

FAMILY LESSONS ON  
**THE WEAPONS OF POWER**

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

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**LESSON #4**

**CAPTURE THAT THOUGHT**

**“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.  
On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.  
We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up  
against the knowledge of God, and we take captive  
every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”**

*2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV84)*

Every spring when the weather turns warm, one of the favorite outdoor activities at school is *Capture the Flag*. There's lots of running and excitement as students try to capture the other team's flag. It's a very physical game, involving strength and stamina to try and out maneuver the other players. It's one thing to capture an object with physical hands and physical skill, but how does a person capture a thought? After all this is what the Apostle Paul says we are to do with the weapons of power; “we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” How does that actually work?

In the last lesson we talked about three kinds of food for the mind that will influence us for good or for evil. Most people are fairly passive about their thoughts. They allow whatever comes into their mind to linger there without any particular concern. That may be all right for some thoughts, but for poisonous and destructive ones it is a serious problem. The weapons of “divine power” are designed by God to destroy the lies and deceptions of this world and our enemy, Satan, the “father of lies” (John 8:44). The world is actually full of people who believe in lies and learn to live as if those lies are true. It is Satan's primary strategy for opposing God and the truth of His Word. The problem is that those lies are everywhere. If you live with them long enough, if you allow them to linger unopposed in your mind, if you allow yourself to be indifferent to them, those lies will begin to look and sound a lot like the truth. So how do you take those thoughts captive? One thing is for sure; you can't do it with physical weapons, the weapons of the world.

The good news is that God has given us a powerful way to capture those thoughts to make them “obedient to Christ.” When a thought enters our mind, it doesn't automatically enter our heart. There is a moment in which we have the opportunity to accept or reject that thought. This is exactly what God expects of us, a consideration of the truth and an act of the will. Something may sound good at first, but the truth of God's Word will help us discern whether it is really true or not. We hold that thought captive and ask ourselves the question. Is it true or is it false? If it's a lie, we reject it and throw it out. But if it's true, we accept it, begin to put it into practice and make it part of our beliefs. But God goes even farther. He gives us a powerful helper, His Holy Spirit, to illuminate our understanding of the truth and to empower us to practice that truth (1 Cor. 12:7). God wants us to be changed into the image of His Son, Jesus. That transformation will always involve the power of the truth, an act of the will, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

*See what Paul said about our transformation and our thoughts (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:1-2).*

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to [www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse](http://www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse) on the Immanuel Christian School website.