

How to win a gunfight ...
even if you're
not a great shot

By Charl van Wyk

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Charl van Wyk

PO Box 3887

Durbanville, 7551

Cape Town

South Africa

www.missionaryinafrica.org

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Preface

My main motivation behind writing this free guide, *How to win a gunfight ... even if you're not a great shot* was to connect with fellow like-minded Christian men who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and who demonstrate that love through obedience to His Word.

In addition, this guide is intended to be used as a tool; to aid us as we grow in our Christian walk together and to encourage one another in our faith.

The guide's primary idea and discussion revolves around the concept of personal combat; that is to say, self-defense in the event of a violent attack.

The focus is not on "war" in the sense of armed conflict that occurs between groups or geographical territories, nor on the "spiritual warfare" that is waged between the entities of good and evil in the supernatural realm, although these are mentioned on occasion.

Rather, the goal is to provide the Christian man with a guide to the spiritual and physical preparation required to win a physical gunfight.

In my previously published books, *Shooting Back: The Right and Duty of Self-Defense*, and its sequel, *Reloaded: Shooting Back Again*, I introduced my presupposition that the Bible endorses the concept of self-defense. In his foreword to *Shooting Back*, Larry Pratt, former Executive Director of the organization "Gun Owners of America,"

explains that people need to refuse to support any laws that leave them defenseless against murderers, robbers, rapists, and arsonists. Any laws which do not support the notion of self-defense are, in fact, immoral.

Although this idea may seem at odds with the modern worldview, from a Christian perspective, any law which contradicts God's Word should be considered an immoral and illegitimate law, and therefore be resisted.

In Ephesians 5:11, the Bible commands us to: *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."* To ignore this command is clearly to commit the sin of omission - not doing that which we should have done.

It is vital that we measure our standard by the teachings of Scripture.

Many gunfighting experts encourage defenders to make use of violence in their acts of self-defense. While I disagree with this assertion, it is possible that this disparity in convictions may be down to a question of semantics.

A friend, Dr. Richard Wesson, asserts that "violence" is the "immoral" use of force, while "self-defense" is the "moral" use of force.

In terms of my target audience, I am seeking to connect with that guy who knows he has a moral duty to share Jesus with his family, his church, his business associates, and within the political arena.

I am looking to make contact with that guy who must force himself to overcome his natural shyness in order to help others enjoy the “confident meekness” that results from following Jesus Christ, obeying His Word, and protecting His loved ones, as commanded in His Word.

I love the definition that Christian author, John Stott, attributes to the term “meekness”:

“Meekness is the mean between being too angry and never being angry at all. It is not a synonym for weakness ... it is the gentleness of the strong, whose strength is under control.”

I’m reaching out to the humble and quietly reluctant hero who takes no pleasure in having the spotlight shone upon his accomplishments, who finds being put in such a position both uncomfortable and exhausting, but who knows he has an obligation to stand up anyway, because his testimony will help others.

All of Christ for all of life!

Introduction

Running into trouble

Early one winter's morning, my 17-year-old son John-Marc was mugged at knifepoint during his daily run. Through my son's experience, I hope to provide some thoughts on how we can best respond to such an attack.

Soon after he had set off on his outbound run near our home in Cape Town, South Africa, John-Marc saw two men loitering in the grassy area of the greenbelt. They both wore face masks and hoodies, and one had a bicycle. At the end of his run, John-Marc was making his way home when he saw that the two men had now moved away from the grassy area and onto the gravel pathway along which he was running.

To avoid contact, my son veered off the path and ran onto the grassy area. As he passed them, one of the men lunged at him with a knife. John-Marc turned around and tried to pick up speed to avoid a confrontation. Unfortunately, the wet and muddy grass caused him to slip and fall to the ground.

As he attempted to get up, one of the thugs stood over him, making stabbing movements with a knife. John-Marc told me later that his Krav Maga training – a form of self-defense that is based on the use of reflexive responses to threatening situations – kicked in, and he was

immediately prepared for a counterattack. For a start, he knew one of his options was to kick the attacker where it really hurt.

He resisted doing this, however, for two reasons. Firstly, the thug standing over him was not stabbing him; he was just threatening him. If an attacker doesn't use violence immediately, one can assume that their weapon is merely to threaten, or to be used as a backup in the event of the victim resisting. Secondly, from his position lying on the ground, John-Marc was unable to see the menacing attacker's accomplice. He lay still while the thief body-searched him and, after locating his iPhone, they took off with it.

In Psalm 144:1, we are reminded: *Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle –.*"

Thanks to his Krav Maga training, John-Marc had remained situationally aware throughout his attack. What impressed me most about his reaction to the incident was his attention to detail. Afterward, he was able to clearly describe the clothes worn by the attackers and the knife used, as well as relate the sequence of events. When a neighbor produced security camera photos of the thugs, they were identical to John-Marc's description.

Clearly, John-Marc's self-defense training played a decisive role, both in the way he dealt with the incident and the way he subsequently psychologically processed it. We praise and thank the Lord that John-Marc was not seriously injured, and we are thankful to personal defense

instructor, Rudolph Roos of Dark Rose in Cape Town, under whom John-Marc trained, for such a time as this!

Unfortunately, my son's mugging was not an isolated incident, but one that followed a rash of acts of violence, burglaries, and even attempted murders that have affected our family members, our friends, and our neighbors. These include the following:

- My sister-in-law was mugged outside the front gate of our house. Her handbag was ripped from her shoulder so violently that the strap snapped off. We are thankful that her only injury was a sore shoulder.
- On at least three separate occasions, neighbors living within mere yards of our home have had their cars stolen. Others have been robbed at knifepoint.
- One morning, an attacker forced open a security gate and a door, gaining entry to our neighbor's house. Our neighbor happened to be home at the time and startled the intruder. A fight ensued, with the result that our neighbor was stabbed in the arm. The intruder then jumped over our boundary wall and into our garden. Fortunately, the police and another of our neighbors – who was armed – pursued the stabber on foot and he was successfully caught and arrested.
- We have experienced items being stolen from our garden and our shed, and an attempted break-in to our garage.

- My 80-year-old father's light delivery vehicle was stolen from outside our home.
- Once, an elderly woman, a resident of our neighborhood, caught thieves red-handed as they were carrying out a home invasion of one of our neighbors. When the housebreakers noticed her witnessing their activity, they jumped into their getaway car and attempted to run her over.
- The father of another neighbor was murdered by thugs who had been hiding in their garden; they gained entry when his daughter opened a sliding door to let their small dogs out.

I am told by my friends in the United States that "good fences make good neighbors." Well, armed neighbors make even better ones – especially here in South Africa where a vast number of firearm-owners believe that for the most part, the law favors the wicked and the defendant has a much greater risk of facing legal challenges than the assailant.

Those who indulge in violence and break the law appear to enjoy greater "rights" than either the victims of the attacks, or those who defended themselves with a counterforce.

Put your trust in God; but mind to keep your powder dry."

~ Oliver Cromwell

Many have never thought about or considered what to do in the event of an attack or been trained to respond. This must change! My friends over in America are frequently exposed to videos on the nightly news of the mob-incited violence that is engulfing various communities across their country. It is no surprise then that the need to prepare for such potential confrontation has become a rising concern.

It is an unfortunate reality that one day, you may find yourself in a position where you have a mere split-second in which to act on a life-threatening attack on your family or others. Thereafter, it will be left up to the legal professionals to decide whether or not you acted within the law. Gun laws vary regarding self-defense in their extreme, according to the local jurisdiction.

There are many faithful self-defense trainers all over the world who will help with this dilemma, so we won't be dealing with self-defense techniques in detail in this book.

