



Lesson 30: *I'm coming down there!*

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

10:1 By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away! 2 I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

10:7 You are looking only on the surface of things. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he. 8 For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. 9 I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. 10 For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." 11 Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.

10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. 14 We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. 15 Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, 16 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. 17 But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Paul's approaching visit

▲ We're pleading with you

▼ We're extending meekness

2 Corinthians 10:1 By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—

▼ You're expecting mousiness

2 Corinthians 10:1 I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away!

▲ We're preparing for you

▼ We'll be prepared with spiritual boldness

2 Corinthians 10:2 I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.

▼ We'll be prepared for supernatural battle

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

▼ We'll be prepared for spiritual business

2 Corinthians 10:6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Paul's authority validated

▲ Your arrogance is short-sighted

▼ You have spiritual position, true

2 Corinthians 10:7 You are looking only on the surface of things. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ,

▼ We have spiritual position, too

2 Corinthians 10:7 If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he.

▲ Our authority is spiritually-settled

▼ We're exercising our authority from Christ

2 Corinthians 10:8 For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

▼ We're exercising our authority constructively

2 Corinthians 10:8 the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down,

▼ We're exercising our authority in our correspondence

2 Corinthians 10:9 I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. 10 For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."

▼ We expect to exercise our authority upon our arrival at Corinth

2 Corinthians 10:11 Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.

Paul's apostleship vindicated

▲ Ministry comparisons are crazy

▼ We don't dare do those comparisons

2 Corinthians 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves.

▼ We disapprove of those comparisons

2 Corinthians 10:12 When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

▲ Ministry congratulations are confined

▼ We will boast about what we've done

2 Corinthians 10:13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. 14 We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ.

▼ We won't boast about what we didn't do

2 Corinthians 10:15 Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others.

▲ Ministry confidence is constructive

▼ We want to expand our work among you

2 Corinthians 10:15 Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,

▼ We want to extend our ministry beyond you

2 Corinthians 10:16 so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. [to Rome and then to Spain? (Romans 15:24)]

▲ Ministry crowing is catastrophic

▼ The credit for ministry belongs to the Lord

2 Corinthians 10:16 For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory. 17 But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." [from Jeremiah 9:23-24]

▼ The commendations in ministry belong to the Lord

2 Corinthians 10:18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

"When I come..."

1 Corinthians 10:2

Paul and the Corinthians

► First visit	50-52 AD	the founding visit	Acts 18:1-18
► First letter	52-55 AD	the previous letter*	1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (written from Ephesus, 1 Corinthians 16:8)
► Second letter	52-55 AD	1 Corinthians*	1 Corinthians 1:1 (written from Ephesus)
► Second visit	52-55 AD	the painful visit	2 Corinthians 2:1
► Third letter	52-55 AD	the severe letter*	2 Corinthians 7:8 (written from Ephesus)
► Fourth letter	55-56 AD	2 Corinthians**	2 Corinthians 1:1 (written from Macedonia, 2 Corinthians 1:16; 2:13; 7:5)
✓ This is the letter we're reading <u>now</u> in 2 Corinthians 10			
► Third visit	57 AD	the last visit	2 Corinthians 12:14; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Acts 20:2-3
✓ This is the letter we're reading <u>about</u> in 2 Corinthians 10			

Supernatural spiritual weaponry

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- These weapons are: (1) the **PROCLAIMED WORD** of GOD; and (2) the **REVEALING–ENLIGHTENING** power of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- And these must be used inseparably, as "weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left" (2 Corinthians 6:7).

▼ WEAPONS for PAUL'S WORK at Corinth

These spiritual weapons of truth and revelation had divine power and would...

- ✓ demolish strongholds of spiritual deception in the church at Corinth;
- ✓ demolish the arguments of those promoting false doctrines that oppose the gospel;
- ✓ demolish the pretensions of those with false motives or lifestyles;
- ✓ take captive every rebellious or random thought and make it compliant to Christ.

▼ WEAPONS for PERSONAL WARFARE for the Christian

These spiritual weapons are available to the believer today for...

- ✓ demolishing strongholds of demonic deception in our own lives;
- ✓ demolishing arguments or thoughts which would hinder the gospel's power in our lives;
- ✓ bringing our thoughts (the thought life) under the lordship and governance of Christ;
- ✓ establishing a "mind controlled by the Spirit" which "is life and peace" (Romans 8:6)

