

bound with the complicated chain of sensual and malignant passions. Thou art always tending to nothing and vanity. Thou soon waverest, art soon subdued, art soon disturbed and easily seduced from the path of holiness and peace. There is in thee no good which thou canst glory in as thine own; but much evil as the ground of deep shame and self-abhorrence; thou art even more dark, corrupt and powerless than thou art able to comprehend. Let not pride, therefore, deceive thee into false notions of the holiness and perfection of thy life, for thou hast nothing great, nothing valuable, nothing worthy of admiration and praise, nothing exalted, good and desirable, but that which is produced by the operation of My Spirit. Let eternal truth be all thy comfort and thy boast; and thy sinfulness, thy displeasure and thy shame. 'He that loseth his life shall find it.' Forsake thyself, my son, and thou shalt find Me. Renounce all self-seeking, all peculiarity of possession, and thou shalt enjoy the true riches. For the moment thou hast made such an absolute surrender of thyself as to leave no ground for resumption, thou wilt be qualified to receive those abundant measures which I am ever ready to bestow. Till thou art stripped of self-will with respect both to thy outward situation and the state of thy spirit, it is impossible that thou canst be Mine and I thine. The sooner, therefore, thou makest this surrender of thyself, and the more sincere and pure it is, the more acceptable will it be to Me, and the greater, consequently, thy own gain."

"Many boast of this act of resignation, who perform it with secret reservations. They place not their whole confidence in God, but keep back some supports of self-dependence. . . . These cannot possibly attain the freedom of a pure heart, nor enjoy the transporting intercourses of My friendship, for without a total resignation and daily sacrifice of self, the beatific union cannot be formed."

"I have said to thee often, and now say to thee again, forsake thyself, resign thyself, and thou shalt enjoy the plenitude of heavenly peace. Give all for all; seek nothing for thyself; call nothing back; adhere firmly and unchangeably as the condition of possessing Me; and thus thou wilt attain the freedom of a