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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

HANNAH J. WHITMER (Methodist)

Hannah J. Whitmer was born in Preble County, Ohio, October 18, 1827. In early life she was the subject of deep, religion's impressions, and at the age of nine years she had read the Bible entirely through. March, 9, 1840, she united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In November of the same year she was received into full connection, and shortly after was made the happy subject of justifying grace. March 6, 1848, she commenced keeping a diary, from which we learn that she was constantly exercised upon the subject of entire sanctification. On the 18th day of June, 1847, her experience is expressed in the following language, recorded by herself:

"This is a happy day. I have received the evidence that I am wholly clean -- the witness of the Spirit, whereby I cry, Abba, Father. Henceforth the life I live I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Some months afterward her evidence of perfect love became partially obscure, yet her life evinced a mature state of Christian experience. On the 15th day of May, 1849, she was united in marriage with Rev. David Whitmer, then of the Ohio but now of the Cincinnati Conference.

Though blessed above many in her domestic relation, yet she cheerfully resigned the society of her husband, and encouraged his heart in the great work of preaching Christ and laboring for the salvation of souls. Her two little boys were also made special subjects of consecration to God. Her own language was, "Most cheerfully would I give them up to go to distant lands to preach Christ to the perishing heathen." On the 24th day of December, while consecrating all to God, she again received a clear evidence of perfect love, in the enjoyment of which she lived, suffered, triumphed, and finally passed to the rest of heaven.

About five weeks before her death she was summoned to her father's house to witness the sickness and death of a beloved mother, who passed before her to her heavenly home. This bereavement she bore with Christian fortitude. Domestic duties called her home, and she left her father's family in deep affliction, most of the members suffering with typhoid fever, several of whom have since passed to the spirit-world. Two days after her return to her home, in

Rainsborough, Highland Co., Ohio, she also was prostrated with the same disease. Although violently attacked, yet hopes were entertained of her recovery, till two or three days previous to her death. Her sufferings were intense, yet all were borne not only with resignation, but with triumphant joy.

The triumphs of grace have seldom appeared so glorious as in the experience of our dear Sister Whitmer. Death was robbed of its sting, the grave of its gloom, and the judgment of its terrors. On the Saturday previous to her death she bid her friends farewell. Her children were again consecrated to God, and received a mother's blessing. With touching tenderness she referred to her husband's kindness and her happy home. "I little thought," she remarked, "we should part so soon; but we will not be parted long, you will soon follow." With her remaining strength she exhorted those present to meet her in heaven.

Source: "Saintly Women And Death-Bed Triumphs" by Maxwell Pierson Gaddis

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