More time spent with fewer people leads to greater lasting impact for the Kingdom of God.

BSU Christian Challenge

New Mexico State University

Study Series

Spiritual Warfare

Why is Life so Hard?

Establishing Some Spiritual Basics:

Introduction: What’s your opinion on these questions?

Does the spiritual realm exist? _____________________________

Does the spiritual realm impact us? If so, how? _____________________________

Is it important to acknowledge the reality of the spiritual realm? YES NO

Describe the two “sides” of the spiritual realm: _____________________________

Who is the head of each side? _____________________________

Whichever side you are on, the opposing side is your enemy. Who is your enemy?

There seems to be two extremes when it comes to basic belief systems regarding spiritual warfare.

- All hardships and difficulties experienced in life can be directly tied back to Satan’s interference in our lives.
- Satan does not exist.

Neither of these belief systems is correct.

The hardships and difficulties we experience in life can come from the following sources:

- Consequences related to our own sin. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- Consequences of others’ sin which affects us. (Exodus 1:6-16)
- We live in a world where everything is tainted by sin. (Luke 13:3-5)
- The Lord’s sovereign discipline/refinement in our lives. (James 1:2-4)
- Satan’s attacks designed to hinder our effectiveness for the kingdom of God. (I Peter 5:8)

It is imperative that we are able to identify where hardships and struggles are coming from so we can respond appropriately!

In each of the passages listed below:

- Identify the source of hardship.
- Identify the appropriate biblical response to the hardship.
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Exodus 1:17; 13:14-16

Luke 13:5

Job 5:17

I Peter 5:10

Understanding the relationship between sin and Satan

Who tempts us to sin?
   ____ Satan  ____ ourselves  ____ God
Who is ultimately responsible for our actions?
   ____ Satan  ____ ourselves  ____ God
What is the ultimate result of sin?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.
Identify the warning in vs. 12:

How does this passage describe temptation?
How does this passage describe God?
What does vs. 13 promise?

What explanation would you give to God if He asked you why you sinned?

The Bible uses all of the following characteristics to identify Satan and his schemes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deceiver</th>
<th>Adversary</th>
<th>Accuser</th>
<th>Prince of this World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinderer</td>
<td>Tempter</td>
<td>Deceiver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liar</td>
<td>Angel of Light</td>
<td>Evil One</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read Matthew 4:1-11.
Jesus Christ is the only one who achieved complete and consistent victory when it came to resisting the temptations of the devil.
How did Jesus respond to Satan’s temptations?

What needs to happen in your life in order for you to follow Jesus’ example?
Read James 4:7-8.
What is the appropriate biblical response to Satan’s attempts to influence us? Identify the actions we are to take and the results of those actions.

- **Action:** ____________________________
  **Result:** ____________________________
- **Action:** ____________________________
  **Result:** ____________________________

**Defending ourselves against spiritual attack (resisting the devil)**

Who usually wears armor? ____________________________
What is the purpose of armor? ____________________________

Read Ephesians 6:11-13
Why has the Lord provided us with spiritual armor?
- (vs 11) ____________________________
- (vs 12) ____________________________
- (vs 13) ____________________________

Read Ephesians 6:14-18 and list the six parts of our spiritual armor.

- _______________
- _______________
- _______________
- _______________
- _______________
- _______________

We are given examples throughout Scripture of how to best use this armor. What are some ideas for the practical use of each piece of armor?

- **Belt of truth:**
  - John 8:31-32 ____________________________
  - John 14:6 ____________________________
- **Breastplate of righteousness:**
  - Psalm 51:10 ____________________________
  - Proverbs 4:23 ____________________________
- **Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace:**
  - I Peter 3:15 ____________________________
  - Romans 1:16-17 ____________________________
- **Shield of faith:**
  - Romans 5:1 ____________________________
  - I Peter 1:3-5 ____________________________
- **Helmet of salvation:**
- Psalm 27:1
- 1 John 5:11-13
- Sword of the Spirit:
  - Hebrews 4:12
  - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

MEMORIZE: 1 Corinthians 10:13