Strategy and tactics are subordinate to the basic "principles" of surviving a violent attack. The bottom line is that while it is impossible for us to prepare for every possible evil eventuality that may befall us, we need to have solid ideas of what we believe, and how we should react when evil is perpetrated against ourselves or our loved ones. It is a sobering fact that these principles may make the difference between life and death.

Just show up

I once received an urgent call from my son, Jason, who was aged 19 at the time. He told me that he was with a woman in distress. While she and her daughter were jogging along the greenbelt, a man had exposed himself to them.

“John-Marc must come with you,” Jason said, as he gave me the direction his younger brother and I should run towards to catch the flasher. My 18-year-old son and I immediately left home and ran into the green belt – the very same place where John-Marc himself had previously been mugged. As we were running, we noticed a head popping up from inside the canal. I ran straight towards the person, John-Marc flanked to the left and Jason arrived from the right flank. No chance for the supposed bad guy to get away!

Once we had the suspect, we held him, with John-Marc at the ready, his Byrna (a non-lethal security device) aimed at him, should he try to flee. The woman and her daughter identified the man and then we handed him over to the armed security officers, who had arrived minutes after we called them, while running towards the scene of the crime.

We learned later that Jason had been driving when he noticed a suspicious situation – a man standing a few feet away from a woman, and a young girl running like crazy down the road. He immediately approached the woman and found her standing at the ready, armed

with pepper spray and a knife. When Jason phoned me, the thug fled, and that's when we followed up.

The woman was thrilled to have had Jason intervene. Even though she was armed, the thug was not backing off. He only started running away when Jason arrived! After the incident, Jason received the following message from her, passed on via a mutual friend: "Please extend my love and gratitude to Jason. He is our guardian angel. We will forever be grateful, and I'll never forget that angelic face when I turned to see him standing behind me. The relief was enormous."

It turned out that the flasher was mentally ill and a known drug addict. Unfortunately, he was not subjected to any consequences following this incident, as the victims would have had to lay charges against him, which they chose not to do. However, we thank the Lord that they were not physically injured!

I implore you to have your family trained to respond appropriately should they bear witness to a threat. Also, instruct your sons never, ever, to disregard a woman in distress!

The reality is that bad guys exist and will not think twice about using violence to take goods or even your life from you, or from anyone else. When high on drugs or in a spiritual stupor of ancestral worship, they are especially dangerous.

In her book, *Gotcha: A polygraphist lifts the lid on crime in South Africa*, Silke Kaiser, author and lie-detector-test analyst for alleged

perpetrators of farm murders in South Africa, claims that alcohol, drugs, and ancestral worship all form part of the dangerous mix which adds to the incomprehensible violence inflicted by farm attackers on their victims.

At a neighborhood public meeting convened by the South African Police Services, an elderly lady asked a police officer what she could do to protect herself from a violent home attack. There was no clear answer – either from the police themselves or from any of the public present.

I stood up and explained to the lady that it was impossible for the police to be physically everywhere at the same time. Unlike God, they are not omnipresent. In addition, part of their role when dealing with a crime is cleaning up the mess after the attack. I went on to suggest that apart from installing burglar bars and security gates, she should consider purchasing a firearm and be trained in the use thereof.

The police officer immediately accused me of trying to act like “Rambo.” Isn’t it interesting that he was more concerned about the chances of an elderly lady injuring or killing a violent criminal, than the possibility of her being violently attacked!

Telling, isn’t it?

During a radio interview with Mike Seeklander, expert firearms instructor, and cofounder of the American Warrior Society, he asked me if I was “a warrior.” I answered in the negative and explained that I would rather avoid violent confrontation and that I choose my battles carefully.

Mike was supportive of my answer and explained that intelligent warriors don't fight just for the sake of fighting.

Flight, instead of fight

Violent crime can only take place when victims allow it to. The idea that victims should simply succumb to the whims of the violent amounts to nothing more than showing cowardice in the face of the enemy. This is regarded as a crime punishable by death in many armies around the world. As the well-known saying goes, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

It is true that there are times when it is wise for a victim to "play along" with an attacker, but this is only to encourage the criminal to relax, and to allow the victim the opportunity to prepare a counterattack with an element of surprise. A victim who resists an assailant, especially with lethal force, increases the risk for the attacker and often puts them to flight.

A friend of mine, Ivan de Waal, was at a party chatting with a group of friends when the topic of the conversation turned to the events of the terrorist attack on St. James Church, near Cape Town, commonly referred to as the "St. James Church massacre," in which I had returned fire. One woman in the group obstinately stated that I should never have returned fire at the attackers, because that would only have made them madder, and increased their determination to do more harm.

It later became known that the goal of their attack on the church had been to not leave a single living soul in the church, which housed a congregation of over one thousand people. The police maintained that there would have been a great many more fatalities should there have been no resistance against the attack.

As men, a common challenge we face is that we so often default to the way of least resistance – some may say “cowardice.” We see this everywhere – in Bible studies, men’s meetings, and church services.

Whenever God’s Word is taught and we find ourselves called into conflict with the wicked, either the immediate response of: “This does not apply to us,” is echoed, or the command to take a stand against the wicked is somehow spiritualized into a concept of prayerful defeat and betrayal of Christ, our King. We hide behind our “spiritual prayers” and use them as an excuse not to take the necessary physical action required to defend others.

As an example of this, I once took a call from a man who had been forced to witness his wife being gang-raped by home invaders. Instead of doing everything in his power to protect his wife, he had, instead of using his prayers as a launching pad to fight to protect his wife, used them as an excuse to avoid confrontation, merely standing prayerfully by as the rape took place. Our biblical obligation as men is to love our wives as Christ loved the Church. Remember, He died to save His Church.

Men flock to these meetings and conferences, where simply opening the car door for their wives is considered to be the height of “giving it all up” for Jesus. Yet, at the demonstrations where spiritual paratroopers storm the very gates of hell – outside abortion clinics, where the lives of unborn babies are being taken by savage butchers – men are conspicuous by their absence. Too often, timidity and cowardice in the face of an evil attack are seen as Fruit of the Spirit, as opposed to the sin of omission – when we didn’t do what we should have done.

*Deliver those who are drawn toward death,
And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.*

~ Proverbs 24:11

Awareness

Some people are, by nature, far more alert and aware of their surroundings than others. We can all, however, be trained to remedy a lack of awareness.

One evening, a friend went for a walk along the Durban beachfront to get some fresh air before ministering in the area. Soon, he became aware of two men, following him from a distance. He continued walking, but his senses sharpened and became more acute. Removing his firearm from its waist holster in an unobtrusive way, he held it to his body, concealed by his clothes.

The followers slowly increased their walking speed and, when they caught up to my friend, one of them came up beside him while the other, still behind him, backed off slightly. Suddenly, the man beside my friend pulled a knife on him! The victim responded – in a modest fashion – by showing the would-be attacker his pistol. Jumping backward with his hands held in the air, the aggressor, his disposition now very polite, begged for grace.

At this, the accomplice started laughing at his friend and, from what he perceived to be a safe distance, shouted to him, "I warned you not to mess with that man!"

Surprise is the greatest weapon at the attacker's disposal, which is why you are more likely to be attacked from behind than experience a full-

frontal attack. It is therefore important to always be aware of who or what may be lurking behind us, and to take note of anything that might appear not to be in its proper place, or out of order. Being aware of your surroundings makes the job of the bad guy much more difficult.

In the same way that my friend anticipated violence and managed to avoid being attacked, we need to be vigilant, alert, and aware of our surroundings at all times.

Don't make yourself vulnerable to being taken by surprise.

Many years ago, after visiting our parents, my sister and I arrived back at her home at around 5 p.m. to find her front door ajar. Clearly, this was a sign of danger. Yes, you guessed it, her family had been robbed in a housebreaking.

