

II Corinthians 10:3-7

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. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. ⁷ **You are looking at things as they are outwardly.**

The Apostle Paul when speaking to the church in Corinth could have started by saying, “**You are looking at things as they are outwardly**”; because far too often we try and understand with our carnal senses and reasoning the events that surround us. The church has been called to wage a war that is not fought only here in our homeland, or even abroad; but we are also called to participate in a war that exists in the heavenlies. I can remember as a youth when the movie ‘Star Wars’ came out. For its time, it was exciting and beyond anything any of us had ever seen with cinematography; yet, it pales in comparison to the battle that actually is being waged between the Kingdom of God and the forces of hell. Our chief tactical manual is the Word of God! Yet how many believers are familiar enough with it, to find the answers that they need in a life and death situation? Our weaponry is not in lasers, nuclear weapons, or even light sabers; but rather our arsenal is prayer, fasting and faith. These three words are seen as being so uncomfortable today that many pastors have stopped preaching on them. Instead, people only want to hear about blessings, prosperity, and how to feel good about themselves. Our society is decaying because too many in the church want to withdraw from the battle, only to spend the rest of their time here on earth in retirement. Today is not the time to withdraw, but rather to rally together in direct opposition to these demonic forces. The most powerful thing any of us can do is pray! Yet, how many of us recognize it’s power, let alone are effective in this weaponry? Then when you couple fasting with your prayers, the gates of hell shudder and real advances are made in our battles! Fasting doesn’t have to be all or nothing, simply ask the Lord what He wants you fast; whether a day, a meal, or perhaps it might simply be your favorite snack. I also believe that the Lord may ask many of us to deny our flesh the TV time that we so wrap our lives around. The key is to deny your flesh, and to spend the time you would have fed your flesh, in prayer.

Lastly, our faith is the force that empowers our prayers to move mountains. Satan is working overtime in each of our lives to replace that faith with his arsenal. He wants to fill our minds with every form of fear and sin that he can. How many times have you ever went to pray, read your Bible, or even sing songs of praise to the Lord; only to have your mind flooded with thoughts about everything other than what you’re trying to concentrate on? Some of the most evil thoughts to ever enter my mind have come when I was reading my Bible, or in prayer. Paul is talking about that exact same thing here, when he speaks about, “**and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**”. So, how do you take thoughts captive? Simply speak those words with your mouth. For example, say out loud, “I take every thought captive to the word of God in Jesus name”. Then watch as those thoughts flee your mind. Our God has given each of us the weapons we need to succeed, but it is up to you and me, to pick them up, and use them!!