

## Christian Warfare in the Mind – Part 1

### Introduction and Review

- Chapters 8-9 address principles for the Christian to give financially
- The Christian should give generously & cheerfully for God's purposes
- Generosity should be an act of worship that creates true unity & fellowship
- Chapter 10 – character traits of a Christian in authority & under pressure
- Addresses character traits of a Christian in a spiritual war

### I. Pleading for Peace (v. 1-2)

#### A. Humility (v. 1)

*“meekness” (πραΰτης) – courteous, considerate & mild-mannered. “gentleness” (επιείκεια) – gracious, tolerant & merciful. These **are** character qualities of Christ & **should be** for any Christian in authority.*

#### B. Boldness (v. 2)

*Boldness is not natural anger (Jas. 1:19-20). Boldness (θαρσέω) means to have certainty in a matter which leads to courage. Christians in authority must live by conviction from the word & Holy Spirit when facing opposition.*

***Humility & boldness are necessary for Christians in authority.***

### II. Planning for War (v. 3-6)

#### A. Living naturally (v. 3a)

*Every believer experiences the consequences of life in a fallen world – weaknesses, failures, sufferings, etc. (Rom. 8:18-25). Even though we suffer, we can still be victorious (Rom. 8:37-39).*

#### B. Fighting spiritually (v. 3b-6)

*We must resist the temptation to fight spiritual battles with natural resources. The Christian battle plan: use **weapons** with divine power (v. 3b-4), **destroy** ungodly thoughts & words (v. 5a), take **captives** for Christ (v. 5b) and be ready to **punish** rebellion (v. 6).*

***Christian warfare involves living naturally & fighting spiritually!***