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ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION—HOW OBTAINED.

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step of the way. From the very depths of your heart cry out,

“My restless soul cries out, oppressed,  
Impatient to be freed;  
Nor can I, Lord, nor will I rest,  
Till I am saved indeed.”

Don't stop at anything. Put your fingers in your ears, and cry, “Life, life.” We fear many experiment to see how it goes; but to such it don't go. It will take all there is of us to go through. Be among “the resolute few who dare to go through.” Be determined to go with God and His holy people, whatever the cost, and, like Ruth of old, say, “For whither thou goes, I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried.” Yes, cry like Jacob of old, “I will not let thee go except thou bless me.” Act like the woman who lost the piece of silver. She sought “diligently until she found it.” You do the same. Get desperate, like the man in the scriptures who asked his friend for bread, but was refused because it was late and the family were all a-bed. Jesus says, “I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.” (Luke 11:8. Jesus says, in the following verses, if we ask desperately and definitely, as did this man, we shall surely find. Glory to God.

2—Confess your need of sanctification. Confess your original or inbred sin. Tell God you are an old supplanter (Jacob) by nature, and you want your (Jacob) nature changed by getting sanctified; for, though Jacob said, “I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me,” nevertheless God made him confess his inbred sin. “What is thy name?” and he said, “Jacob” (supplanter). This is equivalent to saying he had original sin. Names were given according to their characters in olden times. The Lord said: “Thy name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince has thou power with God and with man, and has prevailed . . . . And He blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel; for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” (Gen. 32:27-30). Here Jacob must have gotten his nature changed to see God. (See Matt. 5:8; Heb. 7:14). We also notice that after Isaiah confessed his inbred sin, God cleansed him. “Then said I, Woe is me; for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips . . . . Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs off the altar. And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.” “Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Who shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then said I, ‘Here am I; send me.’” (Isaiah 6-5-8).

God will come to us after we have done our part. It won't take him long, for He can send a seraphim flying to us with the live coal taking away our inbred sin. If we confess our unrighteousness, he has promised to cleanse it from us. (John 1:9)

Let your constant cry, while seeking, be, “Be of sin the double cure, Saved from wrath and make me pure.”

“Speak the second time, ‘Be clean.’  
Take away my inbred sin;  
Every stumbling block remove,  
Cast it out by perfect love.”

“Break off the yoke of inbred sin,  
And fully set my spirit free;  
I can not rest till pure within,  
Till I am wholly lost in Thee.”

3. Perfect Consecration. Consecrate yourself wholly and forever to God. It will cost all you have, but it is cheap at any cost. Lay all on the altar, and trust God to send the sanctifying fire. He will do it. Withhold nothing from God, so you can say:

“Here I give my all to Thee,  
Friends and time and earthly store.  
Soul and body Thine to be,  
Wholly Thine for evermore.”

Many say they have given up all, but God don't sanctify. Ah, my brother, that's slander on God. There must be something wrong, or you would get the blessing. (See I. Kings 18:30-39; Gen. 15-6-12-17, Mal. 3:10; Rom. 12:1-2.)

Just as our Government will refuse to put her seal on any bill that is imperfect, so will the Government of Heaven refuse to put the seal of the Holy Ghost on an imperfect consecration. Pay the price and you will get the blessing. Every genuinely consecrated soul is not only glad to give all they possess, but more if they had it, and can sing with the poet:

“Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.”

4—Believe ye receive. Jesus says, “Believe ye receive, and ye shall have it.” Paul says we are “Sanctified by faith.” Faith is the last step taken, and can only be taken when everything else is done. Believe He doeth it. Take Him at His word. Sing and talk your faith.

“I believe that Jesus saves,  
And His blood washes whiter than snow.”

While laboring in Sag Harbor, R. I., some years ago, there was a woman who came forward to seek this blessing, but failed to get through while at the altar. After the service the writer went down to speak to her, and a number of the saints gathered about to help. We asked her if she wanted to be sanctified at any cost, and she said “Yes.” We asked her if she would give herself to God just where she stood. She consented, and made a perfect consecration, laying all on the altar, after which she said she “did not feel” that she was sanctified. We told her the next step was a step of faith. “When ye pray believe that ye receive, and ye shall have (the witness), and if she would do this, she would get more feeling than she was looking for. She then closed her eyes and told the Lord, she gave up all, and asked him, in Jesus' name, to give her a clean heart, and trusted Him that moment to sanctify her wholly, and instantly the fire fell, and she fell with it under the weight of glory.” “Believe, and ye shall receive.”

Faith must also precede the witness.

“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:24). 1. “Desire;” 2. “Pray;” 3. “Believe;” 4. “Receive” (the witness). “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” (Mark 9:23). “Abraham believed God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.” (James 2:23). “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.” (Gal. 3:9). “Because they sought it, not by faith, but . . . by the works of the law . . . they stumbled.” (Rom. 9:23.) (See 2 Chron. 20:20).

In conclusion, let us again notice these and other Bible conditions and promises for a sanctified heart:

1. Draw nigh with a true heart (Heb. 10:19-22.)
2. Walk in the light (I. John 1:7).
3. Make perfect consecration (Rom. 12:1-2); Ex. 32:29).
4. Bring in all the tithes (Mal. 3:10).
5. Love Jesus and keep His commandments (John 14:10-17).
6. Cleanse yourself from all filthiness (2 Cor. 7:1; James 1:21).
7. Put off old man; put on new man. (Col. 3:9-10).
8. Cast out our bondwoman and her son (Gal. 4:30).
9. Purge out the old leaven (I. Cor. 5:7).
10. Walk in obedience (John 7:17; I. Sam. 15:22.)
11. Be willing and obedient (Isa. 4:19; I. Peter 1:14-16).
12. Importuning prayer (Gen. 32:24-30; Luke 11-8-11; James 5:16-18.)
13. Pray and believe (Mark 11:24; 9:23).
14. Finally, “Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he who calleth you, who also will do it.” “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” (I. Thess. 5:22-26).

EARLY CONVERSIONS

The brightest lights in the churches were converted in early life. Adam Clarke, the commentator, was converted at four years of age. His influence will shine in the moral heavens while the sun shines in the natural heavens. Alfred Cookman, the great revivalist, was converted at ten years of age. He will shine in the kingdom of God as the stars in the firmament of heaven for ever and ever, and thousands will rise in the judgment and call him blessed. Isaac Watts, the great poet, was converted to Christ at the age of nine years. The influence of this great man of God, in tuning the golden harps, will be felt through the endless ages of eternity. Robert Hall was converted at twelve. Jonathan Edwards at seven, William Penn at nine.—Selected.

“Let God always be in the lead and He may often surprise us by making our plans so much better than we could make them.”