On a separate occasion, my mother-in-law and sister-in-law, Riana, had come to visit us. Their car was parked in the driveway outside our house and, as they were preparing to get into it to drive back home, a young man came walking down the road in the direction of our house. He walked straight up to them and grabbed hold of Riana's handbag that hung over her shoulder and started tugging violently at it. He continued tugging until the shoulder strap snapped, releasing the bag into his hands, and then ran off with the loot.

I was working inside the house at the time. Riana screamed to draw the attention of neighbors, but by the time I came outside and jumped our

wall – so as not to slow myself down by opening a gate – the thief was gone with the wind.

My family members had been completely oblivious to the movement of the attacker, and he had taken advantage of this vulnerability to catch them by surprise.

Always treat anything that is not normal with suspicion.

In South Africa, it is not unusual to hear the raucous sounds of people starting a fight in the street outside your home. When you go outside to investigate, with the aim of intervening and preventing the victim from being beaten to death, a suspect may slip through your open front door while you are trying to be a good Samaritan.

One day, I was away from home when my father, aged eighty at the time, phoned me to let me know that the pickup truck with my firewood delivery had arrived.

I had not ordered any wood.

Thankfully, my father had sent the “delivery men” to our back gate before phoning me. After our conversation, he sent them on their merry way.

Yes, it is possible that the driver of the delivery truck had made an honest mistake and rang the incorrect doorbell. Nevertheless, when the

home burglary rate in your area has recently increased by a rate of 75% over a three-month period, you had better be vigilant.

We have a constant stream of beggars passing our home and many stop to beg for food. As innocent as this looks, it can present the beggar with a wonderful opportunity to conduct a full analysis of your facilities, as he peers through your windows, checks to see whether any dogs respond to his arrival, etc.

Our family doesn't feed from our home garden gate. We have made the decision to prioritize protecting our immediate family first. Our ministry also runs a feeding project for the suffering in a local informal settlement called Stone Hill, where hospitality is of prime importance for both our family and our ministry.

I was on my way home after ministry in a settlement one day when suddenly, I felt my car begin to lose power. Although it was not quite rush hour, the highway was still relatively busy, so I immediately pulled over. When I attempted to start the engine, it refused to start again. It was about 5 p.m. and starting to get dark. As the neighborhood in the immediate vicinity of my breakdown can only be described as "gangster land," I was scared and distressed. I quickly called my father and asked him to come and tow me home.

Within a matter of mere minutes, a car filled with passengers slowed down and parked slightly ahead of me. I waited for someone to get out of the car, but all four doors remained closed. Now, this was very

suspicious! Nobody randomly parks their car next to a highway and just sits in the car!

I prayed, removed my pistol from its holster, and prepared for a contact situation.

For over an hour, nothing happened.

Eventually, I saw the lights of another car approaching and slowing down before parking directly behind me. A police officer and his partner emerged from within and walked over to ask what the matter was. When I explained, they thought it prudent to stay with me until help arrived, demonstrating their professionalism.

In South Africa, we've experienced cases of violent criminals getting access to homes by pretending to be police officers or private security guards, dressed in official uniform and all. This use of false pretenses to gain access to your home works brilliantly for criminals.

Be aware, check their credentials, and don't feel embarrassed about asking for them, no matter how impractical it may seem.

Be street-smart! Don't let any stranger walk up to you and hold your hand. Be aware of your surroundings.

Always be calm, comfortable, and confident!

I must admit, I found it difficult to write this chapter without coming across as neurotic! To be clear, my intention was to recommend a certain way of living to ensure the safety of you and your loved ones, which is achievable without any drama, a big act, or being a weirdo!

Assertiveness

According to the Oxford Dictionary of English (Second edition, revised), "assertiveness" is defined as having or showing a confident and forceful personality.

I personally like this definition because it addresses two concepts: namely, "having" and "showing." One of my own particular personality traits is that I won't automatically take on a leadership role, but instead wait out the process to see if anyone else will stand in the gap. I once took the Myers-Briggs personality test. My results revealed that only after the ineptitude of all other possible candidates has been displayed will I stand up and take over.

Now, when one finds oneself in a potentially dangerous contact situation, waiting for another to act is not ideal practice. Rather, quick, decisive action is required if one is to protect life in a violent confrontation.

While it is true that many of us gun-owners don't naturally possess elevated levels of confidence or forcefulness, we can all "show" or "practice" both. It is possible for all of us to transform ourselves into men who are prepared to deal effectively with an evil person, whether we have had prior experience dealing with violent attackers or not. The end goal is to transform our attitudes from submissive and passive into resistant and assertive.

Once the attack has been launched, you need to immediately transform yourself into an assertive character. If you second-guess your reaction to the violence, this might result in the end of your life or the lives of others. The robustness of your reaction will prove to be more important than your shooting skills or even, in some cases, your plan of action.

Because a counterattack is no easy decision to make spontaneously, it is crucial to have already made that decision before becoming the target of a violent encounter. However, a variety of factors go against us making this decision. Examples include our Christian upbringing – which often encourages an attitude of passivity, an incorrect understanding of theological principles, and the constant brainwashing we are subjected to by the liberal media.

The best way to prepare for the possibility of this type of eventuality is to think about scenarios that could occur, and then imagine or dream about what your tactical response should be.

The “clever people” tell us that our muscles and sensory systems are unable to differentiate between imagining or dreaming about ideas and us putting those ideas into practice. So, dream away!

When you find yourself the target of an attack, you need to be able to evaluate what’s happening and decide on an effective response to the current actions. You also need to respond immediately, and with all the force you can muster. The slightest hesitation could lead to devastating consequences, and in some cases, even death.

*Be assertive, do not second-guess your swift decision,
react immediately, and stay alive!*

In addition to physical skills and firearm proficiency, assertiveness is one of the most important aspects of self-defense. Assertiveness is the ability to stand up for oneself and communicate effectively in stressful situations. Assertiveness is often considered to be a masculine trait, one that is portrayed as being loud and aggressive when, in fact, assertiveness is the ability to clearly express what you want and what you don't want in a calm, stable, and respectful manner. By expressing ourselves assertively, we relate our desires clearly, make our voices heard and gain respect.

By asserting oneself in a calm and confident manner, it is possible to defuse potentially dangerous situations before they become physical. For example, if someone is acting aggressively towards you in a public place, calmly but firmly telling them to back off and giving them clear boundaries can often prevent the situation from escalating.

Being assertive isn't about being selfish, rude, or physically aggressive. The use of a firm voice and a display of confident body language will usually do the trick. Unlike aggression, assertiveness is about you, and doing what you must do to protect yourself. Everyone, even the most classically "nice" and "sweet" people, can consciously prepare

themselves to become assertive. It may take a lot of practice and training, but it is possible.

The importance of assertiveness in gunfighting situations

In a self-defense situation, it may be necessary to use a firearm to protect yourself or others. Assertiveness is crucial in gunfighting situations because it can help to prevent conflicts from escalating into violence. It can help to convey your intentions and ensure that others understand that you are not a threat. It is important that you communicate clearly and assertively to avoid any misunderstandings. For example, if you need to draw your firearm to protect yourself, loudly announcing that you have a gun and telling the attacker to stop can help to make it clear that you are only using it in self-defense.

Gunfighting in self-defense situations is a serious matter that requires both extensive training and a comprehensive knowledge of the laws surrounding the use of firearms.

Developing assertiveness skills for gunfighting in self-defense situations requires practice and training.

Here are some tips for improving assertiveness:

1. **Practice the art of assertive communication:** To communicate assertively, it is important to practice speaking clearly and confidently. You can practice by role-playing different scenarios with a friend or family member and rehearsing how you would communicate in each situation.

