How do you win the battle against the enemy??

This is as practical as you can get. This is like getting out the car repair manual to fix the car or the cookbook to prepare a meal.

(In the following passage, I have added alternate translations within the square brackets to match those used by the speaker.)

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ— I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!-- 2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds [fortresses]. 5 We destroy arguments [speculations] and every lofty opinion [thing] raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Truth #1 – The battle can be won

Though we might think we will always be the way we are (“that’s just the way I am…”), God wants us to know that we can change.

Verse 3:
   “though we walk in the flesh…”
   “…we do not wage war according to the flesh”

It’s not more effort on our part that this is ultimately about.

Our weapons are not physical weapons, but we do indeed have weapons.

Verse 4:
   “For the weapons of are warfare are not of the flesh…”

Paul uses 4 terms to describe these weapons:

Divine power
It is for God, to God, and with God; these weapons are for God’s purposes; apart from that I will be defeated

How powerful are these weapons?
”…they are powerful for the destruction of fortresses…”
God wants satan destroyed. The weapons God provides are for the destruction of satan.

These fortresses are the centers of satan’ power.

The fortresses are not physical battlements; they are a picture of systems of thinking, patterns of thinking – entrenched over thousands of years.

**Question: How do you know when it's a fortress?**

When you begin to attack or assail or bring God’s truth to bear on one of these patterns of thinking that’s wrong, get set! The person who has hold of that will come back at you so aggressively; so strongly!

**When the response that comes back is so outrageous and so out of proportion to the situation, that’s a fortress.**

One of the places where this is most obvious is in the media. The media is for the most part under the control of the enemy.

Anybody who believes you can know; anybody who believes you can categorically understand; anybody who believes that God has written a book is to be attacked. That is the war we are in. Any time you step forward and begin to assail that fortress, you've got a battle on your hands.

**BRING IT ON!!**

The weapons of are warfare are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. It's time for the church of Jesus Christ to stop hiding behind some sort of relational middle ground and let the power of God speak for itself.

How is that done?

Second thing from verse 5:

**The battle is fought in our minds**

The forefront of this battle is going on in our minds. It’s what we think. It’s what we believe is true. It’s those operational principles upon which we live and act.

"We are destroying *speculations* and *every lofty thing.*" (v. 5)

**Speculations** are specific patterns of thinking and reasoning and arguing that oppose God’s agenda.

Verse 5 says we are destroying *fortresses* and *every lofty thing.*
The **speculation** is the fortress; the pattern of thinking. The **lofty thing** is the attitude that goes with it.

The **lofty thing** is the attitude of, "not only am I right, but how dare you suggest otherwise!!"

When you begin to step forward with God’s truth, you'll hear the speculation in your face fast, and along with it will come the lofty thing: the attitude of, "not only are you wrong, but how dare you bring that truth out into the open like this!!

The enemy causes the opposition to be so strong.

5 specific fortresses; 5 specific speculations that are prevalent in our culture.

1) EVOLUTION

The scientific evidence for evolution is incredibly sparse and scattered, with massive gaps in between. They talk about all this change from one kind to another kind; from the smallest to everything and all the rest of it. There is not one single fossil record ever of anything truly in a state of transition.

It’s all speculation. It’s all sewing together very loose pieces of information. Why?

**Romans 1:18-19**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

The opposition doesn’t want the Bible to be true. If we didn’t emerge from animals and apes, then there is a God to whom I must give an account.

The “god” of this world has the minds of this world fortressed in the mentality: “I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.”

Just be in a high school science class or a college biology class and lift up your hand and suggest that you believe in a God who in 6 literal days spoke the universe into existence, and watch the fortress opposition ridicule and mock that concept outrageously in a context that promotes different points of view.

Why the opposition to my point of view? Because it’s God’s point of view, and the enemy has control of the thinking in this world.