**True Freedom**

In this passage, the Lord Jesus presents Himself as the only one capable of liberating men and women from the power of sin.

**1. People are born in bondage to sin**

A. Subject to the tyranny of *death* (21-24)

Hebrews 2:15

B. Subject to the tyranny of the *devil* (44)

C. Subject to the tyranny of *desire* (34)

**2. People can be liberated from sin**

A. Through *faith* in Jesus (24, 31-32, 35-36)

B. Through the *cross* of Jesus (28; 3:14; 12:32-33)

C. Through the *Spirit* of Jesus

Romans 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17

**3. Freedom comes through the gift of the Spirit**

A. Freedom to obey God through the *revocable*
gift of the spirit (Genesis 2:7; compare John 20:22)

B. Freedom only to sin through the *absent*
gift of the Spirit (Jude 19)

C. Freedom to obey God through the *permanent*
gift of the Spirit (Romans 8:1-8, 12-14; Ephesians 4:30)

D. Freedom to be holy through the *liberating*
gift of the Spirit (Romans 8:11, 18-23)

**Conclusion:** Freedom = *Walking in the Spirit of Christ***Make Me a Captive Lord**

Make me a captive, Lord,

And then I shall be free;

Force me to render up my sword,

And I shall conqueror be;

I sink in life’s alarms

When by myself I stand;

Imprison me within Thine arms,

And strong shall be my hand.

My heart is weak and poor

Until it master find;

It has no spring of action sure—

It varies with the wind;

It cannot freely move

Till Thou hast wrought its chain;

Enslave it with Thy matchless love,

And deathless it shall reign.

My power is faint and low

Till I have learned to serve;

It wants the needed fire to glow,

It wants the breeze to nerve;

It cannot drive the world

Until itself be driv’n;

Its flag can only be unfurled

When Thou shalt breathe from heav’n.

My will is not my own

Till thou hast made it Thine;

If it would reach the monarch’s throne

It must its crown resign;

It only stands unbent,

Amid the clashing strife,

When on Thy bosom it has leaned,

And found in Thee its life.

George Matheson