2. **Build your confidence:** Confidence is a key component of assertiveness, and building your confidence can help you to assert yourself in stressful situations. Exercise and self-care can both aid in increasing your confidence.
3. **Set boundaries:** Setting clear boundaries and communicating them assertively is an important aspect of self-defense. Practice setting boundaries in different situations and communicating them in a calm and confident manner.
4. **Take self-defense classes:** Taking self-defense classes can help you to build both physical and mental skills necessary for self-defense. Many self-defense classes also focus on assertiveness and communication skills.

In conclusion, assertiveness is a critical skill for gunfighting in self-defense situations. By communicating assertively, you can prevent conflicts from escalating, convey your intentions clearly, and protect yourself and others. Developing assertiveness skills requires practice and training, but with dedication and effort, anyone can improve their assertiveness skills and become more confident and effective in self-defense situations.

Boldness

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, ... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone ...”

~ Revelation 21:8

This book was not written for cowards. Instead, I endeavor to help Kingdom warriors fight life’s battles and attacks through Biblical investigations and the courageous application of our findings. While most people would frown upon the idea of bringing your Bible to a gunfight, I differ.

In Proverbs 28:1, we are told that *“the righteous are as bold as a lion.”* Have you ever seen a lion strutting around? They are daring and brave. In the Christian sense, it refers to standing firm in the faith, while those with little or no faith, flee.

Boldness carries with it a particularly important advantage in a gunfight or any other form of self-defense. Attackers don’t expect boldness from their victims, they anticipate (and prefer!) a humble, obedient lamb. We introduce an element of surprise when the bold lion shows up and catches them off guard!

As Christians, we must never initiate violent conflict with another. Anyone intent on attacking us must be given the advantage of the first strike, or attempted strike. Only then can we respond with equal, but not

“excessive” force. The number of attackers, their size, presumed strength, or hardware, does not change the fact that your counterattack must be formidable. It needs to be ferocious, powerful, and effective. It needs to be bold!

In close-range combat, the response to an attack from a clumsy group of shooters by an armed victim possessing a certain amount of skill can be rendered exponentially more severe and effective if he boldly and aggressively seizes the moment. The ability to do this is possible to learn.

There is nothing more terrifying than an untrained yet overconfident and presumptuous newbie gunslinger, who believes he is God’s gift to all victims. Never be presumptuous when carrying a firearm! It is imperative that you undergo the necessary training and up-skill yourself in the use of your personal sidearm before you can use it effectively.

However, no skill can replace boldness, which can scare the living daylights out of the bad guys!

For most attackers, their own safety and protection from injury is of paramount importance to them. If the attack is of such a nature that you are likely to get seriously hurt or even killed, you might as well put up the most intensive resistance of which you are physically capable.

Being one of the survivors of the St. James Church massacre in 1993, and having returned fire at the attackers, I can understand what Pieter van der Westhuizen and the members of the congregation of the

Querencia Ministries church in Wierda Park, Centurion in South Africa experienced, when their lives were threatened by three armed gunmen during a Sunday service.

The thwarting of the attack on the congregation by Pieter's bold and explosive counterattack surprised the church attackers and saved many lives! He shot dead two of the armed robbers, and a third suspect managed to escape in a waiting get-away car.

This is a particularly good example of why law-abiding citizens must legally be able to defend themselves with lethal force. I must concur with Carl Chinn, President of the Faith-Based Security Network, of over 400 member churches in America, who said, "We salute him (Pieter) and thank him for his selfless and responsible actions. He knew the minute he pulled the trigger he was also a target – but he did it anyway." Pieter set an exceptionally good example of how Christian men should act in life-threatening circumstances.

We as Christians need to seriously consider how we are going to stand up for righteousness, and against wickedness, in our crime-ridden South Africa! What steps, both spiritually and physically, do we have to take to protect not only our families and loved ones, but our local congregations too?

I've read discussions on social media in which both men and women claim that, in the event of their loved ones coming across a violent attack, they don't step in to protect or provide any assistance to the

victim. They are clearly not concerned about the dangerous consequences to others resulting from their inaction.

While this kind of selfishness is probably celebrated in woke circles today, the Christian man has a greater cause than himself to consider and that is the protection of all people, who are made in the image of God, and to stand against all evil, even if it puts his own life in danger.

Those who reject the concept of self-defense play right into the hands of violent criminals. They encourage the wicked to take advantage of them by creating a safe environment for them. This is illustrated by the fact that the commander of the attackers on our church in 1993 admitted that they had believed our church was a gun-free zone and said that I surprised his cadres when I returned fire.

Christians are not called to be doormats for the wicked. In fact, the Bible teaches us in Proverbs 25:26 that *"A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well."*

Christians do not just have a Biblical right to self-defense; they have a Biblical duty to protect the innocent, even if it means taking the life of the attacker, bent on murder. Escaping might not always be an option. It could also put you and others at greater risk. There are life-threatening occasions when the violent attacker must be eliminated.

All life is precious because we are made in the image of God. And because He has created us, we must live by His rules. They are not mere suggestions! We may only take life when He says we can! And the Bible

clearly shows that defending innocent life abides with just such an occasion.

So, how do we attain the boldness we need for such an eventuality?

For Christian men, it lies in our love for righteousness and justice, and hatred of sin and injustice. Our love for the Lord and His perfect Word, and the Holy Spirit living in us, should drive us to protect the innocent and make the lives of the bad guy difficult.

Don't get me wrong, our immediate response may well be fear, but we must not allow that fear to paralyze us, but rather drive us into life-protecting action. At the time of the contact, you must forsake all love of self and become the most compassionate lover of others. You'll need to respond with selfless dedication to the matter at hand. You need to focus on stopping the aggressors.

Be aware, be assertive, be bold!

Speed

After the St. James massacre, I struggled with the idea that I had not responded quickly enough to the threat of terrorists who were opening fire with automatic rifles and lobbing hand grenades into our congregation.

The thought haunted me night and day. I blamed myself for the lives that had been lost, because, thinking that the attackers going into our church were part of a church play for the youth, I had hesitated for a split second.

That moment of hesitation, and my slow response – which came only after I saw the rounds hitting the pews and sending wooden splinters shooting into the air – I figured had cost at least some of the eleven fatalities, their lives.

Don't let this happen to you!

As I've already mentioned, you might have only a split second in which to decide on how to respond to a lethal attack, giving others the opportunity to pick away at your response afterward. Rather than receiving criticism for your total lack of response.

During one of our debriefing sessions held by the police after the St. James massacre, one of the victims explained how devoid of a response and weak he had felt, having not been able to protect his fiancée. Don't be the one to live with regret!

Obviously, we can't just go around attacking anyone we feel is suspicious just because we think they might want to attack us some time in the future.

However, as soon as it becomes clear that our assailant intends to harm us or take our very lives, we need to act with speed and accuracy.

"Lord, please make me fast and accurate!"

~ Mel Gibson as Benjamin Martin in *The Patriot*

Should you find yourself in a situation where you've already been taken by surprise and are being held against your will, it might be prudent to wait a while and cooperate as much as possible with your assailant. Only when you've gotten his "trust" and you notice him let his guard down, even for a split second, that's when you need to muster up all the courage you can and respond ... with lethal force, if necessary.

When I experienced an attempted carjacking, the assailants approached me with their firearms in hand. When I became aware of them, it was too late for me to respond in any way, except to comply. When they asked me if I was armed, I lied and said I was not. I was outside of the vehicle and one of the thugs proceeded to body-search me. By God's grace alone, he found nothing, having omitted to check my ankle, where my holster and handgun were hidden.

Once satisfied that I wasn't armed, they turned their attention to my passenger, my friend Dr. Phillip Stott. They started harassing him, and

he calmly explained that he wasn't armed, nor did he have any cash on him.

