Spiritual Warfare

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ--I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! 2 I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
Spiritual Warfare

Paul was very fond of using war analogies in his Christian teachings:

2 Timothy 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith

Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

OUR OBJECTIVE in this Spiritual Warfare Paul says is: destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.

The picture of this earth is Satan using every deceitful trick & persuasive lie to keep people from finding the TRUE KNOWLEDGE of God & God is depending on us to fight the good fight and make sure people hear the TRUE message of God by destroying speculation & false teachings that are against God’s Truth. **Onward Christian Soldiers!!**

Look around. How are “God’s Soldiers” trying to destroy speculation & tear down false teaching
1. Write books, pamphlets, bulletins naming names of false doctrines & false teachings and condemning these teachers & doctrines of heresy with strong emotional pleas to Scripture!
2. Put up internet sites and websites that accuse & condemn false teachers/doctrines.
   example: The religious sect known as the "Church of Christ" has many peculiar and aberrant doctrines that are contrary to the word of God. It is a most deceptive and dangerous cult. (has NEVER responded)
3. Cause division in the church to remove people who are not following God’s Word.
   “I won’t fellowship them & YOU should not fellowship them!”
4. Turn & walk away from those who do not meet your standard of godly behavior.
   “I won’t fellowship WITH them and they have not earned forgiveness!”
5. Loudly condemn “SINNERS!” that are ruining our town/state/country/world!
How is the WAR going to get people to have a knowledge of God? **Problem?**

Paul says this about our WEAPONS in this Spiritual Warfare: the weapons of our warfare are **not of the flesh**, but **divinely powerful** for the destruction of fortresses.

Let’s find out what weapons the flesh uses that are FORBIDDEN to us:
(Gal. 5) enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions
Are any of these used in the four battlefields above?
(Rom 1) strife, deceit (bait & switch), malice; gossip slanderer unloving, unmerciful
Are any of these used in the four battlefields above?

How many of our friends & family cannot hear God’s message because God’s own soldiers in His Spiritual War are using FORBIDDEN weapons and in doing so are destroying God’s efforts to bring people the knowledge of God?

ANALOGY of Presidential mudslinging: does it give a knowledge of the one speaking?
What if one said: my opponent is honorable/respected malice = fired! knowledge?
LOOK what Paul used as a motivating force to urge correct behavior:
“I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ”

HOW can we win in Spiritual Warfare with the devil with meek, gentle, sweetness?

Here’s an update on the WAR: Rev. 12: 7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down!!

According to the first verse in that book: Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place...

The WAR with Satan ended 2000 years ago with the destruction of the Temple & Covenant based on our Law keeping & Sacrifice and Satan being defeated completely. It's over! Satan has NO POWER & NO AUTHORITY now. James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. What kind of enemy is THAT?

What are the Divinely Powerful Weapons we have NOW to wage Spiritual Warfare?
Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, good humor, self-control forgiveness

Where is the battleground where these weapons are used? My heart (spiritual)

Who is God trying to conquer on this battlefield? ME! fortress = my pride!

What is the OBJECTIVE in God’s Spiritual Warfare NOW?

**taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**

Coming to church Sunday morning? evening? Wednesday?

who won the battle? Satan or Christ?

Anger with friend or family? who won the battle?

Holding hurt & resentment from the past? who won the battle?

Forgiving someone who hurt you? who won the battle?

Someone disagrees with you, insults you, laughs at you? who won the battle?

ME time versus time for study/prayer/fellowship? who won the battle?

HOW does this Spiritual Warfare tear down all obstacles to a knowledge of God?

How badly is an enemy with NO power & NO authority beating YOU in this battle?

Why? How do we win? LOVE GOD - LOVE NEIGHBOR - LOVE ENEMY

**In MEEKNESS & GENTLENESS surrender to God’s command-you are UNBEATABLE!**

**Do what pleases YOU - YOU are already DEFEATED & BROKEN on the battlefield!**

**Which do you choose to follow in battle? your choice!**