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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

D. S. SPENCER

Letter From Drew Theological Seminary By D. S. Spencer

(At the time of the writing of this letter, Rev. Dr. D. S. Spencer was a student in Drew Theological Seminary. After graduation he went to Japan as a missionary. He has been one of the most successful missionaries ever sent to that land, and has done much to establish Christianity in the Empire.)

Madison, N. J.
Mrs. Mary Sparkes Wheeler:

My Dear Sister In Christ: I want to tell you a little news which will cause you to rejoice in the Lord. I came here from our camp-meeting in Dinock, Pa., dissatisfied with my Christian experience, and determined to plead with God till I felt myself saved from all sin. I believed that I was a Christian. I knew I was, and I was just as thoroughly convinced that the Bible teaches that we must get rid of the roots of bitterness, and be saved from inbred sin.

I had, at first, no one to sympathize with me, or help me in any way. A few days after the opening, there came a brother who had experienced perfect love, and he gave me encouragement and help by telling me his experience, and by pointing out the way.

I struggled on until October 8, when between ten and twelve o'clock P. M., in this same brother's room, after a day of darkness and much earnest prayer, God let the light of full salvation into my soul, so that I knew it, as well as did the brethren in adjoining rooms. Since then I have had perfect victory. I am in the "land of corn and wine." I know this, for all my night has passed away. I am now enabled to realize what Paul means in Gal. 11-20: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." But this is not all; indeed, it was but the commencement of better days in Drew. It was but a few days before the Lord saw fit to bring some who had laughed at me to experience the same saving power. From one to another the truth ran. But the great victory came last evening.

We have been holding half-hour prayer meetings each evening this term at 6.30 P. M. Last evening we met as usual before the hour for church. The meeting for twenty minutes was nothing unusual, but then the saving power of God began to be manifest. One after another gained the victory. Such praying, such shouting, such singing, I have never before heard. Some were shaken like leaves before a tempest. The tongues of some were unloosed and passages of Scripture seemed to come as if by inspiration. Some lay prostrate, wholly unconscious of surroundings. A brother would begin to plead earnestly with God for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon himself and in perhaps two minutes the victory would be gained.

There were but two exceptions to this rule. One was that of a brother T., who is a Congregationalist -- a man of very cool temperament, but when God saved him fully last evening, he stood with hands uplifted toward Heaven, and sang at the top of his voice:

"All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!"

The other was a young brother N____, who had a stubborn will to overcome. He struggled for hours before he could surrender all. I never saw greater agony of soul, but when the victory did come, every one in the building knew it. Every man who came to the meeting stayed all through it, and who had not previously received the blessing was baptized before he left. Ten were added to our number last night; making, thus far, fifteen whom God hath seen fit to save with full salvation through the riches of His grace in Christ Jesus. For this wonderful outpouring we give God all the glory.

Most of this forenoon has been spent in meetings of prayer and praise. Brother H. is an orphan boy, began his education as a canal driver, became a Roman Catholic and a rum seller. Went to college with scarce money enough to pay for getting the trunk carried to his room. He has worked his way to this point, and when saved last night lifted his only hand toward Heaven and shouted, "Glory To God! Doubting Thomas, the poor orphan boy, the canal hand, the Roman Catholic, the rum seller, has received the Holy Ghost!"

It seems to me, Sister Wheeler, that this thing has some significance. This is Drew Theological Seminary. These brethren are mostly, or many of them, college-bred men. It has happened on the Sabbath day, when we were in a little upper room, with one accord in one place. Surely this is the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our eyes. We are praying, and trusting, and expecting more of our students to enter into this perfect rest. Pray for Drew, and do not cease to bear before the throne.

Your Brother in Christ,
D. S. Spencer

Source: "Consecration And Purity" by Mary Sparkes Wheeler

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THE END