This afforded me the time to hide, positioning myself so that the vehicle formed a barrier between myself and the assailants. I freed my firearm from its ankle holster, prepared for action, and speedily moved to a position in front of the vehicle, more conducive to a counterattack. Then, as a distraction, I shouted at them, before opening fire.

Just to nail it down – I had to wait for an appropriate time before responding with my swift action.

We must remember that one of the biggest challenges we face when dealing with the bad guys is that we aren't playing the same game, and even if we were, they don't abide by the same rules as we do. When it comes to saving lives, your moral compass and "Mr. Nice Guy" rules could come at a great cost. On the spur of a life-and-death moment, you just have to do what you have to do!

"Rules" only come into play afterward, when you will find yourself being judged for your actions ... not only by the legal eagles but, unfortunately, even by some of your Christian "friends."

There is no such thing as a "perfect fight."

The perfect fight is not to have a fight. In other words, the assailants disappear before the fight begins.

My friend, Dick Boothroyd, had experience of this when his car broke down on the national road near Cape Town. Within minutes, he noticed two thugs walking toward him and immediately thought that they were up to no good.

Dick is a great warrior for the right to bear arms and an excellent range shooter. As the thugs drew closer, Dick was standing at the ready, firearm in hand. As soon as they saw the gun, the thugs ran away, and are probably still running! Yep, the bad guys realized they'd taken on more than they could handle.

If you are attacked, rather than allowing yourself to be taken hostage, respond with speed. Do not hesitate. The attacker might have taken you by surprise, but you can surprise him back with your swift and sudden response.

Speed is a crucial factor in gunfighting for self-defense. In a life-threatening situation, every split-second counts, and the ability to react quickly can mean the difference between life and death.

Here are some tips on ways to increase your reaction speed in a gunfighting situation:

1. **Draw speed:** The ability to quickly draw your firearm from its holster is essential in a self-defense situation. Practicing drawing from various positions and angles will build muscle memory and increase your speed.

2. **Reload speed:** In a prolonged gunfight, the ability to reload quickly and efficiently can make all the difference. Practice reloading drills and make sure you are comfortable using your firearm's magazine release mechanism and the reloading process.
3. **Target acquisition speed:** Being able to quickly acquire (identify and locate) your target is essential in a self-defense situation. Practice scanning your environment and quickly acquiring targets, all while maintaining good aim.
4. **Reaction time:** In a self-defense situation, you may only have a split second to react. Practice drills that require quick reaction times, such as drawing and firing on a target at a moment's notice.
5. **Movement speed:** Being able to move quickly and efficiently can also be critical in a self-defense scenario. To improve your speed and mobility, practice movement drills, such as engaging a target from different angles and shooting while moving to get cover.

In conclusion, speed is a crucial aspect of gunfighting for self-defense. Developing speed in drawing, reloading, target acquisition, reaction time, and movement can help increase your chances of survival in a life-threatening situation. Remember though, that speed should never come at the expense of accuracy or safety.

Practice regularly and prioritize safety and accuracy to become a well-rounded and effective, speedy self-defense shooter.

Composure

Maintaining composure in a self-defense situation is essential in order to make quick and rational decisions. Gunfighting for self-defense is inherently stressful, and the ability to remain calm and focused can make all the difference in a life-threatening situation.

When under a lethal attack, it is of paramount importance to stay calm. As difficult as this may sound, remember that if you allow yourself to lose control, you might end up responding in a way that will make you look like the aggressor in the situation. This will not be helpful and may even compromise your legal defense.

This is not to say that as a Christian, you won't experience a feeling of righteous anger when faced with a threat to your safety, or that of your loved ones. In fact, this should form part of any Christian's response toward sin and wickedness.

The challenge is learning how to control this anger. Anger that is contained can enhance your response, rather than affect it in a negative way. The ability to do this, especially under trying circumstances, doesn't just fall out of the sky. It requires discipline and a willingness to upskill yourself in this area.

Attackers are usually nervous and concerned about witnesses. Often, burglars will defecate anywhere during a home invasion, from sheer panic and fear. This nervousness means that any attacker will certainly

lack composure, particularly if he is under the influence of drugs, which will make him even more dangerous. Flipping out as a response is not going to help matters! Remaining calm, cool, and in control is what will win the day.

Nothing beats a handgun for self-defense but let's be real, none of us are armed 24/7. If you are up close to your assailant but are not armed, using your fist to deliver a hard, decisive hit to his Adam's apple at the front of his throat will certainly disengage him.

One Sunday evening, in South Africa, Paul Oxley was retiring to bed. His wife, Lynette, was already in bed.

Paul opened his rifle safe next to his bed and lay down. He glanced up at the screen of their closed-circuit television security system situated above the bed and saw two armed attackers in his driveway.

Thoughts started rushing through Paul's head: "Are these the only attackers? Are there anymore? Could others be standing right outside my bedroom already?"

Paul needed to move to a position where he was out of sight and where the attackers couldn't get behind him. As he got out of bed, he lifted a loaded Ruger Mini-14 from the safe, whilst calling softly to Lynette to follow him with her Glock .45.

They headed down the passageway toward a second bedroom, with a raised balcony and a sliding door. The balcony overlooks the house's

front yard ... the direction from which the attackers had come, and so the couple were protected from being approached from behind.

Due to there being no curtains over the windows, the attackers must have seen the couple running through the house to the balcony. The suspects quickly began scattering, in an attempt to exit the property.

As Paul opened the sliding door, one of the attackers whirled around to face him and raised his right arm toward him. Paul fired a warning shot into the lawn, in the attacker's general direction. The suspect scrambled over the six-foot-high wall (with electric fencing on top), and disappeared into the night, leaving behind blood marks on the wall. Paul believes that his hurried warning shot must have ricocheted.

The second attacker scrambled over a back wall into the street, where he proceeded to shoot at a neighbor who had turned a light on when he had heard Paul's warning shot.

The next morning, on further inspection, Paul discovered a CZ75 pistol in their garden.

The police didn't arrive the night of the shooting, but only the following day.

The fact that the couple had received prior warning ahead of the possible attack, had got their firearms ready for action, and had managed to maintain a cool composure, certainly had the bad guys on the run ... or, more accurately, the hobble!

Stay composed during an attack!

Maintaining composure in a self-defense situation is critical for making effective decisions. When under stress, it is easy to panic and make rash decisions that can lead to negative consequences. If you can remain calm and composed, you can better assess the situation and make quick, rational decisions that prioritize both your safety and the safety of others.

In addition to aiding in decision-making, composure is important for controlling your body and maintaining accuracy. In a gunfight, it is essential that you have a proper grip and a steady stance, and that you employ the use of breathing techniques to maintain accuracy and minimize recoil. When you are off the quiet, tranquil firing range, and bullets are flying around you, it can be difficult to stay composed and shoot straight. While range practice certainly helps in making you become one with your firearm, nothing replaces practice involving live fire and movement.

Most missed shots are caused by a loss of composure under stress. Learning how to maintain your composure will help you to remain steady and focused on your target, thereby improving accuracy and effectiveness.

Developing composure skills for gunfighting in self-defense situations requires training and regular practice, but with dedication and effort,

anyone can improve their composure skills and become more confident and effective.

