

**FAMILY LESSONS ON
THE WEAPONS OF POWER**

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

**Stephen E. Danish, Administrator
Immanuel Christian School – Springfield, Virginia**

LESSON #2

THE POWER OF IDEAS

**“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)

There is something I have noticed when a criminal, a terrorist, or a deranged person uses guns, explosives or any form of physical power against innocent people to try and make a point. What I’ve noticed is that their “point” never really gets made. Instead, it tends to be lost in all of the violence. As onlookers we find ourselves filled with shock and disbelief at the madness, and we distance ourselves from the actions of the violent offender and all that they stand for. In some cases we never really even know what the point of their violence was all about.

There is a principle here that is clearly tied to the message of 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. Real power does not lie in weapons of physical force. Even though physical weapons are necessary at times to oppose and control the forces of evil; greater power lies outside of those physical forces. No matter how much a policeman or an army may depend upon physical weapons to accomplish their mission, there is something underlying those physical forces that gives them their real power. The greatest weapons of power lie at the center of the human spirit. Their power is delivered through the mind and heart of one person touching the mind and heart of another. The force of this power rests in ideas and truths that penetrate the human spirit. These are the weapons of power that bring about lasting change because the force of their impact lingers deep within us and cannot easily be shaken.

When the Apostle Paul talked about weapons, he spoke of weapons with “divine power to demolish strongholds,” tearing down “arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the knowledge of God” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). He immediately connected those divine weapons to the power of the mind and the power of ideas by telling us to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” This is where the real battle is fought and where real power resides. For in such battles for the truth, the only way an evil enemy can fight back is by lying. The truth cannot be opposed by physical force alone. It must be opposed by “an alternate truth,” even if that “truth” is a lie. This is where the battle rages. If people can be deceived and confused about what is real and what is true, then the center of their power can be taken down and they can easily be defeated. Unlimited power resides not in physical weapons that can eventually be overtaken, but rather in thoughts and ideas so empowered by the truth that they penetrate to the center of the human spirit and can never be destroyed by physical force alone; ideas that people will fight for, sacrifice for, even die for.

What did King David say about the weapons of the world (Psalms 20:7; 33:16-17)?

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 on the Immanuel Christian School website.