

## 2 Corinthians 10 study guide

Wow, can you believe we are already on chapter 10? It seems like we just started a couple of weeks ago. We have learned much from our time in God's word and with just a few more chapters we want to finish strong. Hang in there; the benefits are well worth the effort.

Read the chapter at least twice, pray and ask God to be your teacher as you study His word.

What we have seen so far:

False teachers had come into Corinth.

They began their criticisms and slander of Paul and persuaded many of the believers to doubt the truth they had previously learned.

Paul had written a letter to wake them up and bring them back to the truth.

The majority of Corinthian believers had repented and gotten back on track with the truth that he had taught them.

There were still a minority of them who had not repented.

Paul, like a good shepherd was not willing to lose any of them to these wolves.

Now in chapter 10 he addresses these false teachers and the accusations that they are making.

1. Even though Paul had been with these Corinthian believers not that long before; some might say Paul had a right to be mad at them for not standing for truth. What was his attitude in verse 1?
2. The charge made against Paul is that he is "humble when face to face with you but bold toward you when away" Who do you see Paul reflecting in his actions by being slow to anger?  
Rom. 2:4
3. What mistaken perception did they have of Paul's actions?
4. Sometimes our meek and quiet response is misunderstood as weakness. Have you ever tried very hard to respond to a negative situation with a Christ-like attitude only to be misunderstood and taken advantage of? Or thought a coward?
5. How did you handle this new trial?
6. How does Paul handle it in verse 2? What attitude does he continue to display toward his beloved Corinthian believers
7. What does he imply his actions and words will be toward those who continue to lead these believers away from the truth? Vs. 2
8. What does Paul realize that often we miss when we are in this type of a conflict?

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9. When we are in a dispute over spiritual things it is often difficult to remember who is the real enemy? Is it really the person that we are in the dispute with or is it something more?
10. How does knowing this truth help us conform to the image of Christ? I saw a documentary about Jewish prisoners in the Nazi prisons. They told of praying for their captors souls. How is that possible? Do you think they understood this truth that the guards were not their real enemy?

11. Do you know who your real enemy is?

No I'm not talking about your mother-in-law or the neighbor who constantly is pitching a fit about something?

12. How does identifying your enemy help you with troublesome relationships?

13. If they are not your enemy then how does Christ want you to respond to them?

Verses 4-6 are crucial to our understanding if we are going to be victorious in a spiritual battle.

14. What are weapons that we would use to fight a fight man to man?

15. Why would they not work for a spiritual battle?

16. What are weapons we can use in our spiritual battles?

Let's look back to how Jesus handled a spiritual battle. Read Matthew 4:1-11 Often we get into trouble but we know we shouldn't have been in that place to start with, but Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness so he is exactly where he is suppose to be. How did he handle his enemy? Hint: vs.4, 7, 10

Let's look at another time Jesus was in a great spiritual struggle. Matt. 26: 36-44

Now go back and answer question 16.

17. Paul says the weapons of our warfare are divinely powered to destroy strongholds. What is a stronghold?
18. Do you have any strongholds in your life that try as you might you have not been able to be victorious in this area? We cannot have victory until we identify the enemy and the area of ground we want back. Then we must use the weapons that will be effective against him. You wouldn't fight off a burglar with a rolled up newspaper or a water gun would you?
19. Notice the strongholds in verse 5 that we can tear down with these weapons. Make a list. Now if you wrote down a stronghold for question18, apply these to your particular stronghold.

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20. We must get a Joshua attitude. As the children of Israel were about to enter the Promise Land, Joshua knew there would be battles to fight and enemies to be defeated so he called an assembly and spoke these words.

Joshua 24:15

*But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today the one you will worship: the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord."*

This is the kind of complete obedience that Paul was speaking of in verse 6.

21. What does Paul call on them to do in verse 7?
22. Do you remember the last time you thought about the day you realized you were a sinner and ask Christ to forgive your sins and to be your Lord and Savior? This memory will do two things for us. It will bring a restored humility and a bold confidence.
23. What does Paul say he has been accused of in verses 8-10?
24. Is this true about Paul? Look at vs. 11
25. Let's look at verses 12-18 together. Highlight the word boast every time it is written. This word in the Greek is *Kauchaomai* – it is translated 23 times glory, 8 times boast, 4 times rejoice, 2 times make boast and 1 time joy.
- It means to glory (whether with reason or without), to glory on account of a thing, to glory in a thing.*
26. What does Paul say these false teachers do to make themselves feel good?
27. What does Paul choose to boast or rejoice about? Vs. 13
28. What is Paul's desire for the future of the gospel?
29. Verse 18 is vital to our walk of faith. Rewrite it in your own words.
30. What was the most valuable truth you have seen in this lesson today?
31. How will what you have learned about strongholds, your enemy and weapons for spiritual battles help you to be the wife you long to be and a more effective and loving parent, a better friend, and a stronger Christian?
32. What actions will you be taking in order to have a closer walk with Christ?
33. Do you need to arm yourself more carefully each morning in order to stand strong and not be defeated? Eph. 6:10-18