



II CORINTHIANS

THE TRUE MEASURE OF MINISTRY [2 CORINTHIANS 10:1–18]

Someone rightly observed that the Christian life is not a playground—it is a battlefield. Many believers think of spiritual warfare as something mystical—demons, darkness, dramatic encounters. But the Apostle Paul tells us the real battlefield is **the mind, the heart, and the authority we recognize in our lives.**

In 2 Corinthians 10, Paul defends his ministry against critics who accused him of being weak in person but bold in letters. But instead of merely defending himself, Paul teaches us **how spiritual authority works, how spiritual warfare is fought, and how true boasting must be centered in the Lord.**

As we come to the final four chapters of this letter, we will discover that Paul challenged the rebels in the church—including the false teachers—and enforced his apostolic ministry. As we read 2 Corinthians 10–13, we will find Paul referring directly to his accusers and answering their false charges. He does not hide the fact that the Judaizers in the church are ministers of Satan who want to destroy the work of God. Wiersbe writes that Paul used one word twenty times in 2 Corinthians 10–13, the word translated **boast** or **glory**. When you first read these chapters, you get the impression that Paul was bragging about himself; but that clearly was not the case. Paul “boasted only in Jesus Christ” and not in himself or his achievements. He boasted to others about the Corinthians, but it seemed that his boasting might be in vain because of the extreme opposition he was facing from the church that he actually founded.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is authority more of a positive or negative word to you?
2. How is Paul’s gentleness and meekness misunderstood? What are the implications of this for your life as a Christ-follower?
3. If you were a Corinthian believer, who would you have supported? Why?
4. How do you know when you are fighting with worldly weapons instead of spiritual ones?
5. What can you work on this week that will cause you to focus on building others up?