

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"God's Secret Weapon"
2 Corinthians 10:1-6
Study-15

2 Corinthians 1-9 Paul's Integrity:

2 Corinthians 1:1-2:13 His Travel Plans, Absence and Conduct
2 Corinthians 2:14-7:16 His Ministry
2 Corinthians 8-9 His Administration of the Collection

Now Paul must defend his authenticity of his apostleship.
2 Corinthians 10-13

Why is Paul's Apostleship so important? If Paul is not a called messenger from God, then his message is not from God either.

2 Corinthians 10:10-12

A Key Word: 2 Corinthians 10-13 Boast, or Glory – 20 times.
This was not personal boasting; Paul's boasting is in God.

Thought Of Our Passage: "Spiritual Attracts Should Drive Us To Be More Christ-Like Through The Use Of God's Spiritual Weapons."

- 1. Verses 1-2 Be Christ-Like**
- 2. Verses 3-6 Use Spiritual Weapons**

1. Verses 1-2 Be Christ-Like:

2 Corinthians 10:1 Now - marks a change in thought. Paul has spoken in **2 Corinthians 8-9** about grace giving.

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 Results in Giving. When grace giving is lived out in practice how does it look?

How does it function? **"Grace Giving" and "Grace Living" go together!**

2 Corinthians 10-13 Paul's Vindication Of His Apostleship:
"Grace Living"

I, Paul, myself urge you - Paul did not command the believers, he appealed to them.

by the meekness "*one's attitude toward others in view of their acts, bad or good.*"

and gentleness "*is distinctly active, it is seen in one's actions toward others*"

of Christ— Jesus cast out money changers, confronted the religious leaders, held children in His arms, touched the sick!

Jesus is our example; He was the servant.

Paul never attempted to defend himself personally.

I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! What Paul could be doing here is **being sarcastic.**

I who am meek when face to face with you, When Paul was around them, he was so humble and cordial. (They said)

but bold toward you when absent! When I am away, I write these stern letters. (His letters are smoking!)

It also could be that because Paul was meek towards them that they took it as weakness.

2 Corinthians 10:2 I propose to be courageous against some, When I show up my plan is to deal with those that have spoken these things.

who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

That is the root of the problem. They (False Teachers) were carnal (Worldly), they were looking at Paul as walking like a mere man.

the flesh - Scriptures, calls inherited *selfishness, self-centeredness of life,* use of our bodies to express sin **Romans 8:5-8**

2. Verses 3-6 Use Spiritual Weapons:

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh,

We are physical beings. You see a person housed in flesh and blood!

Revelation 12:10 Satan is the false accuser of the brethren.

When we get bitter, become faultfinding, start focusing upon the weaknesses of others, start complaining. We have become fleshly.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

we do not war - This word is "*campaign, strategy.*"

It is not a quick battle but a long-term war!

according to the flesh,

our battles are not to be looked at as merely physical.

2 Corinthians 10:4 for the weapons (military hardware) of our warfare are not of the flesh,

This battle, this war cannot be waged through human power.

Matthew 10:16

Intimidation -

Manipulation -

Pressure WOKE Groups -

Compromises -

Lies, Falsehood -

Demonstrations -

But the universal testimony of history is, these do not work. We still have the same problems we have had for centuries.

but divinely powerful - The Christians weapons are God empowered.

Noah – A family builds a barge and is saved from a world-wide flood.

Jericho - March around the walls and be silent, blow the trumpets.

Gideon – Put torches in clay pots and break them.

David – A sling and 5 smooth stones against a giant.

for the destruction of fortresses. Walled cities that were present in Paul's day. These walls were tall, they were thick, they could not be scaled. How to get in?

Note Paul does not even mention what these God empowered weapons are! Why? Because he had mentioned them in his other letters. They already knew them! **What are those weapons?**

Ephesians 6:12-19 There are 7 Pieces of armor. (There are 2 weapons!)

- 1. The Belt of Truth** - Integrity, not whether we have truth - does truth have us?
- 2. The Breastplate of Righteousness** - We are to live lives of purity that we would not give the enemy room for accusations.
- 3. Shoes of Peace** - We are to have peace in the battles, and to offer the gospel to those who are lost.
- 4. Shield of Faith** - Jesus is a person that we are to have fellowship with daily; we are to have a living faith.
- 5. Helmet of Salvation** - Saved from the penalty of sin! Saved from the power of sin, and will be saved from the presence of sin.

6. Sword of the Spirit - The word of God for every specific situation is the living word.

7. Prayer of the Spirit -

The Word of God and Prayer! These are the weapons that God has given to us.

His love is a powerful weapon! **Ephesians 4:15**

2 Corinthians 10:5 We are destroying speculations – speaks of *intellect* – means "the rationalizing by which a point of error is supported and defended."

and every lofty thing - *Philosophical theory*

raised up against the knowledge of God,

Genesis 3:1 "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The first doctrine challenged is that of judgment!

and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, as a Christian, God wants us to use our minds.

Romans 12:2 transformed by the renewing of your mind,

2 Corinthians 10:6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, The final analysis is: What does the Bible say? What must I do?

whenever your obedience is complete. Philippians 2:3-11

Application:

1. How Do I Respond To Difficult People And Difficult Situations? Do I Resemble Jesus Christ?
2. When Facing The Battles Of Life, Do I Resort To The Weapons Of The World?
3. What Part Does The Word Of God, Prayer And Love Play In My Life?