

Pastor John Miller, 05-24-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do If...I Was Under Spiritual Attack?

Purpose: Provoke people to worship and listen to anointed worship music when facing spiritual attack.

Truth for Today: Listening to anointed music and engaging in heartfelt worship are an invitation for God to act when we face trouble or a spiritual attack.

Topic: Worship, Anointing, Music, Spiritual Warfare, Crisis, Trouble

Text: 1 Samuel 16: 14-23

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

What Would I Do If...I Was Under Spiritual Attack?

I. Introduction

A. Review series: "What Would I Do If... We've been talking about David. [Acts 13:22 (ESV)]... God said, 'I have found in David, a man after my heart...(NLT) He will do everything I want him to do.'] David gives us more insight into worship than any other Bible character. Today he'll show us the power of music anointed by the Holy Spirit to counter a spiritual attack. Then we'll look at Jehosaphat and Paul and see how worship helped them win against a spiritual attack.

B. Title: What Would I Do If...I Was Under Spiritual Attack?

C. Truth for Today: Listening to anointed music and engaging in heartfelt worship are an invitation for God to act when we face trouble or a spiritual attack.

II. David's anointed music delivered Saul from a tormenting spirit

A. [1 Samuel 16:14-23 (NLT)] Now the **Spirit of the Lord had left Saul**, and the Lord sent a **tormenting (NIV evil) spirit** that filled him with **depression and fear**.¹⁵... Saul's servants said...¹⁶ **Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you. He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again.**"¹⁸ One of the servants said... "One of Jesse's sons (*David*)... is a **talented harp player**... and **the Lord is with him**..."²³ And **whenever the tormenting spirit...troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.** E.g. guitar

1. The "*evil spirit*" was not merely an inward feeling of depression at God's rejection of him, which grew into melancholy, and occasionally broke out in passing fits of insanity, but a higher evil power, which took possession of him...¹ When the anointing of the Holy Spirit confronts evil spirits, evil spirits flee.
2. Some music sounds good but has no spiritual power. Some music can be anointed by God to break spiritual strongholds. Def.: Anointing (1) Having spiritual power or (2) The consecration of something, i.e. a song, for a holy purpose.²
3. Life App #1: Evil spirits can be the cause of depression and fear. If demons can cause depression and fear the solution must be spiritual, not willpower/ medicine
4. Life App #2: Listen to anointed Christian music when we're feeling fearful, depressed, anxious or facing a spiritual attack. Saul did and it helped.

III. Jehosaphat praised God when facing a spiritual attack. David's Great-great-grandson

- A. Context: [2 Chron. 20:1–31 (NLT)]...the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and... the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat.] Summary: They were vastly outnumbered and without God’s intervention would be killed. Everyone in Judah fasted and prayed, standing on God’s promises to protect them. Whenever the people of God are under attack and the purposes of God are being hindered you can be sure the devil is involved. This is spiritual warfare using natural means.
- B. Vs. 14 **the Spirit of the Lord came upon...Jahaziel...**¹⁵ He said...This is what the Lord says...**the battle is not yours, but God’s.** ¹⁶...march out against them...¹⁷ But you will not even need to fight...stand still and watch the Lord’s victory...¹⁸ Then King **Jehoshaphat bowed low** with his face to the ground. And **all the people...** did the same, **worshipping** the Lord. ¹⁹ Then the **Levites...** stood to **praise the Lord...** with a very **loud shout.** U-rah ²⁰ Early the next morning the army...went out...²¹... the king appointed **singers to walk ahead of the army, singing** to the Lord and **praising him...** “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!” Pic ²² At the **very moment they began to sing and give praise,** the **Lord caused** the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves... ²⁴ So when the army of Judah arrived...all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground ...²⁵... There was so much **plunder** that it took them three days just to collect it all!]
1. God responded to their faith, obedience, singing, and praising and turned a spiritual attack into a blessing. He gave them all the armies possessions.
- C. Life App #3: Faith filled praise and obedience can turn a crisis into a blessing.
- D. Life App #4: Don’t let facts or fear make me turn away from God; by faith obey Him, no matter how impossible the circumstances appear.

IV. Paul’s prayer and praise defeated a spiritual attack.

- A. Paul and Silas, [Acts 16:16–34 (NLT)]...we met a slave girl who had **a spirit that enabled her to tell the future...**¹⁸ Paul...turned and said to the **demon** within her, “I command you **in the name of Jesus Christ** to come out of her.” And instantly **it left her.** ¹⁹ Her masters’ hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities...²³ They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison...²⁵ **Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...** Pic ²⁶ **Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake...All the doors...flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!**...²⁹ The jailer...fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰...Sirs, what **must I do to be saved?**] He and his family are saved; Paul gets out of prison and is cared for.
- B. Paul wasn’t singing because he was happy. He could have gotten discouraged and mad at God, but he didn’t. He knew he was in a spiritual battle. He was singing because God was in ultimate control of his life. His faith filled prayer and worship were knocking at God’s door and God turned something bad into something good.
- C. Life App #5: We may be helpless to change circumstances, but God isn’t. Praising in prison can prompt God to act.

V. Conclusion: How does worship defeat a demonic attack?

- A. (1) Our praise during spiritual conflict is a statement of trust and dependance on God. E.g. (2) Worship draws us near to God, helps us hear God’s voice for what to do,

Jehosophat, and gives us strength to face trouble, Paul [Ps. 50:14–15 (ESV) Offer to God a **sacrifice of thanksgiving**, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵ and **call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.**”]

VI. Response: Let’s decide now to be a worshipper and thank God when we face a spiritual attack or any kind of trouble.

A. Souls: Theme of entire bible: God loves us- We have a problem called sin- God provides a solution- We have to make a decision

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Keil, C. F., & Delitzsch, F. (1996). *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Vol. 2, p. 478). Hendrickson.
2. Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In *Harper’s Bible dictionary* (1st ed., p. 32). Harper & Row.

VIII. Supplemental

A. [Ps. 59:16 (NIV) But I will **sing** of your strength...I will **sing** of your love; for you are...**my refuge in times of trouble.**]