

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

**Suffering as Cosmic Conflict**

- Hard-pressed but not \_\_\_\_\_
- Perplexed but not in \_\_\_\_\_
- Persecuted but not \_\_\_\_\_
- Struck down but not \_\_\_\_\_

**Engaging the Battle**

- Engaging the battle for the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 10:3-5)
- Beware of \_\_\_\_\_
- Take \_\_\_\_\_ actions (Rom. 12:21)

## Life Enrichment

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What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- When you see images of suffering, what is your initial response?
- Paul uses military language to describe the environment of his suffering. How is present Christian suffering an effect of war?
- Why is important for Paul to couple words that signify almost certain defeat (hard-pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down) with words that indicate the battle isn't nearly over?
- Why do you think Paul frames spiritual warfare as a battle for the mind (2 Cor. 10:3-5)? What does he encourage us to do?
- When you are exhausted, hurting, or struggling, how do you typically respond to people? Why is "friendly fire" a problem among sufferers and their family and friends?
- What are some "contrary actions" you can take to engage in spiritual warfare?