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# WINNING THE BATTLE

## I. The Reality

- a. Our world is hurting
  - i. 1 in 4 have been diagnosed with a mental disorder
  - ii. Suicides outpace homicides 2:1
  - iii. 1.9 million kids have been diagnosed with depression
- b. What is holding us back from moving forward?

## II. Paul's Story

- a. Paul experienced many struggles on his missionary journeys.
  - i. **2 Corinthians 1:8–9** (NIV) *“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.”*
  - ii. Paul's challenges pushed him to the breaking point.
- b. He found hope in God's power.
  - i. **2 Corinthians 1:9** (NIV) *“But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”*
  - ii. **Romans 8:11** (NIV) *“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”*
- c. The answer to our problem is found in God.
  - i. Our challenges do not define our destination.
  - ii. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can heal our mind and emotions.

## III. God's Plan for Victory

- a. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** (NIV), *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*
  - i. Paul is using military language in this passage.
  - ii. We can and should fight the enemy.
- b. Satan tries to intimidate us.

