

2 Corinthians 10 English Standard Version

10 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—
2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, **6** being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

7 Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. **8** For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. **9** I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. **10** For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." **11** Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. **12** Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. **14** For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. **15** We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, **16** so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. **17** "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." **18** For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Week Nine
Warfare, Weapons & Discernment
II Corinthians 10

The Setting (1-3)

I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— 2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.



We are entering a couple of chapters where Paul deals with his _____ and _____. In the opening verses the Apostle brings up their attacks. They are stating that Paul is strong when he writes but weak when he is in person. This an attack upon his character. They go as far as calling Paul worldly or fleshly. These attacks were dividing the church impacting the Gospel witness. The detractors became attackers as they went after the _____ that Paul taught. This is the point where Satan will always ultimately aim his sights; at the _____ of _____. There is but one option, that is to fight the attacks. There was too much at _____ for the Apostle Paul to ignore the enemy's strategy. He stated that though he walked in the world, he does

live like the world or fight like the world. It was Paul who penned, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but rulers and principalities of the air. This was _____ and it was clear who he was fighting and how he would fight.

Coercion, manipulation, pressure groups, compromises, demonstrations that ultimately result in raised voices, in clenched fists and outbreaks of conflict, boycotts, pickets and strikes, in attempts to pressure people into doing what others want. These are the weapons of the world. It does not have any others. So it is understandable why those who are governed by the flesh would seek to employ fleshly weapons to get things done. But the universal testimony of history is, these do not work. We still have the same problems we have had for centuries. We never will get rid of them. We only rearrange them by these methods so that they seem to take another form for a little while but soon we are right back with the same problems, if not worse. That has been the unbroken experience of history. No one can deny it.

-By Ray Stedman

The War that is Waged & How we Fight Our Battles (4-6)

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

The War

- _____ attacks aimed at our minds
- The goal is to develop _____ that keep us from abundant living and the church from thriving
- These strongholds come in the form of _____ and _____ opinions
- Satan uses good people, sometimes even God's people to levy the attacks
- The goal is divide, confuse and conquer



Our Weapons

The weapons were not specifically mentioned in the text, because they are well known as they were a key

_____ of Paul's teachings.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

How We Win

1. **Cut off the supply lines.**
2. **Capture your thoughts before they capture you.**
3. **Diagnose every thought under the light of the Word of God being led by the Spirit of God.**
4. **Unleash the power of your Spirit led faith by rejecting every negative, joy stealing, peace robbing, time killing, God blocking thought.**
5. **Keep doing this until your mind is sound and at peace.**

How to Know Who to Trust

7 Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. 8 For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. 9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." 11 Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. 12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. 13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ.

The Corinthians were called to learn to see the difference between real Gospel leaders and phony leaders. In verse seven, Paul tells them it is clear if they open their eyes. This is an important discipline to learn. We need to

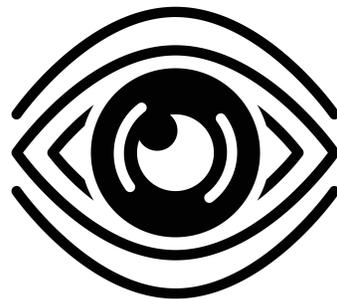
_____ to _____.

The Devil seeks to disguise his strategies. It's rare that his attacks come where he is clearly identified. This is where we get the saying, "a wolf in sheep's clothing."

The enemy knows that if we trust a person we are very likely to believe their message. That is why Satan works so hard to put false teachers before us, they appear to be trustworthy, even spiritual, smart, good leaders, many are very impressive and capable people.

If we are not discerning we could easily come under their influence. Once under their influence we will be prey to false teachings that lead us away from the

_____ of God. Then actions follow that seek to disrupt our union with Christ, His Church and our witness in the world.



Genuine	Phony
A personal _____ with Jesus	The focus is on their _____ and _____
Authority is used to _____ others, making their lives better	Authority is used to build their _____, their bottom line
They are elevated by Jesus	Self promotion, marketing, and branding
Walks in the _____ of Jesus as evidenced by _____	Seeks the path of _____ and prosperity as evidenced by _____, privilege and _____
They seek to _____ that Jesus may _____	They use Jesus so they might _____

What's At Stake (15b-18)

But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. 17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

- **Our _____ in Christ, fullness of Jesus**
- **The _____ of our church**
- **The Gospel _____ in unreached places**
- **Our _____ before the Lord**

Application: Ten Truths for the Battle

1. Realize there is a _____ whether you're in the _____ or not
2. Have your _____ ready to go to battle
3. Inventory & _____ Thoughts
4. Hold _____ to the light of the Word God led by The Spirit of God
5. Keep battling until you, your family, your church, and your sphere of influence is walking in line with the truth of God
6. Don't just hold your ground, _____ ground
7. Be careful who you allow to teach you the Scriptures
8. Be careful who you trust enough to follow
9. Protect the _____ of your church
10. Protect the name and mission of Jesus