Anchored to Stand

**STUDIES IN SECOND CORINTHIANS**

**Lesson 13**

**II Corinthians 10**

***Stand in Times of Warfare***

***For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds***

**II Corinthians 10:4**

In Chapter Ten there is a definite shift in content, emphasis and emotion as Paul began to deal firmly with the false teachers and dissenters in the church at Corinth. He understood that his real enemy could not be seen and would not be defeated with conventional methods. Paul explains why Christians are supposed to do battle a different way. The weapons we carry have a divine power to break strongholds. This is an important lesson for us all to understand. There is a battle raging all around us and we need to know that God has made a way for us to stand in times of warfare.

**First Day Overview: Read II Corinthians 10**

1. Read through II Corinthians chapter 10 and underline or highlight a word or verse that stands out to you. Write it here:
2. Application of God’s Word is one of the primary goals of our Steps of Faith Bible Study. Our portion of scripture this week contains spiritual truths and practical instructions that are relevant and applicable to us all. Observe this as read through chapter 10 once more and choose a phrase from the following paragraphs that you are especially interested in studying more fully:
	1. II Corinthians 10:1-6

* 1. II Corinthians 10:7-11

* 1. II Corinthians 10:12-18
1. Paul contrasts the use of *meekness* and *gentleness* with the use of *bold. (verse 1)* How can we determine when to use meekness and gentleness and when to be bold?
2. This week we will specifically address the invisible battle against our adversary, the devil. But is not the only battle we are involved in. We are also in a battle with our own flesh. We are constantly battling between what we want to do versus what we know the Lord wants us to do.
	1. What does Romans 7:19-20 say about this battle?
	2. Galatians 5:16-17
	3. In what way do you battle your own flesh?

**Anchored In –** Finish your lesson today by spending some quite time with Jesus. *I cannot stress strongly enough your need for daily devotions. Having a quiet time will keep you in a right relationship with God – and that will keep you in a right relationship with everyone else. Making a commitment to seek God every day does not put you under bondage – it brings you the greatest freedom you can know in Christ Jesus. This is the secret to an ever-deepening relationship with your Lord and Savior* – Kay Smith

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*My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.*

*I know that while in heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart*

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**Second Day: Read II Corinthians 10:1-3**

In this definite shift in content, emphasis and emotion as Paul begins to deal firmly with the false teachers and dissenters in the church at Corinth. Some of the Corinthian believers were criticizing Paul as if he were a dog that barked loudly, but only at a distance. They accused him of backing down in any face-to-face confrontation

1. II Corinthians 10:1-2 contains Paul’s response to this accusation.
	1. In what spirit was his appeal made? verse 1a
		1. Meekness has been defined as strength under control. Meekness and gentleness do not dilute or nullify the strength of Paul’s appeal. Paul’s love for the Corinthian believers and his intolerance of the disruptive influence of false accusers prompted him to defend his character and ministry. What can you apply to your life from Paul’s example?
	2. Paul chose meekness over boldness. However, when boldness was necessary, he would not shirk from using it. How would you define the boldness that Paul felt might be necessary?
	3. Paul knew there was some truth to their assessment of his outward appearance and speech and that God was using him, in spite of his weaknesses. Paul addressed this in his first letter to the church in Corinth. Read I Corinthians 2:1-5 and record what you learn about Paul.
2. These people who opposed Paul were not directly challenging him, but talking behind his back. We all have experienced this. What does it feel like?
3. Paul and his co-workers were accused of walking *according to the flesh*, that is, *living their life governed by the weak and corrupt principles of human nature* (II Corinthians 10:2b).
	1. What was Paul’s response to his critics’ accusation? Answer from II Corinthians 10:3.
	2. Explain the difference between walking *according to the flesh* (II Corinthians 10:2b) and *walking in the flesh* (II Corinthians 10:3a).
4. Link the phrase *we do not war after the flesh* (II Corinthians 10:3b) with Ephesians 6:12.
	1. Who are we fighting?
	2. Why are weapons of the flesh ineffective against these foes?
	3. Why is it essential for believers to know and recognize that we are in a spiritual battle?
	4. How does recognizing the truth of II Corinthians 10:3 and Ephesians 6:12 change your perspective and approach to your battles?

**Anchored In** – Are you engaged in a battle today? Have you been fighting according to the flesh, or according to the spirit? One of the weapons we have is prayer; don’t underestimate its power. If you don’t “feel” like praying today, consider this to be a tactic of the enemy to prevent you from having victory; and pray anyways.

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***Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.***

 ***Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?***

**Corrie Ten Boom**

**THIRD DAY: Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-6**

1. II Corinthians 10:3-6 is one sentence in the KJV.
	1. Think about why the believer is not to war after the flesh as you write verse 4 here phrase by phrase:

* 1. Our war is in the spiritual realm. Our problem is that we keep getting tangled up in battles of the flesh. What carnal (fleshly or worldly) weapons do we sometimes use?

