

Becoming Spiritually Powerful

II Corinthians 10:1-18

3/17/02

Intro



In this chapter, Paul specifically addresses the accusations that were against him and in doing so, he gives the church insight into who he is in Christ.

As Paul speaks of what Christ is doing in his life, we see what Christ would want to do in ours.

Here, his words give us insight into ourselves and how we should operate as those who want to be used of the Lord. Paul is a man who has been used tremendously of the Lord because he understands how God wants to operate in his life. That where we can learn, in seeing how God wants to operate in our lives now.

These verses give us insights into God's heart in becoming spiritually powerful.

I. Remove speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.

Vs 3 A. Though we walk in the flesh, do not do battle according to the flesh.

- Paul is explaining why he doesn't use yelling, or bickering to accomplish spiritual victory – it's of the flesh.

B. The weapons of spiritual warfare are divinely powerful.

- We should accomplish God's purposes God's way.

Illus – The man who was riding on a bus and someone got on who was rude, belligerent, and drunk.

1 Cor 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of *my ways which are in Christ*, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

Illus – In marriage, we often rely on fleshly means to accomplish spiritual ends.

- God's ways are not just better; they are made powerful by God.

C. Remove every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.

- Let the Word of God be the standard and let all things stand against it.

Illus – dealing with wives in the Koran vs the Bible; how Kaveh speaks to Muslims.

- Today there are many things raised up against the knowledge of God; such as *Islam, secularism, New Age thought.*

II. Take every thought captive.

Vs 5 A. Paul's accusers were saying that there was a great difference between Paul's letters and his speech.

- They said that his letters were weighty and strong and his personal presence was unimpressive, and his speech contemptible.
- We should be concerned about the same things; especially regarding our speech and our actions...
- But it starts in our thoughts...

Illus – We can hide what goes on in our minds, but we can't hide the fruit of it.

B. Spiritually powerful living begins with spiritually powerful thinking.

- If we want to **BE** godly, we must first start by thinking godly.
- If we want to BE gracious, we must first think gracious thoughts.
- The greatest battleground we will ever face will be in our own minds.

III. Desire the commending of the Lord.

Vs 18

A. We are not approved by commending ourselves

- Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

B. Do not look at things as they appear outwardly.

- It is the inward things that are most vital to the Lord.

C. We should not compare ourselves with ourselves.

- But to the standard of what God has for us.

D. We should operate within the sphere God has apportioned for us.

- We can ask God to expand our borders, but the key is that they are God's borders.

Conclusion

The key to living spiritually powerful is to truly desire it. Some people are content living compromised lives, but God would have us desire all there is for us in Jesus. These insights give us great wisdom in accomplishing what God wants to do.