Waging warfare
Fighting from victory, not for victory

I. Understand the nature of the battle (vs. 3-4)

A. The true nature of the battles we fight is spiritual, not physical

1. Why do you at times find this difficult to see or recognize this?

B. The weapons we can fight with

1. Worldly weapons

a. Anger, manipulation, self-reliance, political power, human wisdom

2. The weapons God has given us

a. Prayer, the Word of God, faith, truth, the Holy Spirit

3. What can you do so that your first inclination is to use God's weapons rather than the worldly weapons?

II. Understand where the battle often takes place (vs. 5)

A. The battlefield is primarily in the mind

B. Common lies men believe

1. I can handle this myself, no one will know, my worth comes from my success, I deserve this, God cannot use me

a. Which of these lies have you struggled with in the past?

C. How strong holds are built

1. begins with believing a lie, then the lie is defended

2. Then the lie shapes our behavior, the behavior becomes a habit, and the habit becomes a strong hold

3. Do you have a strong hold in your life

a. If so, you can experience victory in that area

b. Seek out fellow believers to come along side of you in that battle

III. Capture every thought (vs. 5)

A. Victory begins long before actions

1. Why, because thoughts often determine our actions

2. The enemy loves to attack the mind first

3. To capture our thoughts, we have to acknowledge them honestly

a. 3 R's: Recognize, Reject and Replace

B. Paul says in Romans 12:2 – "be transformed by the renewing of your mind"

1. What steps will you take to help facilitate the renewing of your mind?

IV. Walk in complete obedience (vs. 6)

A. The contrast isn't between victory and defeat

1. It's between disobedience and obedience

B. Our spiritual battles come from without (Satan and the world)

1. But they also come from within

C. Are there areas of your life that you are not walking in obedience?

1. If so, what steps will you take to change that?

V. Remember the source of Victory