

me weeping, a few minutes before preaching, and said, "Brother Wood, there is no use in trying to dodge this question. You know your duty, and may as well commence seeking holiness first as last. If you will lead the way, and define your position as a seeker of entire sanctification, you will find that many of the members of your charge have a mind to do the same." The Lord had so humbled my heart that I was willing to do almost anything to obtain relief. After a few moments' reflection I replied, "Immediately after preaching I will appoint a meeting in this tent on the subject of holiness, and will ask the prayers of the Church for my own soul." Glory be to God! the Rubicon was past. In an instant I felt a giving away in my heart, so sensible and powerful, that it appeared rather physical than spiritual. In a moment after I felt an indescribable sweetness permeating my entire being. I immediately walked up into the stand. The presiding elder requested me to exhort after his sermon. I replied, "I will, if the Lord will help." Just as he gave out his text, the baptism of fire and power came upon me. For me to describe what I then realised is utterly impossible. The most of which I was conscious was, that Jesus had me in his arms, and that the heaven of heavens was streaming through and through my soul in such beams of light, and overwhelming love and glory, as can never be uttered. *The half can never be told!* Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! I have cause to shout over the work of that precious hour. It was a glorious epoch in my religious experience—*never*, never to be forgotten. Jesus there and then—all glory to His blessed name!—sweetly, completely, and most powerfully sanctified my soul and body to Himself. He *melted, cleansed, filled and thrilled* my feeble, unworthy soul with holy, sin-consuming power. I had always been much prejudiced against persons losing their strength; consequently, as might be expected, when the Holy Ghost came upon me in the stand, surrounded by some thirty preachers, it was God's order to take control of both body and soul, and swallow me up in the great deep of His presence and power. After three hours I regained sufficient strength to walk to the tent. I told the brethren and sisters my purpose to ask their

prayers as a seeker of holiness, and that Jesus had forestalled my design by accepting my soul the moment I consented to stand up for holiness, and was willing to be anything or do anything to obtain it. A willingness to humble myself, take a decided stand for holiness, and face opposition to it in the Church, and take the odium of being a professor of holiness in Binghamton, constituted the turning point with me. After I reached that point I seemed to have no special consciousness of believing, or submitting, or of making any effort; my whole being seemed simply and without effort to be borne away to Jesus. What I received at the time Jesus sanctified my soul was only a drop in the bucket compared to what it has since pleased Him to impart. Since that hour, the deep and solid communion my soul has had with God, and the rich baptisms of love and power, have been "unspeakable and full of glory."

"O, matchless bliss of perfect love!
It lifts me up to things above;
It bears on eagles' wings;
It gives my ravished soul a feast,
And makes me here a constant guest
With Jesu's priests and kings."

And now, after more than two years and a half, during which to scrutinise and test the work of that hour, I am constrained to say I *know* the blood of Jesus can cleanse from all sin. I say this with a profound sense of my feebleness and unworthiness; for—

"'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O, my God, it found out me."

Some of the precious results of the cleansing power of Jesus in my soul have been—(1.) A sacred nearness to God my Saviour. (2.) A sense of indescribable sweetness in Christ. (3.) A deep, realising sense of the *reality* of spiritual things. (4.) A surprising richness and fulness of meaning in the Scriptures, which I had not before realised. (5.) A complete satisfaction and resting in Christ. (6.) A great increase in spiritual power. This I have realised in my closet devotions, in my pastoral duties, and especially in the ministrations of the blessed truth. (7.) A clear and distinct witness of purity through the blood of Jesus.

[We do not reprint this as describing any invariable method of the Lord's working. He reveals himself in very different ways to different souls; it is wise not to test our experience by that of others, but by comparison with the Bible.]—Ed.