



Tearing Down Strongholds in Our Lives

2 Corinthians 10:1-6
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The Big Idea: Every person must wrestle with 2 questions: Where do I find **Truth**? and, Who will I recognize as the ultimate **Authority** over my life? Christians are called to engage in spiritual warfare, using truth to set ourselves and others free from those strongholds.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

Strongholds → become **Prisons** → that turn into **Tombs**

Christians must use Truth to help people see **Christ** is the One who should be their ultimate Authority. If we don't, then their philosophical, intellectual, and religious Fortresses become Prisons and eventually Tombs for those who inhabit them.

Spiritual warfare isn't about chasing **demons**, but is about **challenging** wrong thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes that we or others have accepted as truth. Spiritual battle is about taking on these strongholds before they become prisons and tombs – asking Jesus to “set the **prisoners free**.” [Luke 4:18]

2 Corinthians 10:1–6 (ESV)

10 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—²I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. ³*For though we walk in the flesh, we are **not waging war according to the flesh**.* ⁴*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.* ⁵*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against **the knowledge of God***, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Ephesians 6:13–17 (ESV)

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on **the belt of truth**, and having put on **the breastplate of righteousness**,¹⁵ and, as **shoes for your feet**, having put on the readiness given by **the gospel of peace**. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;¹⁷ and take **the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**,

What is Worth Fighting For?

“May we be willing to give our lives for the truth of God, the honor of Christ, the salvation of sinners, and the virtue of saints.”

– John MacArthur

HOW DO CHRISTIANS ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

1. When approaching others, an impassioned plea is appropriate, especially considering what is at **stake**. [10:1]
2. Let **Christ** lead. His meekness, gentleness, humility, and boldness are our examples. [10:1-2]
3. Learn to have conversations, even debates with people that **respectful** of them but **unafraid** of speaking God's truth. [10:4-5]
4. Insist that the only weapons you will use are those God makes available to us – the **Gospel**, faith, the Holy Spirit, our own **obedience** to Christ, and God's Truth (**Scripture**).
5. Don't forget to faithfully **examine** your own thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, and actions to see if there are strongholds that need to be torn down so they do not become prisons for us. [Romans 12:2]

“Thinking that I deserve heaven is a sure sign that I have no understanding of the Gospel.”

▪ Sinclair Ferguson
