

We Who Believe in Freedom (Ella's Song)

by Bernice Johnson Reagon

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest,
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes*

**Until the killing of Black men, black mothers' sons,
Is as important as the killing of white men, white mothers' sons.**

**That which touches me most is the chance to work with people,
Passing on to others, that which was passed on to me.**

**To me young people come first,
They have the courage where we fail,
And if I can shed some light as they carry us through the gale**

**The older I get, the better I know that the secret of my going on,
Is when the reins are in the hands of the young who dare
To run against the storm.**

**Not needing to clutch for power,
Not needing the light just to shine on me!
I need to be just one in the number as we stand against tyranny**

**I'm a woman who speaks in a voice
And I must be heard
At times I can be quite difficult, I'll bow to no man's word**