



KAREN CAMPBELL
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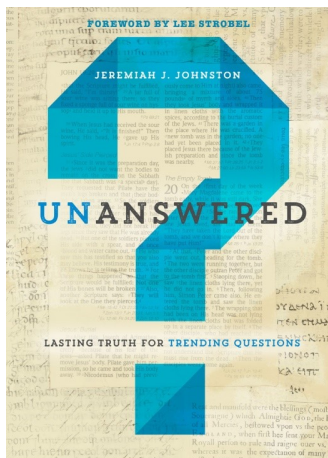
You Can't Google the Answers to These Questions

Scholar, professor and president of Christian Thinkers Society, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, uses experience in the trenches to answer life's most common but difficult questions

“Whether you personally wrestle with objections or not, the chances are that you will encounter friends and family members who are authentically searching for answers to the big questions of life. Let Jeremiah prepare you to be purveyors of truth and hope to an increasingly skeptical world.” – Lee Strobel, Bestselling author of *The Case for Christ*

Over the past six years, Jeremiah J Johnston, Ph.D., has been leading events for Christian Thinkers Society (CTS) where he asks people in the audience to submit their unanswered questions to him via text during the event and he would answer them.

“Christians of all stripes, across the denominational spectrum, submitted questions to CTS—and they were not shy,” says Johnston. “I became acutely aware that many of the questions seemed to be on trend with what is going on in society today and that there was a need to compile them into book form.”



In the end, six recurrent questions dominated Johnston's inbox and texts:

- What do I do when God is silent?
- Why can I trust in the bodily resurrection of Jesus and how does that change things today?
 - Do Christians who die by suicide go to Hell and what can we do to understand mental illness?
- Why is the paranormal attractive and normative in society today?
- Why are so many Christians biblically illiterate?
- Why does God allow suffering?

And these are questions you can't Google and just find a quick answer.

In *Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions* (Whitaker House, November), which is being released in conjunction with the [Unanswered](http://www.Lifeway.com/Unanswered) Bible study kit through LifeWay (www.Lifeway.com/Unanswered), Johnston walks readers through each of these questions/topics and provides substantive answers for the myriad of issues associated with them. Not only does he answer the questions, but he equips readers with confidence and direction with leadership engagement principles in order for them to answer friends and family that might ask similar questions.



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“We, as believers, must be aware the questions our culture is asking of our faith and we must be prepared to demonstrate why Christianity is believable, acceptable, worthy of our trust and obedience, and overall, a force for good in the world,” says Johnston. “The mission of *Unanswered* is to provide the essential training to transform and enrich believers who are committed to escape the tendency to offer trite answers to the unanswered questions of a skeptical world.”

Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions

By Jeremiah J. Johnson
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Dr. Jeremiah Johnston is a New Testament scholar, apologist, and sought-after speaker at universities and churches. He completed his doctoral residency in Oxford and received his Ph.D. from Middlesex University (UK). He also earned advanced degrees in theology from Acadia University and received his M.Div. at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Johnston has distinguished himself with publications in both popular and scholarly books and journals. He has appeared as a theological and culture expert on *CBS This Morning*, numerous network affiliate television stations, and repeatedly quoted in USA Today and their associated Faith and Reason blog.

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www.Unansweredbook.com

The screenshot shows a news article from USA Today. The headline is "In times like these, more people are going to church for help". The sub-headline is "By Callyn Lynn Grossman, USA TODAY". The article text includes: "Please for help — spiritual and financial — are flooding U.S. churches. From tiny congregations to megachurches, as recession woes seep into the pews, a new survey finds. Pastors say they're giving out benevolent funds in record numbers, increasing ministries to the unemployed and the financially hard, even reaching into their own pockets more to help. Nearly two in three pastors (62%) report more people from outside their church asking for help, and nearly a third (31%) see more such requests from church members, according to a survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors. The survey, by iSurvey Research, a Christian polling firm based in Nashville, finds that 40% of pastors say they have church members out of work, and 37% say their church has increased spending to help the needy. (The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.) The Rev. Bill Amertberg has seen it all at his Whittier Area Community Church, east of Los Angeles. The church gave more financial aid to help in one month, \$25,000 from the benevolent fund. That it was asked to give in all of 1998, the year he came to Whittier, he says. FIND MORE STORIES IN: Ohio | Kansas City | Los Angeles | Colorado | Nashville | Protestant | Salvation Army | Overland Park | iSurvey Research | Jerry Johnson | Zion Lutheran Church. Like 27% of pastors in the survey, Amertberg has given personally. Mo.



