

Joyful Life Bible Studies

II CORINTHIANS 10:1-18

Lesson 16

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Recall the most outstanding advice on giving you received from your study of II Corinthians 9.
 - a. Comment on the following: *You can't take it with you but you can send it on ahead.*

2. Application of God's Word is one of the primary goals of our Joyful Life Bible Studies. II Corinthians 10 contains spiritual truths and practical instructions that are relevant and applicable to our Christian walk. Observe this as you choose a phrase from the following paragraphs that you are especially interested in studying more fully:
 - a. II Corinthians 10:1-6

 - b. II Corinthians 10:7-11

 - c. II Corinthians 10:12-18

3. To receive the most from your study write a prayer asking the Lord to give you understanding of His Word and insight that will help you to apply what you learn to your life. Take a moment also to express your appreciation for the privilege of prayer and Bible study.

*Whoever is wise, let him heed these things
and consider the great love of the LORD.*
Psalm 107:43 NIV

SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 10:1-3

1. In Chapter Ten there is a definite shift in content, emphasis and emotion as Paul began to deal firmly with the false teachers and dissenters in the church at Corinth. II Corinthians 10:1,2 is Paul's response to one of their accusations. Summarize his appeal from verse 2 NIV: *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 the world.*
 - a. In what spirit was his appeal made? verse 1a
 - (1.) *Meekness* has been defined as *strength under control*. *Meekness* and *gentleness* do not dilute or nullify the strength of Paul's appeal. Paul's love for the Corinthian believers and his intolerance of the disruptive influence of false accusers prompted him to defend his character and ministry. What can you apply to your life from Paul's example?
2. Paul and his co-workers were accused of walking *according to the flesh*, that is *living their life governed by the weak and corrupt principles of human nature* (II Corinthians 10:2b). What was Paul's response to his critics' accusation? Answer from II Corinthians 10:3.

Advanced Students: Explain the difference between walking *according to the flesh* (II Corinthians 10:2b) and walking *in the flesh* (II Corinthians 10:3a).

3. Link the phrase *we do not war after the flesh* (II Corinthians 10:3b) with Ephesians 6:12. What did Paul recognize?
 - a. Why is it essential for believers to know and recognize that we are in a spiritual battle?
 - b. How does recognizing the truth of II Corinthians 10:3 and Ephesians 6:12 change your perspective?
 - (1.) How would this affect your battle plans?

*In heavenly armor we enter the land.
The battle belongs to the Lord.
-selected 🎵*

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 10:4-6

1. II Corinthians 10:3-6 is one sentence in the KJV. Although verse 4 is a parenthetical statement it is extremely important. Think about why the believer is not to *war after the flesh* as you print verse 4 here phrase by phrase.
 - a. Pastor Chuck says: *Our war is in the spiritual realm. Our problem is that we keep getting tangled up in battles of the flesh.* What *carnal* (fleshly or worldly) weapons do we sometimes use?
2. *Strong holds* in II Corinthians 10:4b refers to *an impenetrable fortress surrounded by thick walls and a deep, wide moat.* God's mighty power can demolish all *strong holds*. Identify the *weapons of our warfare* from the following scriptures:
 - a. Ephesians 6:17b
 - b. Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 18:18,19
 - c. Psalm 44:5; Acts 16:18b
 - d. I John 4:4b
 - e. Take a few minutes now to use these spiritual *weapons* against a specific *strong hold* that you recognize.
3. What particular *strong holds* did Paul identify in II Corinthians 10:5?
 - a. Believers need to be aware that personal spiritual battles begin in the mind. This verse reveals how our thought life should be dealt with. Explain how you do this in practical terms.
4. No study on the Christian's warfare would be complete without including Ephesians 6:10-18 and II Timothy 2:3,4. Read these verses and record one or two insights you receive.
 - a. What could prevent us from gaining the spiritual victories we are meant to have?
5. Using the weapons of the Christian's warfare, Paul was prepared to handle the problems in the Corinthian church and deal with any remaining disobedience (II Corinthians 10:6). How would this have helped refute the false accusations of cowardliness or timidity against him?

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 10:7-11

1. In today's study we will continue to look at Paul's response to his critics. Notice that his reproof in II Corinthians 10:7a was written in the form of a question. What do you learn about his accusers from his question?
 - a. If his accusers truly belonged to Christ, what should they have recognized about Paul?
Answer from verse 10b NIV: *If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he.*

2. Read II Corinthians 10:8 to view more of Paul's defense against those in the Corinthian church who were challenging and undermining his authority. Record the Source and purpose of his *authority* from verse 8.
 - a. Define the word *edification*.
 - (1.) Link verse 8 with II Corinthians 1:24. What do these verses reveal about Paul's attitude?

 - b. Read Ephesians 4:11,12. How do these verses enable you to distinguish a truly God-appointed pastor from a phony?

3. From II Corinthians 10:9-11 briefly summarize Paul's answer to those who were set on discrediting him. Use other versions to help you answer if you desire.
 - a. Paul was forced to counter the slander from his critics. Remember he was not defending himself personally; he was defending his ministry and apostolic authority. Write a few one-word descriptions of Paul's character.
 - (1.) What can you apply to your life from his example?

FIFTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 10:12-18

1. In II Corinthians 10:12 Paul addressed a common problem that still exists among Christians today. Use phrases from verse 12 that identify the problem.
 - a. Think about what happens when believers *measure* or *compare* themselves with others. Share your thoughts on why it is *unwise* to do this.

2. Read II Corinthians 10:13-16. The word *rule* in verse 13 could be translated *line, sphere, or boundary*. Observe Paul's attitude in the ministry God had given him by reading verse 13 NLT: *But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you.* Note your observations.
 - a. The words *boast, boasting* and *glory* are from the same Greek root word and are repeated throughout Paul's defense in Chapters 10-12. In verses 14-16 Paul explained that he would only *boast* in the sphere of work he had done. Choose and record one or two phrases from these verses that verify this.

3. Consider the instruction given in II Corinthians 10:17 as you print it here.
 - a. What does Galatians 6:14a add to this?

4. Others were boasting in the work Paul had accomplished when he preached the gospel in Corinth, but Paul was wise enough to leave the commendation to the Lord. Self commendation does not earn God's approval. What do you learn about this from verse 18?

*I will not boast in anything-no gifts, no power, no wisdom,
but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.*

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SIXTH DAY: Review II Corinthians 10:1-18

1. Briefly share which aspect of this week's study ministered the most to you and why.
2. From II Corinthians 10:1 recall the character traits of Christ that should be evident in our lives.
3. In light of the scriptures in this week's lesson, describe the Christian's warfare and the spiritual weapons that we have been given to assure victory.
4. How will this week's study help you to *glory* only in the Lord.
5. What did you learn from your lesson this week that you plan to apply to your life? Be specific.

*In Christ alone, I place my trust
and find my glory in the power of the Cross.
In every victory let it be said of me my source of strength,
my source of hope is Christ alone.*
-selected 