

EXPERIENCES OF THE SAINTS—SEVERAL TESTIMONIES.

John Wesley (in 1774).

"Many years since I saw that 'without holiness no man shall see the Lord.' I began by following after it and inciting all with whom I had any intercourse to do the same. Ten years after, God gave me a clearer view than I ever had before of the way to attain it; namely, by faith in the Son of God. And immediately I declared to all, 'We are saved from sin, we are made holy by faith.' This I testified in private, in public, in print, and God confirmed it by a thousand witnesses. I have continued to declare this for above thirty years, and God has continued to confirm the work."

George Fox (Quaker).

"I knew Jesus, and He was very precious to my soul; but I found something in me that would not keep sweet and patient and kind. I did what I could to keep it down, but it was there. I besought Jesus to do something for me, and, when I gave him my will, He came to my heart, and took out all that would not be sweet, all that would not be kind, all that would not be patient, and then He shut the door."

Bishop Hamline.

"All at once I felt as though a hand—not feeble, but omnipotent, not of wrath, but of love—was laid on my brow. I felt it not outwardly but inwardly. It seemed to press upon my whole being, and to diffuse all through me a holy, sin-consuming energy. As it passed downward, my heart as well as my head was conscious of the presence of this soul-cleansing energy, under the influence of which I fell to the floor, and in the joyful surprise of the moment, cried out in a loud voice. Still the hand of power wrought without and within, and wherever it moved, it seemed to leave the glorious influence of the Saviour's image. For a few minutes the deep ocean of God's love swallowed me up; all its waves and billows rolled over me."

Benjamin Abbott.

"I repeated these words after him (Rev. D. Ruff), 'Come, Lord, and sanctify me, soul and body.' That moment, the Spirit of God came upon me in such a manner that I fell on the floor, and lay as one strangling in blood, while my wife and children stood weeping over me. But I had not power to lift hand or foot, nor yet to speak one word; I believe I lay half an hour, and felt the power of God running through every part of my soul and body, like fire covering the inward corruptions of fallen, depraved nature."

Phoebe Palmer.

"Giving God the glory due to His name, I exclaimed, 'Through Thy grace alone I have been enabled to give myself wholly and forever to thee. Thou hast given Thy Word, assuring me that Thou dost receive. I believe that Word! Hallelujah! The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth in my heart. Glory be to the Holy Ghost forever!' Oh, into what a region of light, glory and purity was my soul at this moment ushered! I felt that I was but as a

drop in the ocean of infinite love, and Christ was all in all. If anyone had asked me previous to this, 'Are any of the graces of the Spirit perfected in you?' I would have said, 'I am, indeed, greatly deficient in all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit; but if one grace is nearer perfected than another it is the grace of humility.' But never before did I know the meaning of the word humility. How the realization was intensified in my mind, 'Not by works of righteousness that we have done!' I saw that I was not sufficient of myself to think a good thought, much less to perform a righteous action. I felt that I could not save myself even for one moment, and from the depths of my soul cried out:

"Every moment, Lord, I need,
The merit of Thy death."

Alfred Cookman.

"The following day, finding Bishop and Mrs. Hamline, I ventured to tell them of my consecration and faith in Jesus, and in the confession realized increasing light and strength. A little while after, it was proposed by Mrs. Hamline that we spend a little season in prayer. Prostrated before God, one and another prayed, and while thus engaged, God for Christ's sake gave me the Holy Spirit as I had never received Him before, so that I was constrained to conclude and confess:

"'Tis done! thou dost this moment save,
With full salvation bless;
Redemption through thy blood I have,
And spotless love and peace."

"The great work of sanctification, that I had so often prayed and hoped for, was wrought in me—even me. I could not doubt it. The evidence in my case was as direct and indubitable as the witness of sonship received at the time of my adoption into the family of heaven. Oh, it was glorious, divinely glorious!"

Rev. Asa Mahan.

"In the depths of my inner being I felt an instantaneous enlargement, expansion and invigoration of my receptive capacities. There then opened upon my mind a direct apprehension, an open vision as it were, of the infinite and ineffable love and glory of Christ, a love and glory which filled and occupied the entire compass of my being, and warmed, and quickened and vitalized all the powers and activities of my mental nature."

Bishop Peck.

"In the midst of my praying, there came this voice to my ear, 'Renounce the world!' I cried out to myself at once, 'do renounce it.' Then the thought came, 'This is sincere—surely I do renounce the world.' Then there flashed through my mind the thought, 'It has been done,' and immediately there seemed to me something like the moving away of a great cloud, and it kept going away farther and farther, and I thought, 'Let it go, farewell to it, and adieu to the world forever.'"

Rev. J. O. Peck.

"By simple trust I was enabled to take Christ as my sufficiency to fill and satisfy my hungry soul. The instant I thus received Christ as my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption, the stillness and emotionlessness of absolute

quiet permeated my entire being, I came near being deceived, for I had anticipated being filled with boundless ecstasy and joy. My enthusiastic temperament foretold this, and I had already discounted such rapture. The tempter was by my side instantly, and suggested seductively, 'All feeling has left you, the Spirit is withdrawn, and you are doomed to be disappointed.' But quick as thought came my reply, 'With or without feeling, I here take Christ as my all and in all.' I knew that moment that He was my complete Saviour! At once the most delicious experience was mine that I can conceive! No joy, no rapture, but something deeper, sweeter than anything before known—the peace of God that passeth all understanding! It settled in upon me deeper and deeper, sweeter and sweeter, till I seemed 'filled with all the fullness of God.' I was ineffably satisfied. I could not shout or speak. Words would have been mockery of that peace I felt:

"That silent awe, that dares not move."

OUR DUTY WHEN OUR TESTIMONY IS OPPOSED.

We have a three fold duty when we meet opposition to our testimony.

1. Our duty to God. We must not waver. God gives us our experience to publish. He says, "Ye are my witnesses." He never lights a candle to have us hide it under a bushel. His chief method of spreading His truth is by testimony. It is ungrateful to Him to flinch because some mortal does not accept it.

2. Our duty to those who oppose it. We must have pity for them. We were once in the same benighted condition, but God and the saints were patient with us, or we never would have been brought into the light. If we believe what some blinded people think we do, we would oppose it too. We, in our blindness, would not allow others to drive us, and we must remember that no one can be successfully brought into the light by driving. If they were, they would not be good for much, after all. We must love them. If we have perfect love, we shall love them. If we get bitter, it will be because we have lost the love out of our own hearts. For our own soul's sake, we cannot afford to be bitter towards anyone. If we have the spirit of Christ we shall feel what He prayed, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." If we do not have this spirit, we have not perfect love and it was something else after all that was persecuted.

3. Our duty to ourselves. This is by no means small. God has put our own destiny into our own keeping. If we honor Him with our testimony, He will honor us. If we withhold our testimony, we shall lose our ground. Therefore, for God, humanity, and our own welfare, let us tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."—Christian Witness.

I have heard common meter sermons preached from long meter texts by short meter preachers to a peculiar meter congregation, and the effect is a figure that makes the organ shudder.—Robert J. Burdette.