

# Three Marks of a Spiritual Warrior

Today's scripture reading is from one of the premier passages on spiritual warfare. Paul was a great soldier. He endured grave hardship. He suffered tremendously. He never retreated from the front lines - where he relentlessly engaged in battle with the enemies of God. In 2 Corinthians 10 - we see Paul focusing on this warfare in which he will have to engage. It is an extremely important text ... and remains relevant to this day. Paul defines three attributes or marks of the spiritual soldier.

## I. 2 Corinthians 10.1 - A Good soldier is Compassionate.

- A. 10.1- he appealed to them by the *meekness and gentleness of Christ*.
  - 1. **Meekness**. It's not weakness ... it is power under control.
  - 2. **Gentleness**. It refers to leniency.
- B. No one demonstrated this more effectively than Christ.
  - 1. 1 Peter 2.21-23 - no one has ever had himself under more control.
  - 2. Matthew 12.20 - Jesus did not come to crush what has already been **bruised**.

## II. 2 Corinthians 10.2 - A Good Soldier is Courageous.

- A. 10.2 - Paul's intention was not to be bold, but if he had to, he would.
- B. Bold - v. 2., means courage. **Confidence**, comes from a word that means to speak with conviction ... to speak as one thinks.
  - 1. **Challenge** - v. 2., means to act without fear regardless of the circumstance.
  - 2. Challenge who? Certain *people who think we are behaving according to the flesh*.

## III. 2 Corinthians 10.3-5 - A Good Soldier is Capable

- A. 10.3b-4a - he says when he does fight, the **weapons** of our warfare are not of the flesh. Why? The war is spiritual. The kingdom of darkness is our opponent.
- B. What are human weapons?
- C. 10.4b - Spiritual weapons are **powerful** through God...
  - 1. For the purpose of the demolition of **strongholds**.
  - 2. Paul seeks their **demolition**.
- D. 10.5b - *Every thought is taken captive*. Every concept, opinion, ideology, everything is brought to the obedience of Christ.
  - 1. How is that accomplished? By the teaching of truth.
  - 2. See Ephesians 6.17. The **sword** of the Spirit is the word of God.
- E. Scripture is the weapon that smashes strongholds people have built up to fortify themselves against God.
  - 1. Hebrews 4.12 - do we believe this?
  - 2. 2 Corinthians 4.5; 6.7 - the word of truth makes up the weapons of righteousness.

## IV. Conclusion

- A. We speak truth. We are ambassadors of Christ, pleading, begging, and sometimes even fighting for the souls of others. Dear Christian friend, are you living within that mission?
- B. Do you need Jesus?