

WHAT TO  
DO WHEN  
SATAN  
ATTACKS

*Questions & Answers With*  
DAVID JEREMIAH

*M*icroeconomics is about your checkbook; *macro*economics is about global financial markets. There is a big picture and a small picture to everything—even the spiritual life.

Understandably, most people focus on the *micro* issues in life—what’s happening to me today. But without a solid biblical backdrop (the *macro* view), today’s challenges can be misunderstood and discouraging. The biblical backdrop for viewing all of life’s events is called spiritual warfare—the ages-old conflict between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. Paul says in Colossians 1:13 that God “has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

The ruler of the powers of darkness, Satan, is none too happy about what God has accomplished in Christ. His main goal is to destroy the faith of Christians by getting them to doubt God’s goodness, love,

forgiveness, protection, provision, and promises. When Satan creates difficult circumstances in our life, it is not just to inflict pain; it is for the purpose of destroying our trust in God.

We know from Scripture that Satan will not win the spiritual war, but every time he gets a Christian to give up on God, he wins a spiritual battle. The Bible begins (Genesis 3:1-5) and ends (Revelation 20:8) with Satan attempting to deceive humanity *in order to make God look bad*.

This e-book reveals Satan's strategies against God and man—the big picture. But it also describes the Christian's path to spiritual victory: how to defeat Satan's attacks and remain faithful to God in life's most challenging moments.

While Satan has been given temporary freedom to oppose God in this world (1 John 5:19), Christ came to ultimately destroy his efforts (1 John 3:8). In the interim, God gives us promises and power by which we can win every spiritual battle (1 Corinthians 10:13).





---

# *Questions & Answers*

---





**Fight the  
good fight  
of faith.**

*1 Timothy 6:12*



## Why study spiritual warfare?

Biblically and practically speaking, we are in a spiritual war. The Christian's spiritual enemy is not in uniform, and he doesn't meet us on an identifiable battlefield. He uses ruthless and unconventional tactics, such as deceit, deflection, and disguise. A large number of pastors and teachers ignore or downplay spiritual warfare to the point that many professing Christians don't even know they're in a war. This puts Christians in serious danger. The Church of Jesus Christ needs to know its enemy and his strategies. And above all, Christians need to know how to gain victory over this enemy.

Two things are happening today that I never thought I would live to see. First, spiritual warfare is getting much more intense and Satan is becoming much more real. Second, as mentioned above, too many Christians are not taking spiritual warfare seriously or even believing such a war is going on. These two factors taken together mean we have a crisis on our hands. When the danger increases and awareness decreases, an alarm needs to be sounded to prevent disaster.



**Be sober, be vigilant;  
because your adversary  
the devil walks about  
like a roaring lion,  
seeking whom he  
may devour.**

*1 Peter 5:8*



## Why is it important to understand the enemy?

It's always a good thing before you fight a war to know something about the enemy you're fighting against. In the spiritual realm, it could never be more true. Many Christians do not take the enemy seriously because they don't know enough about him to take him seriously. In fact, Satan's cleverest strategy is to make us believe that he does not exist. Some Christians do not believe in a literal devil. Instead, they believe he is a biblical symbol for evil. But that is not the position of the Bible. The devil is every bit as literal as God is. It's hard for a "symbol" to do the things attributed to Satan in Scripture: deceiving, murdering, tempting, destroying, lying, accusing, and controlling.

In the famous exchange between God and Satan in Job 1, God asked Satan from where he had come. The devil's answer was, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it" (Job 1:7). Satan is active on the earth today, involved in human affairs. In fact, the whole world is under his

control (1 John 5:19). God has given Satan authority on the earth for a while and will one day take it back; but anyone living on planet Earth at present is subject to the devil's actions. And we must keep our guard up against him.

In the book, *The Art of War*, written twenty-six hundred years ago, author Sun Tzu observed:

If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.<sup>7</sup>

**Satan's cleverest strategy  
is to make us believe that  
he does not exist.**

## How powerful is Satan?

In 2 Thessalonians 2:9 we read that the workings of Satan come with all power, and signs, and lying wonders—so we know he has supernatural power. First Peter 5:8 describes Satan as a roaring, devouring lion. He is deceptive. He is seductive. He is destructive. And he is filled with hatred. He has his own armor. He has his own strongholds. He has his own strong men. And he is the power behind the world system. First John 5:19 says: “The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.” So Satan definitely has power—power which, apart from our relationship with Christ, we should fear. But as Christians, we can stand firm on the battlefield because greater is He who lives in us than Satan who lives in the world (1 John 4:4).

