



Victory Seekers Update

3rd Qtr. 2012

A news update of Victory Seekers Ministries
Published Quarterly by Walt and Jill Hartwich

No. 37

MARTIAL ARTS AND THE CHRISTIAN

The subject of martial arts has been debated by Christians since the beginning of the Church at Pentecost in Acts Chapter 2. Are Christians justified in defending themselves or others from physical harm or even death?

Because of the “postmodern” thinking that’s so prevalent today, it’s important to qualify various terms and their meanings. Just as the terms *Jesus*, *gospel*, *redemption*, *atonement*, *Christian*, *justification*, etc. have a different meaning to the New Ager or the New Evangelical or the Calvinist/Roman Catholic or the Emergent church member than to the truly born-again biblical fundamental Christian, so the term *martial arts* has a different meaning from its original intent in today’s indoctrinated world.

I’ve trained in various martial arts, starting in the summer of 1967 and continuing to this day in my garage with a few valued and longtime students and friends, some of whom have been training with me for 18 uninterrupted years. I have received several high-ranking black belts: three seventh-degree black belts in Goshin-Jutsu, Kempo-Jutsu, and Ju-Jutsu. From Grandmaster Cacoy Canete of the Doce Pares system of the Filipino-style stick and blade arts, I hold a fourth-degree black belt. I am certified to teach Bruce Lee’s Jeet-Kune-Do methods under Bruce Lee original student Richard Bustillo. In the course of time, while having studied and trained in about 15 forms of personal combat systems, ranging from Ju-Jutsu/Judo to Kempo Karate to Kung-Fu to the Filipino martial arts, as well as Western fencing, boxing/kickboxing, and grappling that so far spans some 46 years of involvement, I believe I have some qualifications to comment on the subject.

In addition, I have written some articles on several martial arts subjects, which have been published in *Inside Karate*, an international magazine, and the *JKD Journal*, a worldwide newsletter from Richard Bustillo, who operates the IMB Academy in Los Angeles, California. Along with Dan Inosanto, Richard Bustillo is one of Bruce Lee’s protégés.

Besides the martial art certifications, I am also a born-again, fundamental, biblical Christian who directs VICTORY SEEKERS MINISTRIES, a small apologetic work focusing on creation evidences, exposing cults and world religions, and encouraging the study of eschatology, the end times, in hopes of assisting many in the church who are confused because of the lies propagated by the above-mentioned indoctrination of the world and the Church.

My personal stand on Scripture is that the Bible is God’s inerrant Word in the 39 O.T. books and the 27 N.T. books. I believe that Jesus is the only way to salvation according to the Scriptures **1 Corinthians 15: 3-4; John 14: 6; Acts 4:12**. I believe in the second coming of

Christ as prophesied and the literal 1,000-year reign of Jesus from the throne of David from the earthly Jerusalem. This coming millennium is preceded by the pre-tribulation rapture of the Church, His bride who will assist Him in ruling the earth in the millennium with a **rod of iron**, I might add. (**Rev. 2:27**)

A FEW WORDS ABOUT FIGHTING METHOD HISTORY

Ever since the treason committed by Adam and Eve leading to the subsequent downfall of humanity with all our fleshly wants and desires which manifested itself most succinctly when Cain slew Able, we have been fighting and killing one another in some form or fashion.

Genesis 6 is clear to what degree we took our murderous attitudes: **“Only evil all the time.”**

God of course started over with Noah and sons, but less than 100 years later, Nimrod (which means “we will rebel”) and his cohorts who were the offspring of the infamous Nephilim, the half-human, half-demon prodigy of fallen angels, were building the Tower of Bab-El in total defiance of the Lord.

People at that time already had fighting knowledge. Asshur, an Assyrian warlord, is credited by many scholars as the one who conquered and protected Nimrod while he built his cities. (**Gen. 10:8**) With two arms and legs, how many different ways could there be to strike an opponent or be struck by one? Yet in the world today are hundreds of supposedly different “styles” or “systems” of personal combat. Because Hinduism is the first organized religious system that came straight out of Babylon, it’s no wonder that Satan uses this system and its derivatives, especially Buddhism, Taoism, and Zen philosophy, as the delivery system to break the hold of the once supposedly “Christianized West.”

These Eastern religions have been introduced to the West in many ways, including music, especially through rock-and-roll bands like the Rolling Stones and most poignantly with the Beatles, but also largely by using “Eastern” martial arts. It started simply enough with the *James Bond* and *In Like Flint* movies of the 1960s, which always had a scene or two of oriental type of karate, which means empty hand (*kara* = empty + *te* = hand). The American pronunciation of “kaah-raaa-tee” was married in thought and conversation to the infamous “judo chop” at this time. This is ironic since Judo is a separation from the so-called striking arts as per Jigoro Kano, who formulated Judo in 1882 and retained only the aspect of throwing an opponent from a standing position as well as practicing the submission of said opponent via ground grappling/wrestling, and thus striking as such was and is not utilized in Judo.

The *Billy Jack* movie, demonstrating the kicking aspect of the Korean martial art derivative called Hapkido with choreographer and instructor Bong Soo Han, had a real hold on martial arts buffs including me. *Billy Jack* played close to if not a full year of unbroken showings back in 1968 or 1969 at one of the theaters in Lafayette, Indiana. Bruce Lee had by this time already showed his stuff starring as Kato in the *Green Hornet* TV series, and then he came on the scene and blew everybody away with the movies he starred in for the Hong Kong-based Shaw brothers. Then the Shaw brothers flooded the West with movies that used unbelievable and also unreal movements but nonetheless captivated millions. Bruce Lee then made his American-

produced movie debut with *Enter the Dragon*, and the rest is history, which gave rise to Chuck Norris films as well as many others.