1. *Strong holds* in II Corinthians 10:4b refers to an *impenetrable fortress surrounded by thick walls and a deep, wide moat*. God’s mighty power can demolish all strong holds. Identify the weapons of our warfare from the following scriptures:
	1. Ephesians 6:17b
	2. Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 18:18-20
	3. Psalm 44:5; Acts 16:18b
	4. I John 4:4b
2. In addition to *pulling down strongholds*, our *weapons of warfare* are able to *cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*
	1. Why do you think the enemy wants to *exalt itself against the knowledge of God?*

* 1. The believer *casts down imaginations:* which are thoughts and imaginations that are evil, lustful, immoral, unjust, wrong, untrue, devilish, and set against God. In what ways can the believer be plagued by these things?
1. The last part of II Corinthians 10:5 tell us we are to *bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*
	1. To obey the Lord is to submit to His authority and His will. What confidence can you gain according to James 4:7
	2. It is said that the mind is the great battlefield. Describe, as you would to someone who is struggling with their thoughts, how to Biblically gain victory over them.
2. Using the weapons of the Christian’s warfare, Paul was prepared to handle the problems in the Corinthian church and deal with any remaining disobedience (II Corinthians 10:6).
	1. How would this have helped refute the false accusations of cowardliness or timidity against him?
	2. Why are there times when this kind of behavior must be confronted with boldness rather than ignored?

**Anchored In –** Take a few minutes now to use the spiritual weapons we learned about today and wage a counterattack against a specific strong hold that you recognize(in your own life or the life of another)

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***I may never march in the infantry, ride in the Calvary, shoot the artillery***

***I many never fly o’er the enemy, but I’m in the Lord’s army. Yes Sir!***

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**Fourth Day – Read II Corinthians 10:7-11**

According to one of the early books of the Apocrypha, written about the year 200 AD, Paul was not a physically impressive man*. It says* that Paul was *a man of small stature, with a bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and a nose somewhat hooked.* Surely, he was not what people in our society today would call “Hollywood material.” Paul knew his critics were basing their opinion on his outward appearance, but he lived to please God and never tried to be a man-pleaser. In today’s study we will continue to look at Paul’s response to his critics.

1. Read II Corinthians 10:7. Notice that his reproof in II Corinthians 10:7a was written in the form of a question.
	1. Can you think of a time when you judged someone from their outward appearance and you were wrong?
	2. If his accusers truly belonged to Christ, what should they have recognized about Paul? Answer from verse 10:7b.
	3. Alan Redpath said, *All Satan’s hosts are united on one full-scale attack upon the place where he can find the nature of Christ indwelling a child of God. God help us, for when the church fights within its own ranks, Satan has a field day*. What is your response to this?
2. Read II Corinthians 10:8 to view more of Paul’s defense against those in the Corinthian church who were challenging and undermining his authority.
	1. Record the Source and purpose of his authority from verse 8.
	2. Define the word *edification*.
	3. Link verse 8 with II Corinthians 1:24. What do these verses reveal about Paul’s attitude?
	4. Read Ephesians 4:11-12. How do these verses enable you to distinguish a truly God- appointed pastor from a phony?
3. From II Corinthians 10:9-11 briefly summarize Paul’s answer to those who were set on discrediting him.
	1. Paul was forced to counter the slander from his critics. Remember he was not defending himself personally; he was defending his ministry and apostolic authority. Write a few one- word descriptions of Paul’s *character.*
		1. What can you apply to your life from his example?
4. Paul has tried to follow the example set forth by Jesus. Using Philippians 2:5-8, describe His example and say how you might apply this principal to your own life.

**Anchored In** – Take some time today to thank the Lord for your Pastors today. They are committed to their calling to build of the body of Christ. Let’s be committed to covering them in prayer.

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***Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.***

**II Timothy 3:12**

**Fifth Day – Read II Corinthians 10:12-18**

We look around and say, “Hey, I’m not so bad after all, I’m not as bad as so and so”. As we use each other as our standard for comparison, we can sometimes feel very heady and proud because we are using another person as our standard. Our only standard should be God and His word. God doesn’t call us to be like anybody else, He only calls us to be like Jesus.