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Suggested Interview Questions for Jeremiah J. Johnston, author of *Unanswered*

1. Jeremiah, share with us a little bit about your background and how you became interested in the technically difficult field of Christian apologetics and distinguished yourself as a scholar and historian?
2. *Unanswered* came about in a very organic, unique way. Tell us how the book came to be?
3. There are six main subjects, or questions, that you detail in the book. What are they and is any one issue more important than the others?
4. Is this book restrictive only for Christians to prepare for discussions with “non-believers,” or is there an appeal to this book from all walks of life?
5. What advice can you give to those people who feel like God has put them in a “time out” and is not answering prayer?
6. One of the sections in *Unanswered* deals with the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Can you explain the cultural significance the resurrection had on the disciples in the New Testament Mediterranean and Roman worlds? Why is it significant and important today?
7. You also discuss “invisible diseases” like mental illness as well as suicide. What is the single most important thing people of faith need to understand when it comes to these topics and what are the misunderstandings?
8. How do you answer the question of whether or not Christians who commit suicide go to Hell?
9. Why dedicate a whole section on the paranormal? Isn't that just modern-day silliness?
10. You mention in the book that most Christians know just enough about the Bible to be dangerous. What does that mean? How can Christians be prepared to defend their Christianity in a biblical way?
11. What do you say to people who feel that openly sharing their suffering makes them less faithful or less of a Christian? Why do you think we have embraced a theology that rests on the fallacy that nothing bad should happen to you after you become a Christian?
12. You include “Engagement Principles” at the end of each section. Why were those principles important to include?



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Endorsements for *Unanswered* and Jeremiah J. Johnston

This new book by my friend and colleague Jeremiah J. Johnston is so important...a winsome and accessible book...drawing from Jeremiah's considerable academic training. His analysis is unflinching, his approach is practical, and his writing is clear—a great combination! The chances are that you will encounter friends and family members who are authentically searching for answers to the big questions of life. Let Jeremiah prepare you.
—**Lee Strobel**, Author, *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for Faith*

Dr. Johnston loves the truth and he loves people. In *Unanswered*, both come through clearly. He writes and communicates as a scholar with a keen mind, but also as a pastor with a compassionate heart. By God's grace, *Unanswered* will "teach Christians to become thinkers and thinkers to become Christians."
—**Eric Geiger**, Vice president, LifeWay Christian Resources

This is a challenging time for Christians in this country and abroad. I am very pleased that a good friend of mine, Jeremiah Johnston, is launching a new and powerful international ministry. The Christian Thinkers Society is designed to train pastors and Christians through the use of apologetics—defending the faith, defending the gospel message. Jeremiah is both spiritually and educationally qualified for this exciting mission.
—**Dr. Jay Alan Sekulow**, Chief Counsel, American Center for Law & Justice www.aclj.org

In this fresh, intelligent book, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston (don't let the "Dr." scare you; he writes in plain English) gives great responses to some of the most daunting spiritual questions we're all curious about. My advice: 1) Get this book (seriously: how many books do you know of that smartly discuss both the *veracity of the Bible* and *vampires?*); 2) Read this book right away (it's too important to put in the stack with all the other ones you want to read "some day"); 3) Give copies of this book to people you know (some of whom are just a few good answers away from a confident faith in Christ).
—**Mark Mittelberg**, Best-selling author and Exec. Dir., The Center for American Evangelism

Intriguing...stimulating...challenging. These words represent Dr. Jeremiah Johnston's new book, *Unanswered*. It will definitely meet a huge need in today's church. Not only will it answer questions for those seeking the truth, it will also encourage the communicators of God's truth, giving them greater confidence in answering the current questions people are asking today.
—**Dr. Ronnie Floyd**, President, Southern Baptist Convention

Dr. Johnston is an exciting, up-and-coming scholar who has founded Christian Thinkers Society and is now presenting us with *Unanswered*. He has a record of sharing the gospel in a winsome and intellectually serious manner. We look forward to the growth his leadership will provide to our events and national outreach.
—**Dr. Robert B. Sloan Jr.**, President, Houston Baptist University

Today more than ever, the Christian church needs people who are able to communicate truth in a skeptical world. Combining scholarly integrity with creative excellence, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston is giving bright minds a platform to broadcast from. I commend *Unanswered* and the Christian Thinkers Society for providing a compelling voice in a world that desperately needs to hear good news.
—**Justin Brierley**, Host of the *Unbelievable?* radio show and podcast



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