Here are some tips for improving your composure skills:

1. **Practice breathing techniques:** Deep breathing techniques can help to calm the body and reduce stress. Practice taking deep breaths, inhaling through the nose, and exhaling out the mouth to help maintain composure in stressful situations.
2. **Visualize scenarios:** Visualization techniques can help to prepare the mind for stressful situations. Practice visualizing a variety of possible self-defense scenarios and mentally rehearse how you would react in each case.
3. **Build mental toughness:** Building mental toughness through physical exercise and practicing how you would react in a challenging experience can help you to maintain your composure in stressful situations.
4. **Take self-defense classes:** Many self-defense classes focus on composure and stress-management techniques. Attending these classes can help to build both the physical and mental skills necessary for effective self-defense.
5. **Practice under stress:** Practicing self-defense drills under simulated stress conditions can help to build composure for real-life situations. As you practice your drills, try to simulate a self-defense scenario as close to a real-life experience as possible. This can be

achieved in a number of ways. First, work on increasing the speed at which you are able to react to an attack. Remember that attackers don't wait patiently for a victim to respond to a sudden attack. Second, amplify the sounds around you to simulate loud noises such as gunshots going off and grenades exploding. Third, increase the number of distractions around you as you practice. Regular practice of these drills will help you not to be so easily distracted and disorientated in a real-life situation, which could prevent you from being able to respond.

In conclusion, composure is a critical skill for gunfighting in self-defense situations. By maintaining composure, you can make effective decisions, control your body, and maintain accuracy. It is important to remember that composure should not come at the expense of speed or accuracy. Maintaining a balance between composure, speed, and accuracy is critical for effective self-defense.

Love

You might find this chapter heading a bit incongruous in a book that talks about defending the innocent with lethal force.

Let me explain.

In Romans 13:10, Scripture defines love as *“the fulfillment of the law.”* If we are to love God and our fellow man, we are to obey God’s moral Law. Considering that God is autonomous, He speaks Law, which then means that all of His Word is His Law.

We don’t define sin. Congress and Parliament don’t define sin. Only God defines sin – the breaking of His Word and His Law. In other words, sin is “lawlessness.”

God’s Word in 1 Corinthians 2:15 says, *“But he who is spiritual judges all things...”*

What do we as humans use to judge righteousness from sin, light from darkness, and good from evil, other than the Word of God? The Bible is not merely a book of moral suggestions! The Creator, through His Word, tells us how to live and what may be considered right and wrong.

So, what is love? We are currently living in a depraved, messed-up, brainless, woke world of immorality and a lack of ethics. Hollywood, along with other liberal media sources, has foisted upon us the notion that love is usually nothing more than some kind of sexual attraction

between people (and even, in some cases, between people and animals). Some of us believe satan's lies and have allowed ourselves to be brainwashed into believing this is the truth.

Murder, or an attempt at it, is a sin. Considering that God's Word should define our response to such an act, what is the most Biblical, Christian, and loving response for those who love the Lord? Stopping the attacker with lethal force!

The idea of a Christian man being considered righteous, just, and a discipler of nations, yet taking the life of a murderous attacker, just doesn't gel with our unbiblical idea of righteousness and sanctification. Rather, in our evangelical churches we are prone to entertain the soft, easy-going, and "spiritual" men.

In this context, the "spiritual" usually refers to those who try and make all physical application of the Bible into some mythical or "heart" idea, to try their best to avoid getting involved in any physical conflict or trouble that might come from their stand against unrighteousness and sin.

One of the most spiritual practices, then, would include the carrying of a firearm. When you do this, you are in a position that requires the spiritual insight of "judging all things" ... and that at a moment's notice!

These Biblical ideas should frighten the evil one and his minions to hell and back. But, because us soft, evangelical men are wary of offending the wicked, or our pew-warming brothers, we don't apply these ideas to our physical lives. Instead, we turn all battles into those of a "spiritual"

nature, where we don't have to deal with the challenge of a physical confrontation.

Don't get me wrong, I believe that we are embroiled in a spiritual war of good versus evil, but the outworking of that war can be very physical at times.

While our legal eagles caution us never to use "excessive force," we are fully justified Biblically to take the life of a murderous assailant. In Exodus 22:2-3 we are told: *"If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed. If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed."*

The argument could be made that any threat to our life is to be met with lethal force. Presumably, if the attack took place during the day, we would be able to recognize and later apprehend the attacker, if he escaped. Daylight represents a non-life-threatening situation, during which we are not to kill.

The violent person must be stopped in his tracks.

It seems that police spokespersons the world over all talk the same nonsense, insisting that victims must not resist an attack, in case the attacker gets mad. The police want us to be cowards and our laws clearly support the bad guys. In today's woke world, there seems to be far more concern heaped upon the violent attacker, than any loving care for his victims. The nut case who attacks you knows he doesn't have much to fear, as the police give more rights to the wicked than the

righteous. The police and courts appear compromised – often showing more concern for an attacker and the possibility of you hurting or killing him, than they do towards you, the victim. We are also encouraged to feel sorry for the attacker and to consider him as the victim, because of the factors that led to him becoming a criminal – such as his poor family upbringing and the bad circumstances under which he was raised.

At a public meeting in our locale, a police spokesperson, on at least three occasions that I was present, spent a lot of time and effort explaining what action they would take against victims who defended themselves from attack. What they said was laughable. It seems crazy, but the police punish the law-abiding citizens who are only trying to defend themselves, rather than the attacker – who often gets away. The victim, on the other hand, will have his gun taken away for months for ballistics, and if he has killed someone (even in self-defense) a murder docket will be opened against him. It can then take over a year before he is found “not guilty.”

So, only you can make the difference. The bad guy must learn to fear his armed victims.

We stand by in amazement when God doesn't ask sinners for the reasons why they sinned. Instead, He asks, “What did you do?” And justice is meted out accordingly – to what we did, not why or how we did it.

When you defend yourself, make sure that the assailant is not able to take further action against you or your loved ones. No matter what type of weapon you are carrying when you find yourself being attacked, use it to strike as hard as you possibly can. A half-hearted attempt can cause you more trouble when the attacker comes at you for his second attempt.

While it is Biblically unjustified to take revenge after an attack, acting in self-defense is fully justified. Feeling sorry for an attacker and hoping that he is going to have a repentant attitude after you've stopped his attack is wishful thinking. Do not be naive and succumb to his act of "giving up." Keep him in your firing line until the police or armed response arrives. You could even use this as an opportunity to minister to him, as one of my former colleagues did. After catching a would-be thief outside our ministry office, he sat on top of the assailant with his firearm pointed at him and shared the Gospel with him until the police arrived on the scene.

Taking life using lethal force is not murder. Murder is the taking of an innocent life. This is why Christians are against abortion, because it is the taking away of the innocent life of the pre-born.

A US pastor once asked me, after I did a presentation to his church folk, if I shoot to harm, or to kill. He was shocked when I said that if I draw my firearm on a violent assailant and he has not retreated, I shoot to kill. In such a case, if you are justified in your shooting, you are justified in killing.

So, if you do ever find yourself under a lethal attack, show some Biblical love.

Surprise

It's an ancient warfare tactic, and one that terrorists of every stripe employ to wreak violence on the innocent: the element of surprise. Once the attacker ambushes civilians – whom he presumes are unarmed – in a peaceful setting, the victims are often paralyzed with shock and therefore cannot defend themselves.

It takes remarkable presence of mind to survive such an attack – much less mount a unified offensive against the attacker and save other innocents.

The Heroes of Arizona

In early 2011, U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords was holding a meet-and-greet outside a grocery store in Tucson, Arizona. Within minutes of the event starting, a shooter, later identified as Jared Lee Loughner, used a 9-mm semi-automatic pistol to fire at Giffords at point-blank range, and then at others standing in the line.

The attack left six dead and 14 wounded and, were it not for the brave intervention of four heroes who happened to be attending the event, these statistics would undoubtedly have been higher.

When the attack began, retired Army Colonel, 74-year-old Bill Badger, as well as Roger Sulzgeber, Joseph Zimudie and Patricia Maisch (aged

sixty-one at the time) retaliated. Between them, they managed to tackle, subdue, and disarm the shooter.

As Loughner reached to reload, Maisch heard someone say, "Get the magazine!"

