



PART 2

PAUL IN CORINTH:

LEADERSHIP

UNDER FIRE

Chapter Nine

THE LEADER'S WARFARE

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE #21

A LEADER IS COURAGEOUS

HIS MILITANCY

What are these fortresses? What, actually, was Paul attacking? He gave the answer very clearly in [verse 5](#): “Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.”

[2 Corinthians 10:5 \(KJV\)](#)

⁵“Casting down imaginations [*logismos*], and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

[2 Corinthians 10:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“*We are* destroying speculations [*logismos*] and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

The New American Standard Bible speaks of “destroying speculations.” The King James Version says, “Casting down imaginations.”

The Greek word is *logismos*, which signifies opinions, calculations, or reasonings.

The only other place the word is found in the New Testament is in [Romans 2:15](#), where it is translated “thoughts” and describes the process of rationalizing in order to make an excuse.



Romans 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“In that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts [*logismos*] alternately accusing or else defending them.”

In other words, the fortresses Paul was describing are corrupt belief systems, sinister philosophies, false doctrines, evil worldviews, and every massive system of falsehood.

Obviously, if we are in a battle for truth, the fortresses we need to demolish are the bastions of *lies*—**wrong thoughts, wicked ideas, untrue opinions, immoral theories, and false religions**. These are **ideological forts—philosophical forts, religious forts—spiritual strongholds** made of **thoughts, ideas, concepts, opinions**. In such ideological citadels, sinful people try to hide and fortify themselves against God and against the gospel of Christ.

Spiritual warfare as Paul described it is therefore ideological rather than mystical. Our enemies are demonic, but the warfare against them isn't waged by commanding them, mapping their physical location, invoking magic words to subdue them, claiming authority over them, or any of the other common tactics some people usually refer to as “spiritual warfare.” We are not fighting demons in a face-to-face confrontation, or by spirit-to-spirit conversation, or with voice-to-voice communication. We attack them by tearing down their fortresses of lies.

The enemy has devised massive citadels of falsehood. We assault those ideologies. Our war is against “**deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**” ([1 Timothy 4:1](#)).

1 Timothy 4:1 (NASB)

¹“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.**”

We wage that war by attacking the demons' elaborately constructed systems of lies—by tearing down the fortresses, not by trying to command the spirits themselves.

In [1 Corinthians 3:19–20](#) the enemy fortresses are called “**the wisdom of this world**” and “**the thoughts of the wise.**”

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹“For **the wisdom of this world** is foolishness before God. For it is written, “*He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS*”;
²⁰and again, “*THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.*”

These are the various thought systems people have raised up against the knowledge of God. [Romans 1](#) describes the course humanity has followed into sin. Although the truth of God's existence and infinite power are clearly visible in creation ([Romans 1:20](#)),

Romans 1:20 (NASB)

²⁰“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

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Lecture # 58



...sinful humanity has turned against God, suppressed the knowledge of Him, embraced foolish and futile thoughts instead, and **“exchanged the truth of God for the lie”** ([vv. 21–25](#)).