

SIX PROOFS OF PAUL'S SPIRITUALITY
II COR. 10:1-6

Introduction:

- A. Some in the church were opposed to the ministry of Paul.
 - 1. v2b.
 - 2. v10.

- B. Was Paul motivated by the flesh?
 - 1. Not flesh in the sense of carnal lust.
 - 2. But flesh in the sense of motivation.

- C. Paul's spirituality can be judged.
 - 1. We can see it in what he does.
 - 2. We can see it in what he does not.
 - 3. There are six proofs of his spirituality in these six verses.

I. IT IS SEEN IN THE PERSON TO WHOM HE APPEALED. V1

- A. "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ."
 - 1. meekness = prautes - enduring all things with an even temper.
 - 2. gentleness = epieikeia = fairness, not insisting on just rights.

- B. "who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you."
 - 1. base = tapeinos - low of place, lying low, poor.
 - 2. bold = tharreo - to be full of good cheer, hope and confidence.

II. IT IS SEEN IN THE POWER HE REFUSED TO USE. V2

- A. "I implore you not to drive me to show my boldness when I do come, by the confident tone which I expect to have to adopt towards some of you, who are expecting to find us influenced in our conduct by earthly motives. TCNT

- B. Paul begged the people who opposed him not to force him to use his apostolic power, this is a token of spirituality.

III. IT IS SEEN IN THE WAR HE DIDN'T FIGHT. V3

- A. "For though we walk in the flesh."
 - 1. Paul acknowledges that he is flesh.
 - 2. I Tim. 3:16, "God was manifested in the flesh."
 - 3. This phrase means the human body.
- B. "we do not war after the flesh."
 - 1. war = strateuomai - to serve as a soldier, to fight.
 - 2. He did not rely on flesh, but Spirit.

IV. IT IS SEEN IN THE WEAPONS HE USED. V4

- A. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal."
 - 1. weapons = hoplon - an instrument, of a soldier it means, armour, swords, spears, etc.
 - 2. carnal = sarkikos - fleshly, distinctive of the flesh.
- B. "but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds."
 - 1. mighty = dunatos = able, strong, morally as well as physically powerful.
 - 2. stronghold = ochuroma - a fortress.
- C. Paul probably had the history of the Jews in mind.
 - 1. The Israelites in Egypt.
 - 2. Joshua and the city of Jericho.

V. IT IS SEEN IN THE SUCCESS HE ACHIEVED. V5-

- A. "casting down imaginations (reasonings), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God"

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1. imaginations = dialogismos - a reckoning through, balancing of accounts, calculations.
2. Paul successfully met the carefully reasoned arguments of the Philosophers.

B. "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

1. captivity = aichmalotizo - to make prisoners of war.
2. Paul was successful in controlling his thoughts.

VI. IT IS SEEN IN THE READINESS HE POSSESSED. V6

A. "And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

1. readiness = etoimos - active, zealous, of the past, carried into effect, realized.
2. revenge = ekdikeo - to execute right and justice.

B. Paul was ready to do whatever was necessary to do God's will.

1. He was ready to condemn.
2. He was ready to preach.
3. He was ready to die.

VI. THESE ARE NOT CHARACTERISTICS OF A WORLDLY PERSON.