



**Dr. Jimmy Stewart | July 13, 2025**

*Sermon* | Boast in the Lord

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

**Summary:** In 2 Corinthians 10, Paul confronts the false apostles who challenged his authority by pointing to outward strength, eloquence and reputation. Paul, by contrast, defends his ministry not through self-promotion but through Christ-centered humility and spiritual power. He acknowledges that while he appears meek in person, he fights with divine weapons—capable of demolishing arguments and strongholds. Paul refuses to compare himself with others or take credit for work not his own. Instead, he models a heart of submission to Christ and calls the Corinthians to recognize that any true influence in ministry is a gift from God. The lesson is clear: the local church does not thrive by worldly standards of influence but by obedience to God and glorifying the Lord alone.

## **I. Meekness is not Weakness. (1 - 2)**

### **2 Corinthians 10:1-2**

1 Now I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ—though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. 2 Well, I am begging you now so that when I come I won't have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives.

- Paul models Christlike humility—not a domineering spirit.

## **II. Waging War Differently. (3 - 6)**

### **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

3 We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. 6 And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient.

- Our weapons are spiritual, not carnal—truth, prayer, the Word, the Spirit and obedience.
- Strongholds are broken by the gospel, not by human wisdom, effort or persuasion.

### **III. Only God Measures True Ministry. (7 - 12)**

#### **2 Corinthians 10:7-12**

7 Look at the obvious facts. Those who say they belong to Christ must recognize that we belong to Christ as much as they do. 8 I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority.

9 I'm not trying to frighten you by my letters. 10 For some say, "Paul's letters are demanding and forceful, but in person he is weak, and his speeches are worthless!"

11 Those people should realize that our actions when we arrive in person will be as forceful as what we say in our letters from far away.

12 Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!

- Paul challenges superficial judgment. Ministry is measured by obedience, not applause.
- Refusing to compare and judge are acts of spiritual maturity.

### **IV. Boast in the Lord Alone. (13 - 18)**

#### **2 Corinthians 10:13-17**

13 We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you. 14 We are not reaching beyond these boundaries when we claim authority over you, as if we had never visited you. For we were the first to travel all the way to Corinth with the Good News of Christ.

15 Nor do we boast and claim credit for the work someone else has done. Instead, we hope that your faith will grow so that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended. 16 Then we will be able to go and preach the Good News in other places far beyond you, where no one else is working. Then there will be no question of our boasting about work done in someone else's territory. 17 As the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord." 18 When people commend themselves, it doesn't count for much. The important thing is for the Lord to commend them.

- Are you bold for God when the moment calls for it?
- What do you need to Be Bold for God when the Moment Calls For It?

### *Life Application Sermon Guide:*

1. **How do we, like the Corinthians, sometimes judge the value of ministry by appearances or worldly standards?** Examine your criteria for spiritual leadership—how do you evaluate pastors, mentors, or churches? Are your evaluations rooted in Scripture or personality?
2. **Paul said our weapons are not of the flesh. What spiritual strongholds do you think the church is facing today, and how should we fight them?** Identify a personal or cultural stronghold you face (e.g., fear, pride, addiction, cynicism). Commit to prayer and Scripture as your weapons this week.
3. **Why is it so tempting to compare ourselves to others in ministry or life? How can boasting in the Lord protect us from envy or pride?** Write down one area of your life where you're tempted to compare. Now write a verse or prayer that helps you re-center your identity in Christ.
4. **Paul refused to take credit for work that wasn't his.** How does this challenge our views of success and recognition in the church? Who can you affirm this week for their faithfulness—especially if they work behind the scenes?
5. **What does it look like for you personally to boast in the Lord this week?** Consider posting or sharing a story not about your success, but about how God has worked through your weakness.

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