

Weapons of Divine Power
2 Corinthians 10:1-6

New Baptist Church
July 5 2026



2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians was written around 57 AD in Macedonia after Paul received good news about the church in Corinth.

Chapter 1

↑ *Chapters of warmth, gratitude, and encouragement. And themes of Thanksgiving, Reconciliation, Generosity, and the*
↓ *Comfort of God*

Chapter 9

Unfortunately, false apostles are still influencing the church. In these last four chapters of 2 Corinthians, Paul now turns his focus to the ongoing presence of deceptive influences within the church.

Chapter 10

↑ *Chapters are more direct, confrontational, and defensive. Paul is confronting a dangerous influence still at work within it.*
↓

Chapter 11



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Chapter 10



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Chapter 11

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 is a summary statement of Paul's approach to Spiritual Conflict. A War against false teaching and distorted thinking in the church.



2 Corinthians 10

1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, **by the meekness and gentleness of Christ**

- Paul is setting the tone and the approach for dealing with people who are false, who have caused problems, who are in the wrong, or who are stuck in sin. *(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!—

2 I 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.

- Have you ever had to confront someone about a behavior or attitude that was hurting them or others?
- Have you ever had to talk to someone about their sin?
- Have you ever had to tell someone “no”.

*Paul is showing us **HOW** he intends to confront people’s compromised thinking and lives.*



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2 I 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.

Notice three things in verses 3 and 4

1. We are at war: This is not a war between nations or ethnic groups. It is a war over what people think and believe (worldview).

2. Our Weapons are not of the flesh: Weapons of the flesh are things like: *Control, intimidation, shaming, social pressure, flattery, false promises, lies, and constant comparison.*



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3. Our Weapons have Divine Power:

2 Corinthians 6:4–7 “... great endurance, ... by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;” (Faith and God’s Word)



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When you genuinely love someone, walk by faith, speak truth, practice purity, show knowledge, have patience, do kindness, pray, and show great endurance, you are waging war and demolishing the strongholds of this world with divine power.



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The strongholds that are destroyed with divine power

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

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The battlefield is the human mind. The strongholds Paul speaks of are not castles made of stone, but castles built out of ideas. They are arguments people come to believe, assumptions they never question, opinions they hold with certainty, stories they tell themselves, values they embrace, and worldviews through which they interpret reality. From these mental strongholds flow our desires, our choices, our behavior, and ultimately the direction of our lives.



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And the war is fought first in our own minds (verse 6).

- **being ready to punish.** (ἐκδικῆσαι = to send away)_
- **every disobedience,** (παρακοή = false hearing)_

We are to first confront the wrong thinking and ideas in our own minds and to banish them. We must first allow Christ to conquer the strongholds in us.



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The Strongholds

What is truth? (Epistemology)
What is my purpose? (Teleology)
What am I? (Ontology)
What is Good? (Morality)
What do I owe to others? (Ethics)
Who Am I? (Identity)



The question is not whether you live by a worldview (you do), but whether your ideas, opinions, thoughts, and beliefs have been taken captive by Christ or captured by the world?.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

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A Historical Example of Ideas Being Taken Captive by Weapons of Divine Power



Our great nation came into being through a long historical process of faithful men and women doing exactly what Paul describes in our passage today. 2000 years ago, in the days of the early church in the Roman Empire, followers of Jesus went to war against strongholds of opinions and thoughts contrary to the knowledge of God, using the weapons of divine power. Weapons such as endurance, faithfulness, meekness, gentleness, prayer, faith, and God's word.

False Strongholds of the Ancient World (and much of today)

- The poor and vulnerable are disposable. The weak are forgotten and neglected.
- Authority was centralized in the state and embodied in the king or emperor.
- Human worth was tied to status, citizenship, or power.
- Religious life was reserved for a small elite, while ordinary work was considered less significant.
- Human nature was often seen as something that could be corrected simply through law, education, or discipline.

Kingdom Truths in People's Hearts and Minds

- Every human being bears the image of God
- The weak are to be protected, not discarded
- Authority is ultimately accountable to God
- All work can be done unto the Lord
- Human nature is deeply broken and in need of grace, not merely instruction
- Conscience stands under God's authority, not merely human rulers

This is the world that Jesus sent his Church into, armed not with political power, but with divine weapons: faith, endurance, truth, love, prayer, and the Word of God.

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"All men are created equal,"

**"...they are endowed by their
Creator with certain unalienable
Rights..."**

**"the Laws of Nature and of
Nature's God"**

**The Separation of Powers (power
must be structurally restrained)**

**Freedom of Religion (Conscience
answers first to God).**

**We fight this battle using the weapons of
divine power.**

*(Meekness, Gentleness, Endurance, Purity,
Patience, Kindness, Love, Truthful Speech,
Prayer, The Shield of Faith, and the sword of
the Spirit which is Word of God)*



