

Spiritual Weapons

2Corinthians 10:1-6

Paul does damage control in chapters 10-13. He has detractors & critics who spread **lies** & rumors--drop innuendos, gossip, tell half truths..*Prov 18:8 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.* **Nothing w/ substance just slander—to sidetrack**

They boost themselves by bashing Paul. Promotion by demotion to look good so Paul looks bad. We all have **our** detractors. *Rom 12:18 If possible, as much as lies w/in you, be at peace with all men.* **Some** we may *not see eye to eye w/* but we live in peace w/ them. **Others** hostile toward us & things seem to go from bad to worse. There are impossible people who are impossible to be at peace w/.

These are the ones Paul is dealing w/, who deny Paul's apostleship question his authority, turn away naïve & immature believers. Legalist who defame & malign his reputation--undermine gospel of grace. *They shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.* *Ps 11:2* Called **Judaizers**

JUDAIZERS—were early converts to Christianity who sought to force believers from non-Jewish backgrounds to adopt Jewish customs, rituals, traditions & laws as a condition for salvation. We see them AD 49 when *'certain men came down from Judea & taught the brethren, unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.'* Acts 15:1 Paul denounced this idea, insisting salvation comes solely by faith alone in Christ alone. Being born again of the spirit is to be set free from requirements of Jewish law. *'For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything but a new creation.'* Gal6:15

1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

Paul uses 3 personal pronouns me, myself & I – trinity of personality to urge **parakaleo** call to ones side for **strong exhortation**—Paul's attitude not mad or demanding but meek & gentle as Jesus. Not throw apostolic weight around as he'd like w/ some of those who were leading church astray.

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But I come w/ lowliness of mind as a servant—I'm meek & lowly taking low position w/ you but bold when absent if I need to make my point—*Jesus w/ money changers.*

2 I ask that when I am present I may not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

I don't want to be bold around you but w/ my detractors I'll be bold and courageous, putting it all on the line, risking all confronting those who say we walk in the flesh.

Carnal person stoops to personal attacks--areas that have no spiritual value but would lessen a young converts willingness to listen to Paul even older yet immature believers were affected. Saying *'Paul's personality is unimpressive, presence is weak, put you to sleep. People despise his teaching, creates contempt when he speaks, you've never heard a worse preacher.'* 10:10 *speech is contemptable*

200 AD the record of one historian's description of Paul's personal appearance 'Short and stout, balding, bole legs, hooked nose, bushy eyebrows touching in middle, squeaky voice.'

Carnal people often most vocal. They said of Jesus *'He cast out demons by Beelzebub the ruler of demons.'* *'He saved others He cannot save Himself.'*

When we are falsely accused we want to fight back, fire w/ fire, *don't just get mad get even.* Jesus *being reviled, did not revile in return but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.* Our old nature when hurt wants to hurt back, retaliate. All this a sure sign of attack by enemy, spiritual powers at work thru unwitting but willful people. How to respond?

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*3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **war** according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*

Our life here on earth is one of walking w/ God in a body of flesh prone to feelings & instincts of flesh. But dealing with difficult people and adverse situations is a spiritual battle field. Satan wants to push our buttons so we react not as God would have us but as our old nature wants. **Talk w/ frogs, wire pyramid on head, energy bracelet, amulet, I can make a tree, dodged bullet, wave fall angel lifted (Peck)**

The battle is w/ demonic forces ***Eph 6:12 KJ For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*** Also battle mind of the flesh against the mind of the spirit. Only spiritual weapons can win on battlefield.

Paul makes it clear spiritual warfare is not a minor street fight but a satanic brawl--powers of hell seek to destroy work of God and those connected to it. **Peretti 'This present darkness'. Tom Mayo 'Devil is out to destroy Bill and his family'**

There is a satanic stronghold in the Islands-of lethargy and self-sufficiency and religion. *'I am rich and increased w/ goods, in need of nothing, I don't need Jesus,* Demonic blinders on a population not seeing need of salvation in Christ Jesus. ***Pr 20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both.*** Yet Hawaii neither sees nor hears—**We need revival**

Our weapons are like lazar guided smart bombs that zero in & obliterate the target bringing down rankings of spirit beings & their agents.

Ehp 6: 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

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All protective-defensive armor from enemies **assaults**—Word & prayer our offensive weapons in order to pull down strongholds. *Destroys fortresses--arguments & arrogance* that come against knowledge of God & truth He declares.

*5 We are **destroying speculations** & every **lofty** thing raised up against the knowledge of God, & we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ*

To nullify, neutralize, destroy speculations that have no basis in truth. A Spiritual battle of the mind--enemy plants thoughts, imaginings, perceived wrongs. If say a thing long enough people begin to believe it. **Lofty lies against God**-**Many paths to God**-you can choose your own gender-ethnicity *Take thoughts* as soldier w/ spear in back of enemy past guard station where Jesus approves or disapproves--obedience of Christ—

Our mind can conjure up bizarre, contrary thoughts & speculations. It can invent things that are not true, worry about issues that never happen, paranoia can overwhelm the thought processes. *Lofty speculation of Evolution—Born a boy-you can choose to be a girl—Climate change-Waikiki oceans rising—One way-narrow mind*. Woke world system contrary to God & His word-you take captive the false & replace w/ what is true. Or mentally unstable world system will take you captive & won't escape judgment to come **Paul** bombarded w/ critics & his own insecurities *1Cor 15:9 I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle...* He could easily question his call if he let his thoughts define who he was..*not man but God*

6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

We will deal w/ those spreading lies, gossip & division when you stand up for and are obedient and ready to punish. **Weak** saints don't understand church discipline & often go w/ the ones being disciplined.