

Parson to Person
2 Corinthians 10
(The Warfare – Part 4)

The Spiritual War—Continued

Paul wrote, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled”* (vss. 3–6).

Within the context of our text we noted that the specific call to take captive the thoughts waring against “the knowledge of God” were the “thoughts” put into the minds of the Corinthians by the Adversary—via the false apostles then in Corinth.

These men needed rebuke and removal.

In Review

The principles of spiritual warfare we developed over the past two Sundays were:

- 1) The importance of sound doctrine.**
- 2) The definition of a spiritual stronghold—light and darkness.**
- 3) The strongholds of demonic spirits—spiritual darkness.**
- 4) The strongholds of the mind—lies and misinformation.**
- 5) The Biblical steps we take to tear down personal enemy strongholds.**
 - a. Confess your sins to the Lord.
 - b. Confess your sins, struggles, and/or weaknesses to a trusted believing friend.
 - c. Adjust your thinking to align with informational truth—found in the authoritative written word of God coupled together with otherwise necessary factual data.
 - d. Ask the Lord (through prayer) to give you a genuine change of mind (repentance) for the sin(s) and lies you have entertained.
 - e. Resist the enemy. (Tear down the strongholds, silence the voices, correct the thinking, intentionally seek the Lord and stand against the schemes of the Devil.)

Today we must look at points 6 and 7:

6) Church Discipline.

Church discipline is intended to assist the rebellious—and keep the house of the Lord clean and pure. When Church discipline is acted upon, it is intended to help the sinning brother or sister get to their knees in repentance, and maintain a healthy and holy “space” for the Lord’s work—with the Lord’s people. The local church is to be a sanctuary from the world—and in particular, from the work of the enemy. Left unchecked, the local church will develop strongholds similar to those in individual persons. Therefore, the corporate Church/church itself may become a traffic zone for enemy activity—via individuals but with broader effects.

Therefore, we must be diligent to keep “up the house” and clean out the darkness. This is done by flooding the darkness with light.

As mentioned above, the specific “warfare” Paul addressed concerned the false apostles—and what they were planting into the minds of the Corinthians. These evil workers were being used by the Adversary! Therefore, the light was turned on them, and they were marked for removal. For this reason Paul wrote, “[be] ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (vs. 6).

Of interest is the absence of a call to repentance. It is therefore apparent that Paul (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) knew they had previously been given space to repent and refused, or were simply given no place among the Corinthians—whether repentant or not.

Courage

The Corinthians were in need of courage and repentance themselves. They needed to repent for allowing the false “leaders” to continue, and rise up in the exercise of Church discipline.

Earlier in their history the Corinthians needed the same warning. At that time, they rose up, did what was needed, and the results were beautiful (see 1 Corinthians 5). Now they were being called to do it again.

The Corinthians needed to:

- 1) Shine a light on (expose) the lies (Ephesians 5:11).
- 2) Shine a light on (expose) the liars (Romans 16:17, Titus 3:10–11).
- 3) See to the removal of the enemies—and their “voices” (1 Corinthians 5).
- 4) Return their allegiance to the Lord—and to His chosen/appointed leader (vs. 8).
- 5) Go forth in obedience—“contending for the faith” (Jude 3).

The Church today should take note: We are in the same position! Calling out evil workers took courage, takes courage, and will take courage. However, anything less is sure disaster.

7) Enjoying freedom in Jesus—a life free from the strongholds of the enemy.

God desires that we (His people) live free (see John 8:36). Anything less than holy, righteous living is a sure path to bondage. May we live free of the strongholds of darkness and “hide” in the light.

“Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness” (Psalm 143:9–10).

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies” (Psalm 18:1–3).

Love you all,
Pastor Paul