

The secret of winning the warfare

May 31 - June 1, 2012

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Plan one to two icebreakers for the purpose of mixing around and getting group participation or getting acquainted.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead people into God's presence. During this time, cell leaders will encourage cell members to listen to the Holy Spirit and release the words of **strengthening, encouragement, and comfort** they have received for the **cell group, the church and nations**. Upon each word shared, the cell leader will lead members by thanking and praising God for His promise and/or praying aloud together for the needs, etc.

During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for: (1) the mission organization or daughter church that the cell group adopts (2) the church ministry needs (3) blessings for new comers, the sick.

MISSION ORGANIZATION: _____, their needs: _____
(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

CHURCH MINISTRY:

6/3 Cry Out for America Prayer Meeting, @ 4-6pm at ROLCC
6/22-24 Ling Leung Conference, online registration: www.rolcc.net/lc
7/21 Combine Cell Group meeting, detail: TBD

III. WORD, 45 mins.

A. Sharing from last Sunday's message.

1. What is the main message from last Sunday sermon? What did God say to you from the message?

2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: "The secret of winning the warfare"

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Memory Verse: *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 Cor. 10:4-5)

Introduction:

Paul preaches the message of giving in the previous chapters of 8 and 9. In the following chapters 10 to 13, his teachings to the church turned swiftly into a different direction with a new approach of how to follow the examples set up by him and his co-workers. So let us learn the precious lesson all along!

1) The secret of winning the warfare—depending on the divine power (2 Cor.10:1-6)

a) God's divine power can demolish strongholds (10:1-6)

In order to win a war, one has to be clear about "who is the real enemy?"

Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood." Since everyone in the world belongs to flesh and blood, we either make enemy of the world or wage war as the world does. "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world." (Eph. 10:4) Instead, the warfare is by nature a spiritual one and the weapons engaged must have divine power in order to destroy the strongholds of our enemy. But then, what are the strongholds he means here?

They are arguments (crafty speeches) and all kinds of pretensions (lofty opinions) and human thought (not emotion) raised against the knowledge of God (10:5). In another word, strongholds are the obstacles existing in one's soul (old self) that prevent one from getting into a deeper communion with Jesus Christ.

b) God's divine power can make human thought obedient to Christ (10:6)

Arrogance and pride hinder God's work, and it has been the case of the church of Corinthians. Paul was first rejected as Jesus' Apostles, and as a consequence, he was questioned and challenged. Only God's divine power can make hearts turned around to become humble, and eventually prevails in the total obedience in Christ as well as the authorities He has set on earth.

2) The secret of winning the warfare — trusting Christ's authority (2 Cor. 10:7-11)

a) Christ's authority brings about new life (10:7)

Paul says we don't merely look on the surface of things. Not everyone who claims to belong to Christ are real Christ's follower. A person who really belongs to

Him overflows a new life from within. (2 Cor. 5:17) As the fact has presented, God's authority brought about new life because it proved effective on His chosen ones.

b) Christ's authority is to build up instead of pulling down His people. (10:8-11)

The reason that made Apostle Paul dare to somewhat boast of his authority is because the letters he wrote to the Corinthians eventually brought repentance, changes and build-up of life, even though they might appear frightening at the beginning.

3) The secret of winning the warfare – Giving the Glory to the Lord (10:12-18)

a) The comparison of one to another makes us conceited (10:12-16)

Boasting or making comparison of one's work to that of others is not found pleased in the eyes of the Lord. (10:12, 15) What concerned Paul was the gospel expanded in an efficient manner that many could be benefitted from it.

b) Let him who boasts boast in the Lord. (10:17-18)

All our gifts, talents and work effects are graciously bestowed by the Lord. Those who boast themselves seize the glory due to Him. Therefore, Paul said "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." Moreover, for those who don't commend themselves but are commended and delighted by Him, the Lord told them this: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Mat. 25:21)

Discussions:

1. *Who is the real enemy we are against in Paul's letter? How do we win the warfare?*
2. *What are the purposes of winning the war?*
3. *How do we define a war without resorting to the flesh? What is the result if we wage one according to flesh? If not, what do we do?*
4. *Do you practice your gifts that God gives you in order to expand His Kingdom?*

5. *How do we refrain from boasting ourselves, but give the glory to the Lord?*
6. *Share with others your spiritual life. Proclaim God's words (2 Cor. 10:4-5) all together. Check with one another to see if any recent breakthroughs in the fields of spiritual warfare happened! A friendly reminder to all for coming the cell meeting every week!*

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for providing us with the secrets of winning the warfare in our life through this teaching. We truly believe that these are only part of it. Please reveal to us more through your Words, so that we might proclaim more victories in you and your joy be complete! We say this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.