

# Battlefield

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

## Part I

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### A. A Useless Weapon (v. 3):

1. For though we walk – We are expected to habitually apply the Word to the many decisions we are challenged to address each day (2 Peter 1:3-4).
2. For though we walk – Walking (the daily application of God’s Word into real-life situations) causes us to experience the working out of our salvation in fear and trembling, which leads to the transformation process (Philippians 2:12-13). This process allows us to experience the influence of the Holy Spirit so that we do not conform to the influences of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 5:15-18). We live righteously in the eyes of the Lord (Romans 8:9-17).
3. In the flesh - We cannot respond based on feelings or what makes common sense. Our natural feelings from the flesh can be carnal (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). The scriptures say that the flesh is weak, corruptible and easy to produce sin, which alienates us from God (Romans 8:7-8; Galatians 5:16-19).
  - a. The flesh is the fallen, weak nature of man from which sin springs up and moves (Romans 6:6-19; 8:5; Romans 7:18-25) the flesh to be instruments of unrighteousness (Romans 6:6; 15-19).
  - b. The tongue never got saved, and it is as follows:
    - Not bridling the tongue can cause a person to live an unrighteous life (James 1:26).
    - It can cause a person to make a lot of mistakes (James 3:2).

- It can cause a person's life course to become very complicated (James 3:6).
  - It is deadly and cannot be tamed (James 3:8).
  - The tongue has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21).
- c. The Mind, when not focused on God's Word, can become influenced by satan.
- Peter was lifted in pride and became influenced by satan (Matthew 16:22-23).
  - Ananias and Sapphira became greedy and were influenced by satan (Acts 5:1-6).
  - If the mind is not being renewed, a person can become worldly in their thoughts (Romans 12:2).
  - When a person uses their own understanding, it can make their path in life go in all kinds of directions (Proverbs 3:5-6) and can even become influenced by satan (James 3:13-15).
- d. Our feet can lead us to sin (Proverbs 1:16) or peace (Ephesians 6:15).
- e. Following the heart's impulses is to end up with "evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander." (Matthew 15:19)
- f. *"A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth, who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, who points with his fingers;"* (Proverbs 6:12-13; NASU).

4. In the flesh - The flesh represents our old man that we are told to "lay aside" (Ephesians 4:17-24). Salvation represents the new man (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- a. *"Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin."* (Romans 7:24-25)

5. We do not war – We are not to battle, like a soldier at war, based on the fallen nature of the flesh (1 Peter 2:11; 2 Peter 1:3-11).

## **B. A Divine Weapon (v. 4):**

1. Weapons – We must always bear in mind that our focus is to not rely on the flesh as a soldier depends on a gun in battle or as a skydiver relies on a parachute, whether we are on the offensive or defensive in a conversation. This is because the flesh is where sin springs from (Romans 6:12-14). Therefore, the scripture says do not use human logic (Proverbs 3:4-5).

a. The weapons Paul used were the proclaimed Word of God and prayer (Eph. 6:17-18), weapons with divine power. In dependence on God (1 Cor. 2:4-5), these weapons, frail by worldly standards, can demolish the arguments and every pretension of the gospel's foes. Neither the God of this Age (2 Cor. 4:4) nor his henchmen (11:15) could oppose the knowledge (or power) of God on which Paul relied. No thought (noēma; [cf. 2:11](#)), [including those of his opponents, is beyond](#) the reach of the One who “catches the wise in their craftiness” and “knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile” (1 Cor. 3:19-20; cf. Job 5:13; Ps. 94:11).

2. Warfare – Warfare here means to design a strategy to carry out a military campaign against an opponent. Therefore, Paul is saying we cannot design a response to someone attacking us based on how we feel or the logical way we may think. To respond this way is to ignite weapons of the flesh which automatically lead us to sin.

a. St Paul often points out that a Christian's life is warfare (2 Cor. 6:7; 1 Thess. 5:8; Rom. 13:12, 13; Eph. 6:11–17; 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:3, 4). (See V. Staley, *Studies in Ceremonial*, p. 80.)

3. Flesh, carnal – To use the flesh is to be governed by human nature with all its weaknesses; logical processes are an inferior way to deal with spiritual things.

4. Divinely powerful - The arsenal that the Lord provides us (spiritual armor; Ephesians 6:10-18) relies on the Spirit of God (Romans 8:5-17; John 14:26; 16:7-11), and the Word of God that is powerful (2 Peter 1:3-4; Hebrews 12:4), the wisdom that comes from God (James 1:5-8; 3:17-18), the truth that girds us for action and delivers us from sinful habits (Ephesians 6:14), and the angels that protect us (Hebrews 1:14).

5. Divinely powerful - To function in the strength of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16-19) provides us a more lasting, strong, healthy ability to withstand the problems or enemies we may experience.

6. Destruction – The purpose of the divine power (Ephesians 6:12) is to tear down and overthrow thoughts that can be destructive. The fortresses that Paul is referring to (using Rome warfare as a backdrop) are:

- a. Speculative thought (not based on facts, but gossip).
- b. False arguments based on human logic may make people feel powerful because of their support (powerful positions they may have) or the level of education they may have acquired.
- c. Slander: The believers in Corinthian and the false teachers were slandering Paul, which created a lot of division in the church.

7. Fortresses – Words used metaphorically of any strong points or arguments one trusts (2 Corinthians 10:4, Proverbs 10:29; 21:22). When God is allowed to renew the mind, the transforming work of the Holy Spirit tears down these fortresses.

- a. *Stronghold* is an allusion to the towers or raised ramparts used in ancient battles, but here it stands for *arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God*. It was by the proclamation of the gospel (which involved reasoning and arguing in an effort to remove false barriers thrown up against the truth) that Paul sought to overcome people's resistance and so to *take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*. The imagery here is that of a stronghold breached and those sheltering behind its walls taken captive.

Paul's purpose is not only to demolish false arguments but also to bring people's thoughts under the lordship of Christ. [\[1\]](#)

8. Fortresses - Used metaphorically for any strong points or arguments in which one trusts (2 Corinthians 10:4, Proverbs 10:29; 21:22).

a. Of "arguments" and "every pretension" (vs. 5) defiantly raised "against the knowledge of God" (Rom. 1:18-23), among which are the faulty reasonings by which the false apostles have been trying to shake the faith of the Christians in Corinth (1 Cor. 2:13-14). (NASU Study Bible)

cf. *confer*, compare

[\[1\]](#)Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary : 21st century edition*. Rev. ed. of: The new Bible commentary. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (2 Co 10:1). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.