I Corinthians First Things First IX notes

II Corinthians 10:3-5

I Jn. 5:19 -- Many have failed to realize that there is something that the Devil is in total control of.

The "world" is a dangerous trap: **I Jn. 2:15-17** –We are constantly warned to be careful of it.
The "world" is the satanically planned system that pervades our planet that gives us a fake system of **what is important, what matters,** what's **valuable,** what's **great,** what's **success.**

1. We have to escape its control.

Romans 12:1-2 – Remember, this is thinking war -- whoever controls our thoughts controls us.
--We are so unguarded in the information we allow into our ears and those we allow into our heads by means of that information – this is not wise!
What is it that we really need to know? That we are a Son or Daughter of God—that is the highest position that any person could hold in the universe.
--You can't add a hairdo to that, a tan, car, house, income, or title.
--We have to think right about ourselves first: "I am a son of God; I am the light of the world; I am the salt of the earth."
--Then we have to think right on behalf of our world.

2. Our call is to help others get out of it.

This satanic world system keeps people in bondage and will eventually be their grave if they are not delivered from it. **Eph. 2:1-2**
--It is heavily guarded; since Satan cannot touch God, he pours out his vengeance on the ones God has created.
--Imagine a killer who because he hates you, he's captured and is torturing your children and his plan is to kill them—that is what's happened all around us.
--This world is Satan's prison and torture chamber, but: **John 3:16**.

We have been sent out as God's ambassadors and soldiers to fight for the souls of people. (**II Corinthians 5:20)**
What happened at the tower of Babel? They all spoke the same language but were in rebellion.
--God's curse on humanity was the dividing of our tongues and assigning dark lords (fallen angels) over the all the peoples.
What happened at Pentecost? : the exact opposite of Babel.
--All spoke the praises of God in the tongues that God had once divided --The Church was created to bring about the opposite effect of Babel:
release people from the control of these dark lords and bring people back to God.
--Picture people who are enslaved by evil forces and you are the rescuers that God has sent.
--It is our commission: **Matthew 28:18-20**

Remember, this is a thinking war—Satan controls the world primarily through how they think.
He lies to them and keeps them in bondage with false religion
--Over 4 billion involved in religion that is sending them to hell all the

while promising heaven.
He keeps them from realizing their sin and seeking the Savior,
He keeps them preoccupied with things that are not eternal,
He lies to them about Jesus and how the world really works.
--Our job is to get them the right information and preach the truth in the midst of all the satanic lies.

People talk about spiritual warfare and most of us get it wrong.
As soon as we hear "spiritual warfare" we get this image that we are to be chasing the devil around and binding him from all kinds of situations and circumstances.
--The first question is: do you see Paul or any of the other apostles doing that in the New Testament?
--They delivered people from demons as the need arose, but mainly they delivered Heaven's message to those who had been lied to.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 –
1. **V. 3** -- We are human and the ones we are reaching are human, but the enemy is not human, not flesh, so our weapons can't be fleshly.
2. **V. 4** – "Divinely powered" – this takes so much more than we can produce with our ingenuity, skill, education, money or influence. None of those things are any match for these entities or their strongholds.
3. **V. 5** – This is a thinking war: their strongholds are "speculations"
--The Greek is logismos a word otherwise translated "ideas, theories, viewpoints, beliefs" – "every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God"
--It is a battle for how people think
--**Ideas, theories, viewpoints, speculations are their primary weapons.**
--Spiritual warfare isn't really about binding the enemy from some person or location, it's primarily a battle for the minds of people.
--The world is imprisoned in a belief system that takes many forms but always leads them away from trusting the real Savior.
--Reaching them is spiritual warfare – we tend to relegate spiritual warfare to demonic deliverances and binding certain spirits, but spiritual warfare is everything that we do for the cause of Christ.
--It is every time we study the word, teach, proclaim, pray, sing, every act we carry out because Jesus lives in us.

Think about it: why does it say we make disciples not conversions? Because when we teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded, we are raising up an army who thinks right about God, Satan and people, who are the focus of this battle.

It's a war so we have to be dressed for battle:
Eph. 6:18 – Take on the whole armor that you might pray "in the Spirit"
--Is it possible to not pray in the Spirit?
--Why does it matter if it's not in the Spirit?
--Can't God hear you if your prayers are not in the Spirit?
--"isn't prayer just me talking and God listening?"
--Makes no sense unless you understand that there is a system and

force that is all around us that must be overcome and pushed back.
--Prayer is not just I talk and God listens but is also always a pushing back of the powers of darkness
--Why would Paul proceed all this by telling us "we wrestle not with flesh and blood" if this were not so?
--We arm and armor ourselves, we pray in the Spirit for what?
Ephesians 6:19