"So, I got the magazine," Maisch reported later, "and I was able to secure that. That's what needed to be done!"

It is difficult to remain cool, calm, and deliberate after having been surprised by gunshots going off and people dropping to the ground near you ... and that's when you are in a war zone. When all you are doing is innocently waiting in line to greet your favorite politician, the element of surprise is magnified and the ability to retain your composure is compromised even more.

A successful attack

For an attacker to be successful in his endeavor, he needs to adhere to some basic principles. Firstly, he must be assured of secrecy. If his plans are not kept a secret he has the chance of walking into an ambush, because the victim can prepare ahead of time. Secondly, he must make use of deception to surprise his victims. If, however, anyone was successful in disclosing the attacker's secret plan or exposing his proposed deception before an attack, his plans would be thwarted.

Tragically, for those injured or killed in the attack in Arizona, Loughner's intention to deceive everyone at the event by successfully masquerading

as just another concerned citizen keen to meet a lawmaker, as well as his plan to draw a gun and shoot directly at Giffords, were both successful.

A successful defense

The best form of defense for you as a victim of an attack is to use the very tactic the attacker first used on you – the element of surprise – and turn it against the perpetrator.

This is exactly what the four heroes did. They gained control of the situation in a dramatic fashion, by hitting the shooter on the back of his head with a camping chair. Col. Badger then held his wrist and used a throat grip to make an escape a flimsy possibility.

The best way to mitigate the paralyzing-shock factor is by thinking through a planned response to a surprise attack. Or, at the very least, to make the decision never to allow a thug to frighten or intimidate you.

When I served in the South African Defense Force, our military training instilled in us that the only time to retreat in the face of the enemy was when you were preparing to attack again from a different position or angle. Showing cowardice before your foe is an offense that in most military structures carries a very severe penalty.

Col. Badger demonstrated showing courage in the face of a violent attack, doubtlessly instilled in him during the training he received while serving in the military. This courageous and indomitable spirit stood this hero in good stead as he continued fighting – despite enduring a bleeding bullet wound on the back of his head.

I have had to employ the same technique – surprise – on more than one occasion. The first time was when responding to terrorists armed with automatic rifles and hand grenades when they attacked our church in Cape Town, South Africa on July 25, 1993. I used it again on July 1, 2008, when I was the victim of an attempted carjacking.

Courage

As our prayers and hearts go out to those injured and the families of those who lost loved ones in this mindless atrocity, all, I'm sure, are thankful to these heroes for their courage, tenacity, discipline, and fearless response in the face of danger.

I have much admiration for those who fight off gun-wielding attackers with their bare hands. As for a 74-year-old man and a 61-year-old woman who subdued and "de-ammoed" a violent thug amid his rampage, they did what heroes do: Help save lives.

Also, never underestimate the difference private citizens – who refuse to be victims – can make in a time of crisis.

Using surprise in self-defense gunfighting

The use of the element of surprise is one of the most effective and powerful tools at your disposal when gunfighting in self-defense.

Surprising your attacker can help to disorientate him. This affords you a split-second advantage and creates an opportunity for you to gain the upper hand and establish control of a potentially life-threatening

situation. Examples include drawing your firearm quickly or attacking from an unexpected angle.

Another way to use surprise in self-defense gunfighting is through distraction. By creating a distraction, you can also disorient the attacker and create an opportunity to take control of the situation. Examples of how this can be achieved include throwing an object or using a loud noise to startle the attacker.

In addition to surprise, it is also important to maintain composure and remain in control of the situation. The element of surprise can be effective, but it is not a substitute for proper training and preparation. It is important to practice self-defense drills and techniques regularly to build confidence and to ensure that you are prepared to manage a life-threatening situation.

In conclusion, employing the element of surprise can be a powerful tool in self-defense gunfighting. However, it is important to remember that it should be used with caution and only ever as a last resort when necessary to protect yourself or others. It should never be used to escalate a situation or as a means of intimidation.

Practice regularly and prioritize proper training and preparation to be well-prepared for any self-defense situation.

Epilogue

In Psalm 28:7, we are reminded that our God uses His power to protect us: *“The Lord is my strength and my shield.”*

Jesus fights with us and for us. He commands us to take up the sword of the Spirit – which is the Word of God – to preach His Word and He will draw the peoples and nations, to Himself. He assures us that He will conquer His foes. (Rev. 19:11-21; Isaiah 60:3)

We can rely completely on Him. God wages war against those who revolt against Him and His children, and He will never leave us nor forsake us. Scripture offers us this encouragement in Deut. 31:8: *“And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”*

After they had made it through the Red Sea, Moses and the Israelites celebrated God’s great victory over Egypt. They sang a song of praise after the Lord had wiped out His enemies (Ex. 14:1-15:21). In this song of praise, the Lord is called a “Man of War” – a warrior who fights for and protects His people.

Many times, I’ve found myself in the valley of the shadow of death – and many times God has comforted me.

When four men heavily armed with automatic rifles and hand grenades opened fire on our congregation after lobbing grenades into our

church, and when, by God's grace alone, I managed to return fire with my little .38 special revolver, we saw the attackers flee for their lives.

The wicked flee when no one pursues,

But the righteous are bold as a lion."

~ Proverbs 28:1

I am certain that what the attackers experienced on display that day was not my shooting prowess, but rather the power of God's psychological warfare.

Six months after the attack, when I was invited to be a guest on an American radio station, the radio show host asked me if I had been scared during the attack.

"Of course, I was!" I replied.

"Man!" he said, "I would have piddled in the pew!"

In November 2011, my friends, Ron, Dave, and I were driving from Zambia up to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on a mission trip. At the time, the country's political situation was particularly tense, following a hotly contested election.

As we passed through one of the many random police/army roadblocks that littered the pathway on our journey, we were shouted at by drugged-up child soldiers armed with AK47s and hair-trigger fingers. The older thugs – clearly shocked at our arrival at the roadblock and

astonished at the sheer audacity we displayed to them by traveling through extremely perilous territory during such dangerous times – demanded to know if we were mercenaries.

I must confess that at that moment, I feared for my life. I was not trusting in the Lord of Hosts, who in Isaiah 41:10 says: *Fear not, for I am with you;* “After squabbling and fighting with our hosts, they eventually let us proceed with our journey, but I can also confess that my prayer-life radically advanced in just a few seconds.

Our God is sovereign over all the elements and uses them as He wishes to destroy those who would oppose Him. He turns the raging sea to His advantage (Ex. 15:4-10).

During our mission trip to the DRC, Ron and I met a sickly Congolese lady. We laid hands on her and began praying for her, and as we did so, we witnessed a hump forming on her back, growing until her back was completely hunched, like a hunchback. Next, she started convulsing and frothing at the mouth, before being violently thrown to the floor, where she slithered around in a serpentine fashion.

We followed her, kept our hands on her and continued to pray fervently. Finally, a loud shriek emanated from her mouth, after which she lay still and was completely calm. Demons had fled from her! Her composure restored, she rose to her feet, thanked us, and walked out of the church office. Years after the event, we received reports that she is doing well and is now ministering for the Lord!

How comforting it is to know that "*He will never leave you nor forsake you*"(Heb. 13:5).

Chat with the people of Edom, Moab, Philistia, and Canaan and consider how they all trembled with fear when they heard of the Lord's salvation of the people of Israel (Ex. 15:13-16). The display of God's power functioned as a form of psychological warfare against His enemies.

Today, satan and his henchmen fear the power and authority of Christ that manifests itself in us – His people – through the Holy Spirit.

(Mark 5:1-10; 2 Tim. 1:7) Don't be surprised when the enemies of Christ do everything in their power to silence the witness of the men of God.

