

## ARE YOU FIGHTING THE WRONG BATTLE?

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

### LEARN TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT RATHER THAN THE FLESH

- “Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! 2 I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I intend to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.” (2 Corinthians 10:1-2)
- “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” (1 Peter 3:4 KJV)
- **Spiritual maturity isn't demonstrated by how forcefully you respond when someone attacks you, but by how faithfully you reflect Christ when your flesh wants to fight back.**
- “I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.” (Galatians 5:16-17)
- **Whoever controls your choices ultimately determines the direction of your life.**

### UNDERSTAND THAT OUR BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL

- “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.” (2 Cor. 10:3-4)
- **When we mistake people for the enemy, we end up fighting the very people God has called us to reach with the gospel.**
- “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.” (Eph. 6:12)
- **You will never win a spiritual battle using fleshly weapons. The victory you are looking for requires the power of the God you are trusting in.**

### STAND ON THE TRUTH OF GOD AND HIS WORD

- “We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God.” (2 Corinthians 10:5a)
- Jesus - “Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)
- **The strongest weapon against a lie isn't a louder opinion; it's the unchanging truth of God's Word.**
- “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

- If you don't allow God's Word to determine what is true, you will eventually allow the world's opinions to determine what you believe.

### SUBMIT OUR THOUGHTS TO THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

- “...and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.” (2 Corinthians 10:5b-6)
- **Spiritual maturity means learning to reject what contradicts Christ and surrender your thinking to His truth.**
- **You cannot consistently live in obedience to Christ while continually allowing your mind to be ruled by thoughts that oppose Him.**
- “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

## CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

### Observation:

- How does Paul describe his approach to the Corinthians, and what accusations or criticisms is he responding to? (vss. 1-2)
- What distinction does Paul make between living in the flesh and waging spiritual warfare? (vss. 3-4)
- What does Paul say must be destroyed, and what does it mean to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ? (vs.5)
- What does Paul say about confronting disobedience, and how does he connect this responsibility to the Corinthians' own obedience? (vs. 6)

### Understanding

- Why do we often feel the need to defend ourselves, retaliate, or prove someone wrong when we are criticized, misunderstood, or treated unfairly?
- What are some everyday situations where Christians are most tempted to respond according to the flesh rather than the Spirit?
- What practical habits can help us recognize when our flesh is beginning to control our attitudes, words, and actions?
- How would our attitudes & actions change if we remembered that our ultimate battle is spiritual rather than against other people?
- Why is it important for Christians to recognize the difference between what Scripture actually teaches and what culture, personal feelings, or influential people claim is true?
- What is one specific change God may be calling you to make this week in how you respond to conflict, view other people, stand on biblical truth, or manage your thoughts?