

2 Corinthians 10:7-8 (NLT) - 7 Look at the obvious facts. Those who say they belong to Christ must recognize that we belong to Christ as much as they do. 8 I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NASB) - "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."

Understanding spiritual authority is a matter of learning WHO does WHAT; (in other words, proper alignment).

Psalms 18:37-40(a) (NLT) -

I chased my enemies and caught them;
I did not stop until they were conquered.
38 I struck them down so they could not get up;
they fell beneath my feet.
39 You have armed me with strength for the battle;
you have subdued my enemies under my feet.
40 You placed my foot on their necks.

Study Guide

1. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "authority"? Is it positive or negative?
2. Is authority more or less complicated when it is used or applied in a "church" context? Why or why not?
3. What do you make of the apostle Paul's dilemma in 2 Corinthians 10? Of his two main challenges, which do you think was bigger, the outer 'challenge (his establishing apostolic authority) or the 'inner' challenge (keeping his thoughts captive)?
4. How does your own prayer life reflect your understanding of 'authority'? What balances have you come to understand and practice when partnering with God in prayer?
5. Take some time to review and ponder the scope of 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 in your life and experience.