

This is taken unedited by me from Jacob Boehme's Treatise on True Resignation (1622).

29. No, no; in this comfortable bed the earthly will grows strong, fat and lascivious. But as soon as the breath of God stirs in you, and points out your sin, then the soul is to sink itself into the suffering and death of Christ, firmly wrapping itself in it, and take Christ's sufferings as its possessions, being (with Christ's death) lord over the death of sin and breaking and killing it in Christ's death.

30. Although unwilling, [sin] must [die]. Struggle against the pleasure-seeking, earthly flesh; do not give it what it wishes, let it fast and hunger until appetite ceases. Hold the flesh's will to be your enemy and do not do what the desire in the flesh wishes. Thus you will lead the death of the flesh into death. Do not attend to the scorn of the world. Think that they only scorn your enemy because he is become a fool to them. Hold him also yourself to be a fool whom Adam awakened in you and gave you a false inheritance. Cast out the maid's son from the house, as a strange son whom God gave you in the beginning, in Adam, not in the house of life, for the maid's son is not to inherit with the freewoman's son (Galatians 4:30).

31. The earthly will is only the maid's son. The four elements were to have been servants to man but Adam led them to sonship. God therefore said to Abraham as He revealed the covenant of promise in him: Cast away the maid's son, for he is not to inherit with the freewoman's [son, Genesis 21:10]. The freewoman's son is Christ, whom God, of His grace, brought to us in the flesh as a new mind, where the will, that is, the eternal will of the soul, might fetch, and drink the water of eternal life, concerning which Christ says: Whosoever drinks of this water that He will give us, for him it will be a fountain-source springing into eternal life (John 4:14). This source is a renewal of the soul's mind, the eternal star of eternal nature, the characteristic of the soul-

creature.

32. Therefore I say, any pretense to God, whatever name it is given, by which a man might pretend to approach God, is a fruitless, useless thing outside of a regenerated mind.

There is no other way to God than a new mind that turns from evil and enters into regret for its past sins, departs from iniquity, wills it no more, but wraps its will in Christ's death, and kills off the sins of the soul with earnestness in Christ's death, so that the soul's mind no longer will sin. Even though all the devils tormented it and brought their desires into its flesh, the soul's will must stand silent in the death of Christ, shelter itself [therein], and will nothing other than the mercy of God.

34. No hypocrisy and external comfort helps in any way, where a man, while still remaining firm in the self, wishes to cover with Christ's payment the rogue of sin in the flesh, and remain in the self. Christ said: Unless you are converted, and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3). So much must there be a new mind, like [that] in the child who knows nothing of sin. Christ further says: You must be born anew or you cannot see the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3). An entirely new will must arise out of Christ's death. Yes, it must be born out of Christ's entrance into humanity and arise in Christ's resurrection.

35. If this is to occur the soul's will must first die in Christ's death, for in Adam it took up the maid's son, sin. This one [sin] he must first cast out from the will, and the poor captive soul must wrap itself, with all that it is, in Christ's death, so that the maid's son, sin in it, dies in Christ's death. Yes, sin must die in the soul's will or else there can be no vision of God. The earthly will, in sin and in God's wrath, shall not see God but Christ who came in the flesh [shall see God]. The soul must put on Christ's spirit and flesh. In this earthly tent it may not inherit God's kingdom; even though sin's kingdom

hangs on eternally to it [the flesh], it must rot in the earth and [then] is to rise in new power.

36. There is no hypocritical forgiveness or one of mere words. We must not be externally accepted children, but children internally reborn out of God, in a new man, given over to God.

37. All hypocrisy by which we say, "Christ has paid and made satisfaction for sin; He has died for our sins," is all false deception and empty useless comfort) if we also do not die to our sins in Him and draw on His merit on new obedience and live in it.

38. He who is antagonistic to and an enemy of sin has Christ's suffering for comfort. He who neither eagerly sees nor hears nor tastes [it], who is its enemy, who continually wishes the right and to do it if he only knew what he is to do, such a person has put on Christ's spirit and will. But the external hypocrisy, the externally accepted sonship, is false and useless.

39. Work done in the external flesh alone does not make sonship, but the work of Christ in the spirit, which is powerful in its external work and shows itself as a new light and reveals the sonship in the external work of the flesh, is and makes sonship.

40. For if the eye is the light of the soul [Luke 11:34], the whole body is the light in all its members. Anyone who boasts of sonship, and permits the body to burn in sin, or lies heavy in darkness, yet, in the fetters of the devil, is not capable of sonship. If he does not find the earnest will for good deeds in love burning in him, all his attempt [at sonship] is only a rational pretense for his self that may not see God unless he is born anew and shows himself in the power of sonship. There is no fire without light. If the divine fire is now in the mind it will certainly shine forth and do that which God will have [it do].

41: But you say, "I have a will for it. I would eagerly do it. But I am held back. I cannot."

42. Yes, dear dirtied stick, that is true. God draws you to sonship, but you do not wish [it]. Your soft pillow in evil is much dearer to you. You place the joy of earthly evil before God's joy. You still stick fast completely in self, and live according to the law of sin that holds you. You do not wish to die to the pleasures of the flesh and therefore you are not in the sonship. God draws you to it but you yourself do not wish it. Oh, how good it would have seemed to Adam if, with this will, he could have been taken into heaven, and set the evil child, full of falsehood, on God's throne. Lucifer wishes to have it so, but he was thrown out.

43. The dying of the vil will is painful; no one wishes it. All of us would eagerly like to be children, of one would take us with this covering, but it cannot be so in any way. This world passes away; so too the external life must die, what [good], then is sonship to me in a mortal body.

44. Whoever wants to inherit sonship must also put on a new man who can inherit sonship and is like to the Godhead. God wishes to have no sinner in heaven, but only simple newborn children who have put on heaven.

45. Therefor it is not so easy a thing to become or be a child of God,,as one tells us. It is very easy to him has put on the sonship, whose light shines, and who has his joy in it. However, to convert the mind and to break self there must be strict, irremissible earnestness and such a resolution that, although body and soul were to spring apart, yet the will would remain firm and never again enter into self..

46. This must be striven for until the dark, hard, locked centrum springs apart and the spark in the centrum ignites so that immediately the noble lily-branch as out of the divine grain of mustard seed [Luke 13:19], as Christ says begins to

sprout forth. There must be earnest prayer with great humiliation, and for a time one must be a fool to one's own reason, and [one must] consider oneself foolish until Christ becomes a form in this new incarnation.

Boehme, Jacob. *The Way to Christ*. Trans. Peter Erb. New York: Paulist P, 1978. 130-135.