



“You will know them by their fruits.” Mt. 7:16

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My Conversion

It seems the Lord had His hand on me from the very first for good, and oh how I thank Him that I did not reach the depths of sin. I am thankful also that I lived in the country, for I escaped many of the temptations that come to the young people in the towns and cities. I do not remember ever taking the name of the Lord in vain, nor did I chew tobacco, or smoke a pipe, cigar or a cigarette. Although, I did pick up some of the stumps of the cigars which papa had thrown away, put them in my mouth and walked around as big, thinking, I was going to be a man like papa; but when he would see me with one of them in my mouth he would make me throw it away. Parents do not punish your children if you find them doing the same things you do, for naturally they will follow in your footsteps. I never drank intoxicating liquor but a little I had given me in a mission in Chicago, of which I will tell in another chapter.

One day as papa was giving mamma a little whiskey when she was sick, he got some of us children to taste it, but I did not like it. I've thought several times since then that if that little bit had created an appetite, then papa would have been responsible. How careful parents should be.

I do not remember of hearing a holiness sermon until long after I was saved; but my heart was tender, and I wanted to live for Jesus. So, He led me on until Sunday night Sept. 4, 1904, while I was lying in bed. He brought my sins all before me – oh, such a pile, and they were so black. I don't remember what all I said, but all at once Jesus appeared right before me, and if the reader would like to know how He looked read Mark 9:3. Oh! The sweetness of His voice, as He said “thy sins are all forgiven.” It seemed as though Jesus and I were in a big valley, and the glory of God filled the valley; it seemed like gold, and was brighter than the noonday sun. It got in me and filled me up so that I could not say anything for awhile, then I commenced to sing the Doxology “Praise God from whom all blessings flow,” and oh the peace and joy that filled my soul. I knew that “old things had passed away and all things had become new.” For instance, I had a checker board and I threw it away, for the Lord showed me I could spend the time in a better way.

Oh, I felt so free after the load of sin was gone! I would have ended up in hell like any other sinner although I was not deep in sin, because morality would not have saved me. For we read in the Bible “Our righteousnesses is as filthy rags,” they will not stand the fire of the Judgment. For we read again “The fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” So it pays to live for Jesus.

On New Year's day 1905, being Sunday, I rode a horse to a Methodist church; a distance of five miles.

It was either the 4th or the 11th of June that I joined the church on probation and was taken in as a full member in August. Sometimes I walked out there twice on Sundays over the hills and through the valleys. Being four and one half miles each way; that would be eighteen miles. In December of that same year my oldest sister joined the same church, though not saved. I was the only one at home that was saved at this time, and I had much opposition, yet the Lord was very precious to my soul, for which I did praise Him.

My Sanctification

If I could have heard a good holiness sermon as I was traveling through the wilderness, I believe I would of entered Canaan's happy land before I did, but the Lord led me gently on as I wanted all that He had for me, and I had purposed in my heart to follow Him. Though I was about seven and a half years getting through the wilderness, I am so glad I finally got through, praise the Lord.

There was a protracted meeting being held in the Methodist church where I was a member. It was the last night of the meeting. I had walked over three miles to the church partly through mud, as it was about the 7th of March, and I wore a high top pair of shoes. There was a good Epworth League meeting, then we went into the main auditorium for the preaching service after the sermon by the evangelist. He and the pastor stepped down off of the pulpit back of the altar rail, and the pastor said, "If there is anyone here that wants to consecrate themselves anew to the Lord come up here with Bro. W _____ and I."

Well, it seemed I had to go, but old Satan came and said, "You had better not go, for the people will look at your shoes and laugh at you, and your Sunday School teacher will see you." So, I sat there just as long as I could, and I got up and went – shoes and all. I never stopped for the altar but walked right over it and stood beside the preachers! So, the devil was completely defeated, thank the Lord. I think there was 7 of us that went up front, and the congregation was asked to sing that song "All for Jesus," but the words of Frances R. Havergal's song came to my mind as my consecration, "Take my life and let be, consecrated Lord to thee." As I quoted part of this song the Lord blessed me in a wonderful way, for I gave myself and all to Jesus for time and eternity, that He could have His way with me.

After we were dismissed I went up to the upper end of Lisbon, and down the path to the railroad. I had just reached the railroad when the Lord opened Heaven up, and sent down such a landslide of glory into my soul that I jumped, ran, and shouted the praises of God, because the old man of sin had been extracted from my heart and the cavity was filled with perfect love, peace and rest. I seemed as light as a feather, and I felt as though I was going through the air, while the waves of glory swept o'er my soul.

The news was soon spread abroad that I was losing my mind. Well, sure enough, I had lost the carnal mind, and in its place received the mind of Christ. Praise the Lord for the holy Fire, minus any smoke. Every justified child of God should get sanctified as quickly as possible, for what excuse can they give when the doctrine of holiness has been preached in most every city and hamlet of the United States? So, now is the time to be sanctified, for Zacharias said in the first chapter of Luke, "That we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." And it is an absolute necessity, for we read in Heb. 12:14, "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

I have only one aim and desire, and that is to serve the Lord with a perfect heart while He gives me breath, that precious souls for Him shall be won. I want many stars in my crown to lay at His feet, for He alone is worthy to receive all the honor and glory.

Source: "What God Hath Wrought Through A Yielded Life" by Charley Hayden Faulk

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