The Bible tells us that God has Satan on a leash (Job 1-2). He may have a little power in this day, which has been granted to him under the sovereignty of God; but one day, he will be confined forever in the lake of fire with his angels. We have the victory through Christ. Satan’s power is power under control.

## How does Satan use the strategy of destruction?

In Revelation 9:11, the apostle John calls Satan “Apollyon,” which in the Greek means “destroyer.” That name really suits the devil, doesn’t it? Satan will do anything to destroy, delay, demolish, or dismantle God’s work. Job, from the Old Testament, is a prime example. When Satan was given access to Job, he destroyed everything (including Job’s health) except Job and his wife—he even destroyed Job’s wife’s attitude toward her husband. Fortunately, Job resisted and kept the faith and saw God bless him richly at the end of his test.

Satan knows he can’t destroy God, so his next tactic is to destroy the people of God—to cause adversity in our lives. And he will take any opportunity, however small and seemingly insignificant, to destroy a lifetime of faithfulness to God. So stay on guard!

## How does Satan use the strategy of distraction?

The idea of staging an intervention in a person's life to arrest the progress of some kind of injurious or unwise behavior is well known. The goal is to intervene—to break the normal cycle of behavior and substitute clinical help or other better behaviors. Just so, Satan loves to intervene in our lives to do just the opposite: distract us from our healthy spiritual behaviors and tempt us with bad behaviors. If he can distract us from the spiritually productive priorities in our life and occupy us with the things of this world, his intervention will be successful. If we are too busy to pray, study the Bible, serve others, attend church or Bible studies, then we will not grow spiritually. We will remain babes in Christ. There's nothing wrong with being busy, of course, as long as we are busy with the right things and we don't get so busy that we begin to think of our busyness as a way of impressing God. Even that is a trap of Satan to distract us from true spirituality.

## Are demons real?

While there are some today who deny the reality of demons, the Bible gives abundant evidence for their existence. More than eighty times in the New Testament, we are introduced to demons; and in most cases, it is in relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Christ believed in the reality of demons, and He demonstrated His power over them often:

- “At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed” (Mark 1:32).
- “And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons” (Mark 1:39).
- “Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases

and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them”  
(Matthew 4:24).

- “And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight”  
(Luke 7:21).

Satan is not alone in his spiritual attacks.

Jesus speaks of the eternal fire prepared “for the devil *and his angels*” (Matthew 25:41). Satan “*and his angels*” are referred to together in Revelation 12:9. In Matthew 12:24 he is called “Beelzebub, the ruler of *the demons*.”

These spirits are rational beings, not diseases or ailments, or tricks of the imagination. They possess all the attributes of personality. They even believe in God, as James tells us “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even *the demons believe* that—and shudder” (2:19, NIV). Demons think and believe and hear and speak.

## Can a believer be possessed by a demon?

Demons are actively involved in the world today. But I believe the Bible is clear that Christians cannot be demon-possessed. First Corinthians 6:19 says, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” Believers are permanently indwelt by the Spirit of God. And in 1 John 4:4 we read, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” He who is in us is the Holy Spirit; and he who is in the world is Satan with his demons. And the conclusion is quite clear—a demon is not able to enter and take control of a believer because the Holy Spirit is stronger than any demonic being, including Satan himself. It’s that simple.

Christians are troubled by the devil, tempted by the devil, and perhaps even obsessed with the devil, but never possessed by him.

## How should I live today in light of the battle before me?

Day by day the battle is heating up and the challenges are becoming greater; but we're not in doubt as to how it's going to turn out. God has given us a hope that is secure, steadfast, and that can never be touched. It is beyond decay or destruction. Because Jesus Christ is eternal, our hope in Him is eternal. And we can live in hope if we understand and believe the truth concerning the risen Christ. We have a living hope, a hope based upon what Jesus Christ did when He arose from the grave. He gained victory over death.