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and all authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to Him! And we are commanded to "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations*"(Matt. 28:16-20). We can confidently do remarkable things for God because Christ is on our side and has overcome death and satan.

Are you tired of the Christian club called "the Church" being portrayed as "weak, namby-pamby, and emasculated?" It is high time for us to up our game ... for Christ, and for His Gospel!

We need to be true men of God, and surround ourselves with other true men of God, who boldly proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, who fight for the lives of the unborn, who are not afraid to protect their families, both physically and spiritually, and who put into practice the Scriptural

command to *"... Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses"*(Eph. 5:11).

Many South Africans have voiced their concerns and presented their views on the proposed changes in the country's Firearms Control Amendment Bill. The biggest issue of contention is the proposal by the government to scrap self-defense as a reason for applying for a firearm license, with Police Minister Bheki Cele having gone on record stressing that arming the nation's citizens will not solve the country's extremely high crime rate.

While it is true that the possession of firearms makes it easier for criminals to kill, firearms also make it easier for citizens to defend themselves, or other innocent victims.

During the riots of July 2021 in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, several photographs, and videos were circulated on social media which showed armed citizens resisting looters who were busy with their latest "shopping sprees." Private businesses allegedly also stepped in to help, donating ammunition to both the police force and private security companies.

For communists, social regeneration takes place through violence and anarchy. Close observers of history know that these acts are always shrewdly orchestrated but manipulated to appear spontaneous. The resulting carnage and confusion are then typically blamed on factors

such as capitalism, the greed of the wealthy, wealth disparity, racism, and Western imperialism. As a missionary in Africa, I work with some of the poorest people on the continent and can safely say they wouldn't dream of stealing, rioting, or looting.

How often do you see mass shootings, rioting and looting taking place in or near police stations, or at shooting ranges or gun shows? Thugs invariably select unarmed, soft targets on which to impose their acts of violence.

Social anarchy also occurs less often in those areas where responsible citizens are likely to carry weapons. Did the looters in South Africa attack malls when armed citizens surrounded the buildings?

While it's true that armed citizens may not be able to solve all the country's crime, I know that I'd far sooner have neighbors like those armed, selfless and responsible citizens who took it upon themselves to protect life and property when they guarded Maponya Mall in Soweto during the riots than unarmed neighbors who only serve to make the working environment of the thugs easier and safer.

You are your first responder! Gun-free is no guarantee!

Farm murders, like all other murders in South Africa, are tragic crimes. What makes these crimes even more reprehensible is the vicious torture that accompanies so many of the attacks. Victims of farm murders have

been subjected to the most evil of atrocities, including being burnt with blow torches and clothing irons, having boiling water poured onto their bodies, having their throats slit, and even having holes drilled through their skulls. Husbands have also been forced to witness the attackers raping their wives.

Many books have been written on this terrible scourge of our society. In her book *GOTCHA: A Polygraphist Lifts the Lid on Crime in South Africa*, author Silke Kaiser tells an interesting story about the time she was called out to a farm located close to the South African border with Lesotho.

When Kaiser arrived, she was greeted by the farmer, Jan. He carried her laptop bag for her and showed her into the farmhouse kitchen, where they were joined by Jan's wife, Elize.

It was there, seated at the large wooden kitchen table, that Kaiser learned of the events that had led to a botched attack at this homestead, just three days prior to her arrival. She listened intently as the spouses took turns recounting their story of the attack that had ultimately failed (at least in the eyes of the attackers) in the most spectacular fashion.

Every morning, Jan would rise at 3 a.m. to tend to the chickens, along with two of his staff members. He never took his gun with him, because he believed if someone wanted to steal the chickens, they were most welcome to them.

On this morning, Jan and his accompanying employees were accosted by four gunmen. Addressing their three victims in English, the attackers ordered them all to lie down on the ground. Naturally, they complied.

Kaiser was surprised to hear what happened next. Both farm workers were tied up. According to her professional experience, in most cases, staff members were not targeted in the attacks on farmers. She continued to listen in silence, surmising that the syndicate had been informed that the farmer did not carry a gun at that time of the morning.

Two of the attackers remained with the restrained victims in the chicken enclosure, while the other two escorted Jan to the farmhouse. They stopped in the kitchen, where they instructed Jan to call his wife, who was still asleep at the time.

Although the couple is Afrikaans-speaking, Jan called out to Elize, using an English term of endearment; "lovie." The two thugs stepped into the passage, forcing Jan to accompany them, and waited for Elize to appear behind the locked security gate that led to the bedrooms. In the interests of safety, many South Africans divide their homes internally by closing off their bedrooms from the rest of the house, by installing what is locally known as a "rape gate."

Unbeknownst to them, the attackers were at a distinct disadvantage, for three reasons. Firstly, they had no way of knowing that "lovie" was a password that had been previously agreed upon by the couple, which

would immediately alert the other spouse that a farm attack was underway.

Secondly, the bad guys were unaware of the fact that Elize had grown up around guns and had been given training in shooting by her father. If the attackers had cared to have done some reconnaissance beforehand, they might have learned that Elize was an expert shot. She had worked for a shooting range for no less than fifteen years, and many others had learned how to shoot under her instruction.

Lastly, they had no idea that Elize would emerge from her bedroom carrying a loaded gun.

If they had had any notion of the above, the two perpetrators might not have stood so confidently on either side of Jan. They were convinced that once Elize saw that her husband was "under arrest," she would immediately open the gate. Their guns were not being aimed at anything, as they assumed that a woman, when presented with the mere sight of a gun, would immediately lose all semblance of control, feel intimidated and become passive.

Maybe their prior history had taught them that all female victims act this way. If they had any inkling as to the caliber of woman they were about to meet, they might not have exposed their chests so carelessly.

Elize emerged from her bedroom and instantly shot the first perpetrator twice in the chest, both bullets narrowly missing his heart. She then

moved the gun slightly to the right and shot the second thug in the head, killing him instantly.

The surviving attacker ran through the puddle of blood now pooling around his accomplice's lifeless body and out the door. Gasping from the damage the two bullets had caused to his lungs, into the fields he went and hid under the thorn bush where his corpse was later found.

It was later established by the police that this man had committed two earlier farm attacks. Although he had not yet been convicted of murdering anyone, subjecting his victims to torture was his specialty. His other two accomplices, in cowardly fashion, fled the scene.

As is the case in most home attacks in South Africa, it transpired that one of Jan and Elize's other employees had functioned as an informer to the attackers.

When Kaiser asked Elize how she had felt when she shot the intruders, she replied that her brain had gone into "automatic mode," from years of training. Having fired her first shot at the tender age of five, handling guns was second nature to her.

When she saw the guns in the hands of the criminals, she knew she would shoot them well before they realized what was happening and would have the opportunity to aim their guns back at her.

All three seated around the kitchen table that day agreed it was because of the sheer "surprise factor" of Elize's actions that she had been so successful in neutralizing the threat to her and her husband's lives.

In conclusion, not only "bad guys" carry guns. There are also "good guys with guns" and, in the case described above, "good gals with guns," who are making a difference in the crime-ridden world we live in today.

As Jesus instructs his disciples in Luke 22:36, "*... and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.*"

About the Author

Charl is married to Sonja and they have been blessed with four children. The family live in Cape Town, South Africa.

Charl is a missionary serving southern and central Africa and is contactable for ministry at: charlvanwyk@yahoo.com

Financial support for the Charl's ministry is tax deductible in the USA, through In Touch Mission International:

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For further information on his work, please contact In Touch Mission International on # 1-480-968-4100.

Connect with Charl online:

Charl's website: <http://www.charlvanwyk.info/>

Ministry website: <https://missionaryinafrica.org/>

Charl's blog: <https://missionliberty.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/authorcharlvanwyk>