

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

Reestablishing Our Authority

Our True Authority in Jesus

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Second Corinthians

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

I. Remembering Our Position	1:1-2
II. Reconciling Our Suffering	1:3-11
III. Restoring Our Faith	1:12-7:16
IV. Rekindling Our Stewardship	8-9
V. Reestablishing Our Authority	10-13

As we begin this *FINAL SECTION* there is a word we must understand if we are going to comprehend what Paul is saying to the Church...

Boast

Καυχάομαι – (kauchaomai)

To express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being exceptionally noteworthy

James 3:5 (ESV) — So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

James 4:16 (ESV) — As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV) — So that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV) — “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1. The CHARACTER of True Authority

2 Corinthians 10:1–2 (ESV) — 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!— 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.

Meekness is strength under control

Gentleness is patient tolerance

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. The COURAGE in True Authority

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (ESV) — For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God,

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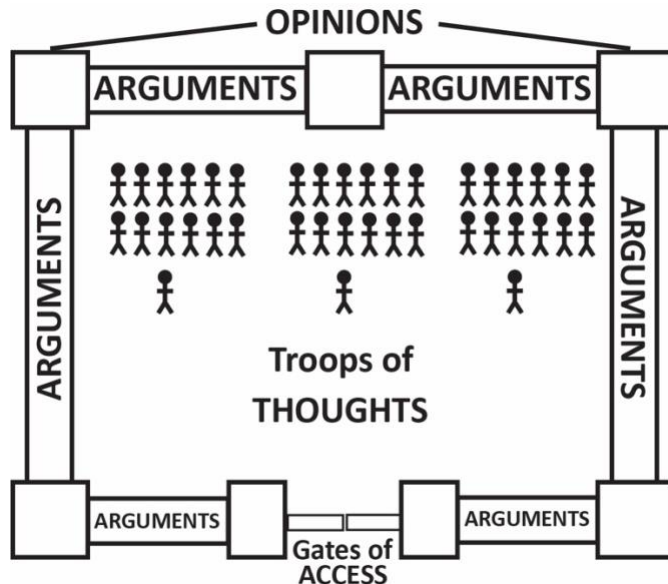
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and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) — For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

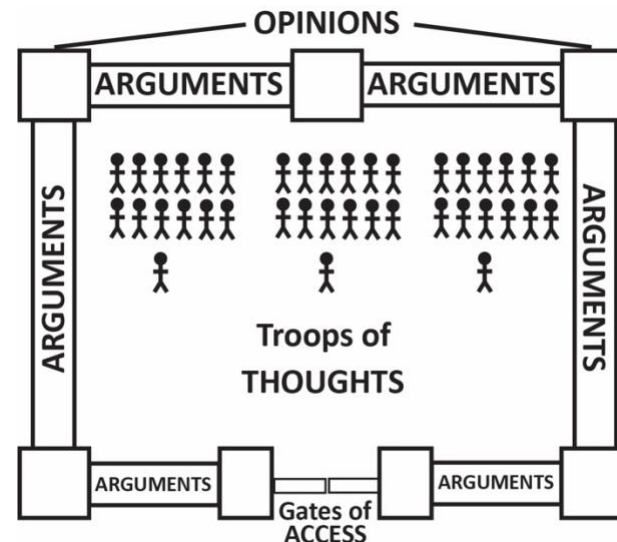
For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

A mindset impregnated with hopelessness that cause a person to accept as unchangeable something that is known to be contrary to the will of God.



Arguments are “disputes against the truth; reasons to believe the lies”

Colossians 2:8 (ESV) — See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.



Towering Opinions are “beliefs held with confidence but not substantiated by knowledge.”

3. The CONFIDENCE of True Authority

2 Corinthians 10:7–12 (ESV) — 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. 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. I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. For they say, “His letters

are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.” Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. 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.

Confidence means “to believe in something or someone to the extent of placing reliance or trust in or on that something or someone”

1 John 5:13 (ESV) — I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Matthew 28:18 (ESV) — And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Luke 10:19 (ESV) — Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

4. The COMMENDATION from True Authority

2 Corinthians 10:13–18 (ESV) — 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. 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. 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, so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another’s area of influence. “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

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1. The _____ of True Authority

2. The _____ in True Authority

3. The _____ for True Authority

4. The _____ from True Authority

➤ What is my _____ from the Lord?

➤ What is my area of _____ in the Lord?