

THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE WEAPON: YOUR MIND

by Ben Williams

No amount of investment in weapons, gun training courses, or physical training can equip you to defend yourself if your mind isn't ready. Even if your body is in shape, and your guns are clean, operative and sighted in ... if your mind isn't ready then YOU aren't ready. You may be able to hit a target on a shooting range, but putting down an attacker in a real scenario is quite another thing. In an emergency, first and foremost, a ready mind and heart is essential if you are going to keep yourself alive and safe, and protect your loved ones.

Gun cabinets full of guns and ammo make nice trophies for crooks to walk off with when the owner is mentally unprepared to use their contents.

Hunting licenses and rifles will not make you a hunter. Neither will weapons make you safe ... unless you have the heart and smarts to use them, and know how, when and IF you should use them.

With a sound and ready mind you will be able to defend yourself with most any weapon, and at times with no weapon other than your mind ... depending upon the situation.

Obviously, there are times when the mind alone is not enough. In those times you will need a tool like a gun, a knife, a

stick, your fists or whatever may be at hand. However, without preparing your mind first your tools (whatever they may be) will let you down. A man with an inadequately prepared mind is like a car with an untrained driver. Both will get you hurt or killed.

In a Godly society, personal violence and weapons of violence are for the purpose of self-defense — not for aggression. Biblically speaking, victims of aggression are fully justified in using violent force to defend themselves. That includes hurting or even killing your attacker if necessary. The Sixth Commandment precludes "murder" (wrongful killing) (Exodus 20:13). It does not preclude lawful killing in self-defense. Also, if a night thief is killed during his break in, the defender is justified because darkness puts him at more risk to physical harm and the disadvantage of being unable to see and determine what the thief has in mind (Exodus 22:2). These scriptures set the principle for what is justifiable killing and what is not justifiable.

I mention this because I consider Christians (true Christians) the only people sane enough to deal with matters of life and death ... and Christians need to know early in life what their duties are, what is lawful and ethical ... and what is not. That is not to say that

all who claim to promote "Christian" concepts are right ... or even true Christians. There are some pretty silly principles espoused by some people who claim to be Christian ... obviously derived from non-Biblical sources.

"Turning the other cheek" is an admirable strength when living among fellow Christians (true Christians). However, it is folly to turn your other cheek to an enemy and a heathen. In fact, a sound mind should guide you to prevent either of your cheeks from being available to your enemy.

The Bible, and the God who created us, promote sanity, logic, and common sense. It is not common sense to helplessly give up your property or your life to heathen thugs and criminals who would take them from you. Nothing in the Bible suggests such a silly mindset. Anyone who tells you that violent self-defense is wrong is your enemy ... and you'd better get it straight right now.

You are capable of defending yourself very well, providing that your mind is prepared first. Once you are fully convinced that violence is Godly when it is lawful and needed, then you can put your God-given abilities into action and put a potential evildoer in his place. But if your mind is

still unsure of what is right, you'll turn yourself, as well as those over whom you are protector, into easy prey. You don't want to have to live with that for the rest of your life.

Men sometimes act cowardly when in fact they aren't real cowards ... they are merely confused as to what is the right thing for them to do. However, when men feel that they are in the right they can do amazing things and act with great bravery when it is called for. It is just that important to know what is right and what God wants you to do. A man with a righteous mind is difficult to defeat. On the other hand, if you are double minded or are unsure when you go into a confrontation, you will lose every time.

Violence should not be our first option in every confrontation. Most potential conflicts can be avoided by a cool head and sensible approach. A sound mind can keep you on a sensible foundation where you can avoid needless conflicts by simply not being in the wrong place, or by not reacting to a wrong situation. The large majority of potential confrontations are fruitless and needless, and the cool head and sound mind should have no part in them. Most ugly situations can be avoided by being aware and observant of what is happening around you at all times, and by simply not putting yourself in those compromised or ill-advised positions. Also, we need to realize that it is entirely possible that we can be wrong, and we need the common sense to recognize when we are out of line. However, if violence is called for

then we must be able to be violent with righteous determination. That is the mindset of a survivor and a pioneer.

When David fought his giant, he did it with great violence that killed a fearful adversary on the spot ... and he did it with God's blessings.

When Jesus took a whip and drove the moneychangers out of the temple He did it with violence ... and He did it with God's blessings.

When Jesus told his disciples to sell their cloaks and buy swords He didn't mean for them to put their swords in cabinets. He intended for those swords to be at their sides for immediate use if and when the situation called for violence.

The capability of explosive and deadly violence is one of the gifts God gives to the male gender. It isn't for nothing that we have that ability. There is a time for violence just as much as there is a time for peace and love. When that time for violence comes for you, you'd better not have your mind disabled by cowardice, confusion, or false humility.

When someone takes it upon themselves to hurt you in any way, by stealing from you, by slander, or by harming you physically, he automatically puts himself in a similar category as any aggressive animal that would attack you or one of your loved ones. Your manly and Godly response should be to stand against him and put him down.

Anything less is abandoning what you know to be right, and shirking your duty to God.

It's all a matter of how your mind works. Get it right in your mind first, then the rest of the task will be a natural reaction.



— Editorial addition.

... Violent crime is feasible only if its victims are cowards. A victim who fights back makes the whole business impractical. It is true that a victim who fights back may suffer for it, but one who does not almost certainly will suffer for it. And, suffer or not, the one who fights back retains his dignity and has self-respect. Any study of the atrocity list of recent years — Starkweather, Speck, Mansion, Richard Hickok and Cary Smith, et al — shows immediately that the victims, by their appalling ineptitude and timidity, virtually assisted in their own murders. (“Don’t make them mad, Martha, so they won’t hurt us.”). . . .

— Excerpt from “Principles Of Personal Defense” by Jeff Cooper. Published by Paladin Press (see Links page.)