

Christian Warfare in the Mind – Part 2

Introduction and Review

- All believers will face opponents in Christian ministry – learn to plead for peace & plan for spiritual war
- Authority & power are to be controlled by meekness & gentleness in a believer (v. 1)
- Meekness & gentleness are effective with boldness in a believer (v. 2)
- Each believer must accept personal weaknesses in life & ministry (v. 3a)
- Each believer must learn to live naturally & fight supernaturally (v. 3b-6)

I. Reasoning with Opponents (v. 7-8)

A. Enlightenment (v. 7a)

Sometimes believers are confused & do not understand what they see. Spiritual understanding or enlightenment comes from the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:15-18).

B. Confidence (v. 7b-8)

Authority & confidence in ministry come from the Lord. A confident believer must be certain of the Lord's calling: to salvation & to ministry (1Co. 1:1, 2, 9).

Enlightenment & confidence are necessary when reasoning with opponents.

II. Responding to Opponents (v. 9-12)

A. Defend (v. 9-11)

Each believer has a unique style & personality in communicating – intimidating, detailed, brief, timid, etc. A believer's unique personality can be misunderstood & may need defending (v. 9-11).

B. Destroy (v. 12)

Believers can erroneously make competitive comparison between other believers – preaching, teaching, counseling, singing, etc. Believers who make competitive comparisons reveal their own immaturity & lack of understanding (v. 12b). This ungodly thinking must be destroyed (v. 5).

Responding to opponents involves defending truth & destroying ungodly thinking!