

- 1 Cor. 2:1-5, Paul preached the simplicity of the Gospel, Christ crucified. Not as the other sophists at the time, seeking to put on a show, but in the power of the Spirit, proclaiming the truth.
- Fear is the enemy of ministry. Eph. 4:12, we are equipped for the work of ministry.
- The elders must be faithful to obey God's, lead Christ's church, and walk by faith. Pastors must preach the gospel to those who give to support him. Men and women must trust God's word as they love their spouses.
- The life of the believer is a life of fearlessness. A life of courage.

Weapons and Armory of Spiritual Fearlessness:

1. **Weapon of Proper Expectation:** V24-25, we shouldn't expect to be treated any differently than our master. John 13:16, 15:15, a slave is not greater than their master. A) We relate to our master with proper humility. We are all slaves of God, not better than others. B) With realistic expectation. If they didn't like Jesus, the world won't like you. C) With derived authority: John 15:20, if they kept the words of Jesus, they would keep [the disciples] words. It is enough to be like the master.
 2. **Weapon of Heavenly Association:** V25, being associated with Jesus is a high honor. Matt. 12:22-29, the miracles of Jesus were seen as acts of Satan (Beelzebul) by the Jews. Calling Jesus "Beelzebul" is a vile and degrading insult after He healed a demon-possessed man. Jesus' acts of kindness and power were seen as acts of evil.
 3. **Weapon of Future Exoneration:** V26, a future vindication, victory, and declaration of being right and correct in proclamation of God's truth. Everything done by the wicked in secret will be exposed. V27, what Christ taught the disciples, they should publicly and boldly proclaim, as should we. No secret societies or secret revelation.
 4. **Weapon of Total Fortification:** V28, God owns our soul and body. Fear the Lord who keeps your soul from destruction and holds your soul into eternity. Man can only kill the body. All judgement has been given to the Son, Jn. 5:22.
 5. **Weapon of Perfect Restoration:** V29-30, the sparrows and even the hairs on our heads are numbered. If God is keeping track, His plan is to restore things in the future. Creation will be restored, and all things reconciled to Himself (Christ, Col. 1:20). Christ owns everything. I possess nothing, Col. 1:15-20. Creation awaits this restoration, Rom. 8:20-22.
 6. **Weapon of Detailed Compensation:** Matt. 19:29-30 provides a simple understanding of what happens to those who have given and suffered much in life. Matt. 10:31, if God numbers the sparrows, His children are worth much more than many sparrows. A reward awaits those who are persecuted for the name of Christ, Matt. 5:10-12.
- **Doctrine of Christian Death from 2 Corinthians 5:4-9:**
 - V1-3, the body is temporary, but we will get a new one.
 - V4-5, we don't desire death, but the Spirit promises death won't hurt us, death being swallowed up by life, the Spirit being our guarantee of this promise.
 - V6-9, being absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord.
 - **After Christian Death from 2 Corinthians 5:10:**
 - V10, we appear before the judgement seat (bema) of Christ, to be recompensed for the deeds done in the body, whether good (beneficial) or bad (worthless, useless, of light weight).
 - 1 Cor. 3:12-15, our works will be tested as with fire, the works that remain will be rewarded.
 - Prayers, giving a cup of cold water (Matt. 10:42), being persecuted (Luke 6:23), loving your enemies (Luke 6:27-29), or enduring affliction and pains (2 Cor. 4:17-18).
 - Acts 5:41, the apostles counted themselves worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ.
 - **Don't fear the Lord's discipline:** Conviction. From a brother or sister. From shepherds.
 - **Don't fear obedience to the Lord:** Trust the Lord's word, obey Him and see Him work in your life.
 - **Don't fear stepping out in uncharted territory:** Be used in new ways, say "Yes" to opportunities.

Further Discussion and Application

A great day of revelation is coming to all. Those persecuted and martyred for God and Jesus will be vindicated. The wicked who wouldn't repent of their sins against God and their wicked deeds will answer for each one. The throng of heaven will rejoice for all that is being made new. God's justice will be evident to all. What is the proper attitude of ownership in this world? How should we view our talents, gifts, money, wealth, relationships, and place in life? Eph. 2:10, gives great hope of good things for us to do. How might you describe what you'll be doing for all eternity? What Scriptures support that view?

Read Hebrews 12:4-11. What are the blessings of the discipline of the Lord? What does it prove about the Lord's love for us? How do we demonstrate our love for our children through discipline? What types of discipline do children need in their various stages of life? What do young believers need to know? What could you share with another believer of 5 times that you recognized a great deal of maturation in the Lord? What discipline preceded that great growth?

Jesus told His disciples to not be afraid in verse 26, 28 and 31. If you are asking your children to not be afraid, what are you assuring them of? What does Christ assure His disciples of in this passage? Why can we be sure that being used by God is the highest calling in life? What do we demonstrate as believers when we are content with whatever the Lord brings our way? What do we declare in our speech when the Lord is praised in difficult times? What is the source of our courage? What can we depend on God to do when we obey His word? Give some examples of how that gets lived out?

There is a time of reward coming for the people of God. Speak of the graciousness of God to empower us to live for Him and do the works He has prepared for us (Eph. 2:10) and then to reward us for them? What does this reveal about God's character and purpose in establishing His kingdom? What can be (should be) our motivation for allowing Him to use us however He'd like? What joy do you enjoy being used by God?