC Gen. Moderator)

Account One of Two

There must be some way that a person can know that he is sanctified wholly. If he does not know it then he does not have the blessing of holiness. It is not unreasonable to ask, "What is the evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost?" The quartet in the deed south were singing the truth when they sang,

'If you ain't seen nothin'
And you ain't heard nothin'
And you ain't felt nothin'
Brother, you ain't got nothin!'

If one could receive the experience of sanctification and not know it then he might lose it and never miss it. How could the mighty Holy Ghost the third person of the trinity come into the human heart and take up His abode there and that individual not know about it? Such would be utterly impossible. It should not be overlooked that the experience of sanctification and the Baptism with the Holy Ghost is one and the same experience. "Being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 15:16) What then is the evidence or proof of holiness? Let us consider first what is not the evidence and second what is the evidence.

Shouting and blessings from God are not necessarily signs that one is sanctified. Personally, I believe in shouting and in genuine demonstration of the spirit and everyone that is a child of God believes in it too. If more people would shout and let God bless them in the spirit there would be more conviction on the services and the attendance would always be better. One cannot quench the Spirit and keep on receiving the blessings of the Lord. Those who do not like shouting and demonstration here will certainly find themselves miserably out of place in the next world. In heaven they are continually praising God while in hell there is constant weeping and wailing. Though one may have the blessings of God upon him and shout for joy it does not always mean that he is sanctified. Every truly born again soul will be blest of God in some way or other.

The outward demonstration of God's blessings will vary according to the disposition of the individual but every regenerated soul has the joy of the Lord. There can be no worship without expression. It was my experience that I shouted when I was saved and lived with the blessings of God in regeneration for some years before I really died out to carnality and was sanctified...

There is only one conclusive evidence of the baptism with the Holy Ghost given in the Bible. One can have a conscious knowledge down deep in his heart that the Holy Ghost abides and bears witness to his soul that the work is done. Just as surely as God's Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God, He will bear witness that we are sanctified wholly. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us:" (Heb. 10:14-15) Hallelujah! The Spirit answers to the blood. Thank God! You can have this witness within whether you are sick or well. You can have it whether you can jump or whether you are a cripple. You can have this witness within even though you may not be able to speak one word in any language. You can have it when you are passing through the dark valley and do not feel like shouting. The assurance remains. You can know it when you are living and when you are dying. Praise God! He is His own witness within. If all the churches in the world should burn down and cease to function you can know that you are still sanctified. If all the preachers were to die and no one would ever preach again on this glorious experience, the Holy Ghost will still bear witness to the sanctified soul that the blessing is real. Dear hungry soul, do not stop until He bears witness that His work is complete in your soul. You can know! You can know! "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6)

Source: "The Missionary Revivalist, March 1957"

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Account Two of Two

Holiness is radical. "He is faithful and just to cleanse from all unrighteousness. Thank God! Holiness deals with the cause of the trouble. Take for example the sin of anger. I can testify today to God's marvelous deliverance. I was born with a quick, hot temper. It seemed to be ingrained in the very fiber of my soul. Under provocation I would fly into a rage and would fight and pour forth words of hate and fury like a madman. God, the Holy Ghost, wonderfully convicted me of my sins. I repented and through faith in Christ was gloriously forgiven and born again. The power of this passionate nature was broken and by His grace I could keep control under circumstances that before would have completely upset me.

But the old man was not dead. Under strong provocation I was conscious of a mighty flood of anger rising in my soul. I often felt like giving vent to my feelings by hot words and blows but I did not. By the grace of God I kept down the rising tide of carnal anger but as the little boy expressed it, "I was sitting down on the outside but I was standing up on the inside." It was a great victory to be able to do that much but there was a still greater victory.

After many struggles like this, some ending in victory and some in shameful defeat, and after some years of an up and down experience I discovered that I needed to be cleansed from

inbred sin. I surrendered all to Him, took the death route and by the help of God died out to the world, the flesh and the devil. Glory to God! The blessed Holy Ghost came! He killed the old man of sin and cast him out. I can testify today to the glory of Him who washed me in His blood that I not only do not manifest carnal anger, but bless His name! I do not feel it rise any more! He has cleansed my heart from all retaliation and filled it with perfect love. Hallelujah! The blood cleanses from all sin.

Source: "An Editorial in the Missionary Revivalist, October 1958"

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