1. In II Corinthians 10:12 Paul addressed a common problem that still exists among Christians today.
	1. Use phrases from verse 12 that identify the problem.
	2. Think about what happens when believers measure or compare themselves with others. Share your thoughts on why it is unwise to do this.
	3. Share a situation where you can apply this principal to your own life.
2. Read II Corinthians 10:13-16. The word *sphere* in verse 13 could be translated *line, rule, or boundary.* Observe Paul’s attitude in the ministry God had given him by reading verse 13 NLT: *But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God’s plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you*.
	1. Note your observations.
	2. The words *boast, boasting* and *glory* are from the same Greek root word and are repeated throughout Paul’s defense in Chapters 10-12. In verses 14-16 Paul explained that he would only *boast* in the sphere of work he had done. Choose and record one or two phrases from these verses that verify this.
3. Paul believed he was called to minister to the believers in Corinth. It was through Paul that they had received the gospel. Yet, he believed his work among them did not stop there. The NIV translates the latter part of 2 Corinthians 10:15 and all of 16 as *Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory.*
	1. What was Paul’s hope?
	2. Paul welcomed another man’s watering of what he had planted. See I Corinthians 3:6-10. But he was opposed to taking credit where credit was not due and its effect of tearing down rather than building up other believers. According to verse 17, Who is the only One that deserves the glory?
		1. What does Galatians 6:14 say about this?
		2. How does glorifying God rather than man promote unity?
4. Others were boasting in the work Paul had accomplished when he preached the gospel in Corinth, but Paul was wise enough to leave the commendation to the Lord. Self-commendation does not earn God’s approval. What do you learn about this from verse 18?

**Anchored in** – Let’s glory in the Lord, for He has done great things! Write down your praise report here:

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***I will not boast in anything-no gifts, no power, no wisdom,***

***But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.***

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**Sixth Day- STAND in Times of Warfare**

"Don't you know there's a war on?" During WWII, Americans would often ask this question of someone who wasted precious resources, complained about inconveniences, or otherwise acted in a way that disregarded the war effort. If we are honest, we can sometimes be guilty of this, too, although in a spiritual sense. We become distracted with so many things that we can forget that there is tremendous battle over the souls of men. When we experience a conflict we may not realize that, while God’s spirit is tugging at our hearts; Satan is doing everything in his power to pull us in the opposite direction. This is what we call a spiritual battle. Today we will look at the four R’s of victory in spiritual warfare; Recognize, Resist, Remember and Rejoice!

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1. The first R – Recognize your enemy. It’s not your family members, it’s not other people, and it’s not the government – it’s the forces of darkness; the devil.
	1. The word for *warfare* in II Corinthians means *campaign*. This means that Paul’s battle in Corinth was just one part of a large satanic campaign against the truth of God. In fact, II Corinthians 10:5 tells our enemy *exalts itself against the knowledge of God*. What does John 8:44 say about our enemy? How is he in direct opposition to the truth?
	2. Our culture is saturated with the lies of the devil. What are some current lies you see portrayed in the media lately?
	3. We know that Jesus is the way the truth and the life. Read John 8:32 to see how to combat the lies. What does it say?

1. The Second R – Resist the enemy. James 4:7 says, *resist the devil and he will flee*. To resist means to *set one's self against, to withstand, resist, oppose.*
	1. In what way do you find it difficult to resist the lies and tactics of the devil?
	2. Read I Peter 5:8-9 and say what you see:
	3. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. How does the application of this armor cast down (demolish, destroy) these kinds of thoughts?
		1. The word stand is mentioned three times in these verses. Everything Paul says is focused on enabling us to stand under the onslaught of the devil. He doesn’t tell us to fight or use aggression. Why does Paul focus so much on standing?
		2. There is a very strong and powerful relationship between putting on the armor of God and prayer. James 5:16b tells us *the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*  How does this inspire you to pray more often?
2. The Third R – Remember the promises of God - Have you ever experienced a feeling of irritation, heaviness, depression or discouragement for no apparent reason? These are attacks from the enemy who wants you to forget the promises of God. Recall a few of God’s promises that have helped you in times of trouble and say “Amen”! (Use Lesson 3, Standing on the Promises of God, as a resource if you need to)
3. The Fourth R - Rejoice in the victory we have in Jesus Christ! As we rejoice we find the depression goes; we find that the irritation leaves, and we begin to really feel victory in Christ. Nehemiah 8:10 says, *the joy of the Lord is your strength*! Read 1 John 5:4-5 and discover a reason to rejoice. What do you see?

**Anchored In – Is there a current battle you are experiencing? Let’s walk through the four R’s together so we can experience victory and the ability to stand in times of warfare.**

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* + - 1. **Recognize who the enemy is**: Write down the warfare you are experiencing and then consider who the source of your trial is:
			2. **Resist the devil and he will flee**: Counteract any lies you are being told with the truth and then pray fervently asking the Lord to show Himself mighty on your behalf:
			3. **Remember the promises of God**: Think of one promise that you can hold onto during your trial.
			4. **Rejoice in the victory**: Write down some things that you can confidently rejoice in the Lord for today:

Remember, we do not have to fight against the enemy. We merely have to stand so when the days grow darker and more evil, we will not be moved! We have put on the armor of God and we have planted our feet. Though the enemy is attacking, we should not be afraid, for the battle has already been won. Stand firm, sisters! Stand your ground! Ours is the victory in Christ!