



Hebrews 2:14-15

(14) Therefore, since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, in like manner He also took part in the same, in order that through death He might annul him who has the power of death—that is, the devil; (15) And *that* He might deliver those who were subject to bondage all through their lives by *their* fear of death.

A Faithful Version

The purpose in this section of Hebrews is to provide us with a foundation of truth regarding how we are freed from the condition we were in before we were called, converted, and made Christians and part of God's Family. [Hebrews 2:9-11](#) adds key information to clarify our understanding:

But we see [Jesus](#), who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He by the grace of [God](#) might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.

These verses introduce the solution. Jesus is the means by which we, the many sons, are made perfect, that is, brought to completion and made free from this bondage imposed on us. Our Creator had to first become completely identified with us: human. This is important because Jesus is the means by which we are not only made free and holy at the beginning of our conversion, but this same One also keeps us free throughout our conversion. Those who are truly holy by God's standard are those who will escape death.

This holiness or sanctification is not a static, unchanging state but a growing, lifelong, continually forming one. It is helpful to be reminded of [John 8:31-36](#), which concludes

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Hebrews 2:14-15 (<http://www.theberean.org>) with the statement that "if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

The Son sets us free. However, a key element pinpointing our responsibility in this relationship is the word *abide*, mentioned by Christ in [John 8:35](#): "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever." It means "to live," "to continue," "to go on." We must recall [Romans 5:10](#) and be very thankful: "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." This truth confirms that we are saved by His life, that is, He is our living High Priest. "I will never leave nor forsake you," He declares ([Hebrews 13:5](#)).

Our responsibility, then, is to continue being faithful to Christ, striving to overcome sin, and as this occurs, He, as our High Priest, continues to keep us free from backsliding into Satan's bondage. Thus, the work of Christ *makes* us one with Him and *keeps* us one with Him.

The author of Hebrews is stating that Jesus, our Savior, and His brothers and sisters all now belong to the same Family. Remember that Jesus, in order to be identified completely with us, became a mortal man, but He, by living a sinless life, escaped the mandatory death penalty. Because of God's calling and [faith](#), we are now linked with Him spiritually and can look forward to everlasting life.

[Hebrews 2:14](#) is saying that in order for us to be freed from bondage to Satan and the fear of death, Christ had to become human and able to die because "the wages of sin is death" ([Romans 6:23](#)). Thus, nothing less than the death of our sinless Creator, living as a man, could suffice for us to be freed from the death penalty by means of His substitutionary death on the cross. God paid a huge price for our freedom from the fear of death.

This was not His only great accomplishment. He also lived sinlessly, and in doing so defeated Satan, who has the power of death, as he lost the struggle to induce Jesus, the second Adam, the beginning of the new creation, to sin. The Adversary had won this struggle over Adam and Eve and all their children, but Jesus took the weapon of death from Satan's hands. Because we are one with Christ, that weapon no longer hangs over us.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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