

Waging War

8-2-26

2 Corinthians 10:3 (ESV)

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

We walk along in this earthly body doing the best we know. However, Eph.6:12 says, “We are not waging war according to flesh and blood, the physical ways of this world. We are waging war against cosmic power over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” We walk in the joy, guidance, and power of Jesus. However, there is a present darkness inhabited by spiritual forces of evil. Just as 1John 5:19 says, “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” We don’t need to be afraid, but we need to be aware. We can’t win our battles with human worldly weapons.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Fleshly weapons are useless. But our weapons have divine power founded on God’s Word empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The word for *stronghold* is found only here in the New Testament. It is used in a literal sense in:

Proverbs 21:22 (ESV)

A wise man scales the city of the mighty
and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.

Our weapons bring down the strongholds that unbelievers have put their trust. Other than Jesus the Apostle Paul is our best example of using the weapons of warfare having divine power to destroy strongholds.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV)

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and HIM crucified.

³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵“so that” your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

God gives us divine power when we proclaim only Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Facing someone with an intellectual stronghold, our speech and our message does not rely in plausible words of wisdom. It is Jesus Christ and HIM crucified, which defies all human wisdom. This is the source of all knowledge and spiritual power. When the message of Jesus Christ and HIM crucified comes from our mouth all intellectual strongholds crumble. On the foundation of Jesus Christ and HIM crucified, God's Word is released in power.

Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)

MY WORD that goes out from MY MOUTH; it shall not return to ME empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Never be intimidated by any intellectual argument, just speak, "Jesus Christ and HIM crucified." God then moves heaven and earth "causing" upheaval in false arguments and erroneous lofty opinions.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every (one of their) thoughts captive to obey Christ.

Now each person has to make a decision based on the truth, Jesus Christ and HIM crucified.

Homosexuality, transgender, murder, thief, on and on. Bottom line: Trust Jesus, you are forgiven, you have a home in heaven, the Holy Spirit will indwell you enabling you to live like Jesus. Now we are waging war in heaven. Our battle plans don't work. Only the Words, God gives us penetrate the cosmic spiritual darkness.

2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (ESV)

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

People do not believe because the god of this world has blinded their minds. Our words are light, waging war penetrating the darkness.

We speak the truth. A war takes place. Christ does not simply help people to think holy thoughts, but Christ changes their mental structures. Their mind is taken over, transformed as they come to a new allegiance. (Example: John C. Whitcomb - While in Princeton (1943) John could not convert his roommate to Christianity because he could not intellectually accept the Biblical account of Jonah and the whale. John explained his dilemma to a believing professor. The professor agreed to talk to the roommate. He visited their room and said to the boy, “I hear you have a problem with Jonah and the whale.” The boy said, “Yes.” The professor said that he would be happy to talk about the subject but first asked if he could share about Jesus Christ. The boy agreed. The professor gave the boy the gospel and he then accepted Christ. Then, the professor asked the young man, “What are your questions about Jonah and the whale?” The boy said, “I don’t have any.” Roy Weise – creation!

Mental restructuring!

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”