

WAR – Part II (Obedience)

We are in a war.

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

2 Cor. 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the **pulling down** of **strong holds**;))

2 Cor. 10:5 **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Cor. 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Here are some key word definitions from the Greek.

Pulling down – demolition, destruction

Strong holds - (meaning to *fortify*, through the idea of *holding* safely); a *castle* (figuratively *argument*).

Casting down – to *lower* (or with violence) *demolish* (literally or figuratively): - cast (pull, put, take) down, destroy.

Imaginations – reasonings and computations.

We have a mandate to demolish and destroy everything that opposes the truth of the knowledge of God; everything that opposes God's Word, God's Way and God's Will that is in our own life, our families, our churches, and our world. This is not done in the "flesh," but spiritually. Every argument, reasoning, and mental computation that opposes Truth must be brought down.

These mental arguments are strongholds which propagate disobedience. This is why Paul segues into obedience as a

primary weapon in our warfare. Disobedience has always been a stronghold used by the enemy against God's people.

1 Sam. 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

1 Sam. 15:23 For **rebellion** *is* as the sin of **witchcraft**, and **stubbornness** *is* as **iniquity** and **idolatry**. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

The Stubborn person worships his own opinion.

In verse 23 "*is as*" is italicized which means those words are not in the original language text. We could read this verse – for rebellion, the sin of witchcraft . . .

Since rebellion is witchcraft, it directly opens one up to the demonic. By rebelling against the order and laws of God and His delegated authority, people may knowingly or unknowingly grant legal access to the controlling demonic realm. It is like being a double agent without realizing it.

Easy requests by God's delegated authority (the ministry) are continually ignored and categorized in the thoughts as not necessary. Something as simple to obey as being on time for pre-service prayer is disregarded. The Biblical directive to sing unto the Lord goes unheeded in song service after song service. These things do not go unnoticed by the angelic forces of both God and the devil.

It becomes obvious then why disobedience and obedience are major concluding points in this passage about our spiritual warfare and weapons.

2 Cor. 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Once again here are some Greek definitions for clarity.

Having – to hold ability

Readiness – prepared (in hand)

Revenge - to *vindicate, retaliate, punish*

All – any, every

Disobedience – inattention (whatever, not necessary)

Obedience - *attentive hearkening*, that is, (by implication) *compliance* or *submission*

Fulfilled – finish, accomplish.

We have the ability and should be fully prepared to vindicate any and every inattentiveness to our calling. The true soldier gives attentive hearkening until compliance and submission of the will is fully accomplished.

Obedience to God's Word, His will and His way directed by His ministry is a critical first step in preparation for battle.

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