By virtue of that accomplishment, Jesus has laid claim to our faith and says in effect, "If I came out of the grave victorious over death, and you put your trust in Me, you can have that same victory—not only over death, but in your life, day by day." We are victors through Christ! We just need to start acting like it. We are God's people, and Satan does not have any claim to us unless we give it to him. And the way we keep that from happening is by putting on

the whole armor of God every day so that we might be able to stand against the evil one, “and having done all, to stand.”

**Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

*Ephesians 6:13*

The background of the page is a detailed illustration of a warrior's armor, rendered in a light purple and pink color palette. The armor features intricate designs, including a large cross emblem on the right side. The text is centered and framed by two horizontal lines.

*The Warrior's  
Prayer*

---

The precision of “The Warrior’s Prayer” will help you put on each piece of spiritual armor with purpose and start each day in communion with God. When we remain persistent and focused in prayer, our eyes begin to open to the power of Christ in our lives, and we become armed for victory!

---



*Heavenly Father,*  
Your warrior prepares for battle.

Today I claim victory  
over Satan by putting on  
the whole armor of God!

*I put on the Girdle of Truth!*

May I stand firm in  
the truth of Your Word  
so I will not be a victim  
of Satan's lies.





*I put on the Breastplate of  
Righteousness!*

May it guard my heart from evil  
so I will remain pure and holy,  
protected under the blood  
of Jesus Christ.





*I put on the Shoes of Peace!*

May I stand firm in  
the good news of the Gospel  
so Your peace will shine  
through me and be a light  
to all I encounter.





*I take the Shield of Faith!*

May I be ready for Satan's fiery darts  
of doubt, denial, and deceit  
so I will not be vulnerable  
to spiritual defeat.





*I put on the Helmet  
of Salvation!*

May I keep my mind focused  
on You so Satan will not  
have a stronghold on  
my thoughts.





*I take the Sword  
of the Spirit!*

May the two-edged sword  
of Your Word be ready in my hands  
so I can expose the tempting  
words of Satan.





*By faith Your warrior  
has put on the whole  
armor of God!*

I am prepared to live this day  
in spiritual victory!

*Amen.*



A dramatic, monochromatic image of a stormy sea. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and a bright lightning bolt strikes down from the left. In the foreground, the ocean is turbulent with white-capped waves. A large, bright full moon is visible in the lower right quadrant, partially obscured by the clouds. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

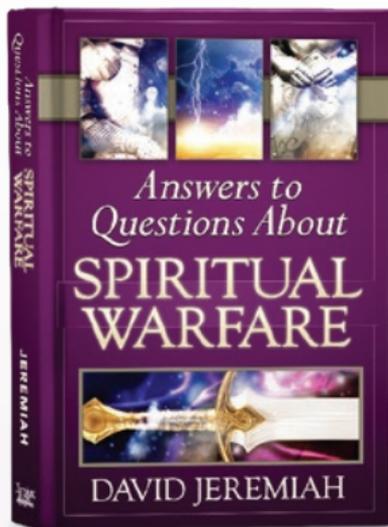
**Additional Resources From Dr. Jeremiah**

## 70+ Questions and Answers for helping you living in spiritual victory

Inside *Answers to Questions About Spiritual Warfare* you will find crucial questions about Satan, demons, prayer, and the believer's armor.

This powerful resource addresses two perspectives—Satan's strategies against the human race and the believer's strategies for victory in spiritual battles.

Draw on David Jeremiah's years of teaching on this subject and gear up for victory in the spiritual realm by requesting your copy today.



[Learn More](#)



## About Dr. David Jeremiah

Dr. David Jeremiah serves as senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California. He is the founder and host of *Turning Point*, a ministry committed to providing Christians with sound Bible teaching relevant to today's changing times through radio and television, the Internet, live events, and resource materials and books. A best-selling author, Dr. Jeremiah has written more than forty books including *Living*

*with Confidence in a Chaotic World, The Book of Signs, Shelter in God, Overcomer, Forward, and Hope—Living Fearlessly in a Scary World.*

Dr. Jeremiah's commitment to teaching the complete Word of God continues to make him a sought-after speaker and writer. His passion for reaching the lost and encouraging believers in their faith is demonstrated through his faithful communication of biblical truths.

A dedicated family man, Dr. Jeremiah and his wife, Donna, have four grown children and twelve grandchildren.