

November 2, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
The Book of 2 Corinthians – Part 8
Grace-Fueled Warfare

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological & missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the “CHURCH ALIVE & GROWING”. We pick up where we left off with Paul at the end of his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth. As I mentioned before, Paul had spent 1 ½ years previously in Corinth evangelizing, discipling and planting churches. He then left to go to Ephesus where he stayed 3 years. During this time, Paul received news of the chaos that had erupted in the Corinth Church. That’s when he wrote we know of as 1st Corinthians. It appears that he left Ephesus and made a quick ‘painful visit’ as we will learn in Chapter 2:1,2. Paul then left and promised to return for a longer visit and then he went to Macedonia. It appears he stayed in Macedonia longer than expected by him and by the Corinth church and they began to accuse him of forgetting them and seemed to question his integrity and intentions. This prompted Paul to **write the letter we know of as 2 Corinthians** about 1 year after he had sent them 1st Corinthians. Approximately 55/56 BC.

In this letter Paul has been addressing various issues that will help them to fulfill their ...

**Call to be Ambassadors of Christ and be active in a
Ministry of Comfort & Reconciliation**

We have been singing songs about grace today and it sets the stage for today’s message. But first, let me go back to a few verses from last week. If you remember the message was entitled “*Grace-Fueled Generosity*’.

The bottom line was that when we truly receive and understand grace it will revolutionize our faith and help us have an attitude of gratitude and generosity in every area of our lives. Let me re-read a few verses from Chapter 9 and then I read just a few from Chapter 10.

2 Cor. 9:8, 12-14... ⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed...* ¹² *For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.* ¹³ *Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,* ¹⁴ *while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.* ¹⁵ *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

Now let’s see how Paul adds to the benefits of God’s Grace to us to an area that you may have never thought depends greatly on the Grace of God...
that is Spiritual Warfare...

Which is why today I have entitled the message:

Grace-Fueled Warfare

2 Corinthians 10:1-6...¹ *Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! ² I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.*

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.

“Grace is the foundation and fuel for spiritual warfare—it empowers believers to stand firm, resist evil, and grow in Christ despite opposition. In the context of spiritual warfare, *grace* is not just a passive gift but an active force that equips and sustains believers in the battle against sin, Satan, and the world. Here's how grace and spiritual warfare are deeply intertwined”: (Adapted from co-pilot)

- **Grace Provides Empowerment for the Battle**

Spiritual warfare is fought not by human strength but by divine enablement. Grace is the gift of God’s presence and power working in us to overcome temptation, endure trials, and resist the devil.

- **Grace Fuels Repentance, Faith, and Obedience**

Grace enables believers to turn from sin (**repentance**), trust God’s promises (**faith**), and walk in His ways (**obedience**), which are essential weapons in spiritual conflict.

- **Grace Guards the Mind and Heart**

Spiritual warfare often targets the mind—through lies, fear, and condemnation. Grace reminds us of our identity in Christ and silences the accuser.

- **Grace Produces Humility and Dependence**

Humility is a key posture in spiritual warfare—grace flows to those who depend on God, not themselves. **James 4:6** says, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.” This humility leads to submission to God and resistance to the devil (James 4:7), which is the heart of spiritual warfare

- **Grace Leads to Growth and Maturity**

Spiritual warfare is not just defensive—it’s also about advancing in holiness and Christlikeness. Grace is the power that transforms us. As we grow in grace, we become more resilient, discerning, and equipped to stand firm against spiritual opposition.

Grace-Fueled Warfare

God's grace is not passive—it empowers us to fight spiritual battles with divine weapons, not worldly ones.

1. Grace Keeps Us in Proper Perspective (v.1)

¹ Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

Paul begins his Warfare Strategy in a rather unusual manner; he appeals to them with the graceful characteristics of meekness and gentleness—Paul's Christlike gentleness is not weakness—it's strength under control. We don't normally think of meekness & gentleness when the subject of warfare comes up. But in God's Warfare Strategy Plan it does. Grace should always shape our tone and approach in every circumstance in life even in confrontation and warfare. We must humbly realize that we in our strength can do nothing, but as Paul writes later in [Philippians 4:13](#)... *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Grace doesn't make us passive—it gives us *Christlike courage*. Grace enables us to confront evil without becoming harsh, or self-dependent.

2. Grace Arms Us With Divine Power (v.3--4)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

Grace gives us spiritual discernment to recognize the true battlefield (Spiritual). Grace gives access to supernatural weapons—truth, righteousness, prayer, and Scripture—that demolish Spiritual Strongholds.

Whatever problem or opposition you face will always have at its foundation a spiritual, supernatural force. Our human abilities cannot conquer these types of forces. The "flesh" that Paul is talking about here is really a synonym for our human body and power. We need God's Supernatural, Divine Power to truly fight against these enemies.

3. Grace Destroys False Arguments & Captures Every Thought (v.5)

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.

It is by God's Gift of Grace that we have access not only to His Presence and Power but also His Knowledge and Wisdom. With the Knowledge and Wisdom from God we can destroy everything that comes at us from the evil one. Grace empowers us to confront lies, ideologies and doubts with the Truth of God's Word. God's Truth takes captive and transforms us into victorious overcomers.

4. Grace Trains Us For Obedience (v.6)

*⁶ and we are ready to punish all disobedience,
whenever your obedience is complete.*

Grace leads us to live out victory through disciplined faith and obedience. Paul speaks of readiness to punish disobedience once obedience is complete. Grace trains us to obey. Spiritual warfare includes growing in holiness and accountability. Grace leads to full obedience, not just outward compliance.

Battle Plan: Let's commit from this moment forward to allowing the Powerful Grace of God to give us the Knowledge, Wisdom, and Power needed to fight our Battles. Let Christ take every thought captive and demolish all strongholds with His Truth. Let's walk in obedience, not just for our sake—but for the sake of the church and the glory of Christ.