

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored illustration of two fencers in a sparring stance. One fencer is on the left, leaning forward with arms extended, while the other is on the right, also in a dynamic pose. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, with the text overlaid on a white background.

EN GARDE!

A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD

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Lesson 3

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-13** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- Struggle: *pale:* to wrestle; a close quarters combat
- Resist: *anthistemi:* withstand while opposing
- Stand: *histemi:* make a stand; be established

SATAN'S METHODOLOGY

- **1 Peter 5:6-11** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. Our part: humility, giving anxiety to God, sobriety, alertness, resistance

IN GENESIS

- Satan (crafty serpent) asks a question knowing the answer already
- Satan opposes God's truth with a lie: You won't die
- Satan casts doubt on God's purpose: God doesn't want you to be like Him
- Eve sees the fruit is "good for food:" lust of the flesh
- Eve sees the fruit as "delightful to eyes:" lust of eyes
- Eve sees fruit "desirable to make her wise;" boastful pride of life
- **1 John 2:15-16** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

TEMPTATION OF JESUS

- **Matthew 4:2-3** And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "**If** You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread:" lust of the flesh: Jesus answered with scripture
- **Matthew 4:6** ...said to Him, "**If** You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE:" boastful pride of life: Jesus answered with scripture
- **Matthew 4:8-9**...the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me:" lust of the eyes: Jesus answered with scripture

QUOTING SCRIPTURE

- Satan quoted scripture – Psalm 91:11-12 --but not in its intended context
- The scripture was not about doing something stupid that God never told you to do! And it didn't obligate God if that was what you were doing! Especially if you were doing it because of personal pride!
- EXAMPLE:
- **Isaiah 9:10** "The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, But we will replace *them* with cedars."
- This verse was speaking of arrogance and was not intended to invoke God's blessing

I DON'T WANT TO BE JOB

- **Job 1:1** There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.
- **Job 1:6-10** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side?"

BREAKING IT DOWN

- Satan knew about the hedge. How?
- Satan could only do what God allowed
- **Revelation 12:7-10** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

ABOUT "ENOUGH" FAITH

- **2 Corinthians 12:7-9** Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- Paul made a conscious decision to view his infirmity through God's eyes
- Like Job, Paul chose not to turn from God

WHOSE FAITH???

- **Luke 5:19-20** But not finding any *way* to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle *of the crowd*, in front of Jesus. Seeing **their faith**, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."
- **Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...
- Mercy: *eleos*: when we don't get the bad thing that we deserved
- Grace: *charis*: when we get the good thing that we didn't deserve
- Satan perverts our understanding of grace and mercy

IT'S ABOUT FOCUS

- Satan uses circumstances and past sin to take our focus away from God's grace and mercy
- When we allow this to happen, we lose the sense of peace that God intends
- Peace **with** God: comes when we accept Jesus
- Peace **of** God: we experience as we walk with Him
- **Philippians 4:4-7** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Guard: *phroureo*: a watcher in advance

NO PEACE FOR UNBELIEVERS

- **Hebrews 3:16-19** For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they **would not enter His rest**, but to those who were disobedient? *So* we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.
- **1 John 1:8-9** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Confess: *homologeō*: to say the same thing

SUBMIT TO THE REFINING

- **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Conformed: *suschematizo*: to be put into a mold
- Transformed: *metamorphoo*: to be changed from one thing to another
- Prove: *dokimazo*: to break down into component parts; to assay; to refine, analyze, approve

NO CONDEMNATION

- **Romans 8:1-5** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
- Condemnation: *katakrima*: adverse sentence
- Doesn't mean you won't sometimes get it wrong or lose peace; does mean that you have position in Christ