



The Last Brownie

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Big Idea: We endure all things because God is our strength, and it brings Him glory.

2 Corinthians 4:8 (NLT)

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair.

Some Encouragement as We Head Toward the End of 2020!

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NLT)

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.

- Do you feel pressed right now?
- What troubles are you dealing with?
- Perplexed means to feel like there is no way out, to be at a loss for words

Let me remind you today:

1. You are not crushed!
2. You are not driven to despair (hopelessness)!
3. You are not abandoned by God!
4. You are not destroyed!

Suffering is Part of the Christian Experience

2 Corinthians 4:10-12 (NLT)

10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

- Our suffering is different than that of 1st century believers, but it is suffering nonetheless!
- Is the life of Jesus evident in our suffering?
- Where is God in the midst of our suffering?

Psalms 34:18 (NLT)

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

What Do We Do with a Year Like 2020?

How do we get back on our feet when we've been punched in the gut?

1. We shed off a shallow, cheap _____ (popular in American pulpits and books) and start walking in the fullness and power of our new life in Jesus!

2 Corinthians 4:13–14 (NLT)

13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." 14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.

2. We make our lives about making sure others have the same _____ we have.

2 Corinthians 4:15–17 (NLT)

15 All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

- We never give up!
- Our bodies will eventually give way...
- Our troubles are temporary

3. We fix our eyes on Jesus, not our _____.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)

18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

- Eternal perspective is the fuel for the hope we profess!

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ANSWERS:

1. FAITH
2. HOPE
3. TROUBLES