Roman 8:1-6 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
thereby spared from becoming sinful avenues leading to bondage.)

The person who enjoys true spiritual liberty is...

II. No longer sinfully driven by the soul’s natural longings:
A. Some God-given aspirations can become compulsions–
   1. “I want privacy!” can become isolationism. (Its cure is the wise exhortation in Heb 10:25a. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...)
   2. A thirst for knowledge can be a liability [It was with Adam & Eve]–
      a. Curiosity about gossip is a dangerous thirst [If “Curiosity killed the cat,” some people are in danger of using up all nine lives!]
      b. The media can dominate us. [Solomon: “Of making many books there is no end.”] (We can’t absorb or digest all information available. [Eyes bigger than our stomach: interests bigger than our lives.])
   3. A desire for esteem can be a pitfall. (Seeking everybody’s praise is useless, when what we need is to hear God say, “Well done!”)

B. Living “in accordance with the Spirit” comes with an automatic test question: “Since time is limited, is this where God wants me, what should I be learning about and whom should I be trying to please?”

C. Are we in the habit of...
   1. An aversion to certain people: “We don’t click” or “They’re not my type.” (Freedom from this bondage is in seeing others as God does, with supernatural love, which overlooks imperfections.)
   2. Living “in accordance with the Spirit” curbs our sinful resistance with a holy, unrestrained flexibility of mind– Psa 51:12, Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

III. No longer sinfully bound to natural loyalties:
A. Excessive loyalty is when certain loyalties block the path of duty:
   1. Inordinate loyalty to parents can damage loyalty in a marriage.
   2. Overprotective loyalty to children (as they get older) can inhibit their journey toward responsible adulthood.
   3. An exclusive loyalty to friends or a can keep us from following God’s larger plan of reaching out to others.
   4. An narrow loyalty to our own country can prevent us from loving and caring for God’s Kingdom throughout the world.

B. Living “in accordance with the Spirit” establishes loyalty to God as top priority, setting all other loyalties in their proper order.

The person who enjoys true spiritual liberty is...

IV. Free from sinful attitudes toward natural duties:
A. There’s a kind of bondage in the “I don’t want to” attitude–
   1. An aversion to certain tasks: “That’s beneath me.” (Our freedom is in being God’s servants. [There is Joy is Serving Jesus, as I journey on my way./ Joy that fills the heart with praises./ Every hour and every day.])

B. Do we insist on having everything done in our way, on our time schedule, and by our standards?
C. Are we in the habit of being critical, fault-finding, complaining?
D. Living “in accordance with the Spirit” lets us set personal views and preferences aside for the sake of others– Phil 2:3-5. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...

CONCLUSION:
–We could go on and on, investigating other areas where our natural desires and dispositions become exploited by our sinful nature. But the important thing is to remember: Living in the Spirit liberates us from bondage to sinful desires.
–God wants us fully alive, fully blest, fully free– v.6. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. God gives us the Holy Spirit to guide the navigation of our natural earthly life on a daily basis.
–Praying to know God’s will and then submitting to it are what living in the Spirit is supposed to look like. And when we do it, it’s our best advertisement for others to come and discover salvation in Christ.

The person who enjoys true spiritual liberty is...