All people groups of the world have fighting skill and knowledge. There are African, North and South American, European, Asian, Hawaiian, Filipino, Chinese, Mongolian, Russian, Indian, Pakistani, etc. martial arts. Why do all people have this? Because *martial art* means “fighting skill” and everyone needs it. Until Jesus returns to set up His everlasting Kingdom, **peace will come only through strength**. It is only when non-aggressors possess weapons that aggressors are relatively few. There will, of course, always be somebody who doesn’t get it. When responsibly armed citizens are the norm, aggressors and crimes of all types are rare. These are facts. The Commie/Nazi/Sharia/Gestapo mentalities would say the opposite. But then, of course they would, and we know why that is. An armed populace is not easy to overthrow. Police stats and surveys conducted have for years shown that all criminal types carefully select whom they will jump, rob, murder, rape, etc. before they commit any act.

Of course, the rash, impulsive, and anger-controlled individual is also ever-present. The majority of criminal minds, however, do not willingly go for a confrontation. They are not really TOUGH! This is even true of what’s called an “irrational” enemy or opponent. This describes an opponent who is not of the rational mind as to wanting just your money, or car, etc. This is someone who is driven by ideology and not a drug need or crime itself. When identifying the enemy becomes blurred and unclear, we know we’re dealing with an irrational opponent. In this scenario there is no telling what he or she might do next. Rational reasoning says that a thief wants money and/or goods to resell. A rapist wants to force sex onto a victim. A country’s leader wants to expand his territory, and so on.

Not so with an irrational enemy; he or she has a mentality that doesn’t care about collateral damage. This is the mind that is willing to murder indiscriminately, the mind that might use any means to an end—never mind that that “end” isn’t attainable because it’s only an ideology, usually indoctrinated at a young age. This mind can never be satisfied. If a few demands were granted to such an irrational aggressor, there would always be more and more waiting in the wings. We see this with Israel trying to appease an irrational Islamist mind-set. Israel has had nukes for decades, yet the world isn’t afraid of an Israeli attack wiping somebody out, except perhaps in self-defense. The world is, however, worried by Iran or some other unstable mind-set like we have in leadership in North Korea, for instance. When psychobabble is employed, common sense goes out the door. This is because we as a society have allowed criminal activity to flourish **without proper response** and instead have psychobabbled human behavior as natural, which led to the lie that the individual isn’t really at fault, but rather the fault lies in his or her circumstances in life. We call such a person who would murder indiscriminately “sick.” Well, if they’re sick that’s because it’s a disease somehow and thus not their fault. Anything from bad parenting of the past, to undesirable living conditions (as in intercity slums) of the present, to a hopeless (as in no education) outlook for the future has been branded as the culprit in this societal dilemma.

Interestingly, along with this the blame was put squarely on God and His Word contained in the Bible. Herein lies the very answer to all this mess on earth, and yet, because of the abuse of

God's Word by unscrupulous and ungodly religious-minded men, God's answers have been ignored, blasphemed, and purposely misrepresented in the ears of several past generations like never before.

RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE

The sad thing is that the West forgot its own martial arts, which are as old as everybody else's. Of course, martial art training in the West also had pagan connotations, but these were not brought out as being part and parcel of the training as they are in Oriental systems. I'm speaking of the "chi" (Chinese expression) or the "ki" (Japanese expression), which is the supposed power behind the techniques and is called up from inside your center, which incidentally lines up with the "chakras" of Hinduism. This involves being one with the universe, like the idea of striving to find that illusive harmony between the opposites in the concept of the yin/yang in Taoism.

The notion that an invisible force emanating from my spirit can overpower a vicious physical attack is ludicrous. This mind-over-matter nonsense was and is overly advanced by serious students of especially Aikido and Tai-chi-Chuan. Because of this force that supposedly lies just a couple inches below the navel on the human body, a devastating ability to destroy an attacker is promised. Thinking or channeling my energy, and thus causing someone to fall into submission, has never worked for me. Personally, I'll opt for the "first, fast, repeatedly, and often" strategy of punching, kicking, head butting, eye gouging, hair pulling, arm and knee bars, various "key locks," and other useful submission aids. All this is assuming that the situation doesn't warrant the use of a gun, club, or knife, which should normally be the first line of defense. The fact that we shouldn't hang out in certain places of ill repute and therefore draw attention to possible physical action should also be understood.

I actually started my formal training in Aikido but left precisely because of the mystical nonsense they were teaching. Due to the bowing to a picture of the "master"/founder in Aikido's case, Morihei Ueshiba, along with much prearranged attack and defense that is not real for the street, I opted for the reality of barra bing/barra bang of actual contact fighting.

Bruce Lee was brilliant in the actual contact stuff but really leaned heavily to the "Tao" side of perceived spiritualism; thus, he advanced TRUTH as coming from reality, and reality (in personal combat) coming from the "artistic process" or expression of the body in movement. His beliefs were rooted deeply in Buddhism, having been influenced by Krishnamurti, although he claimed to not be dogmatic on the subject. He never understood anything about the Word of God and **Jesus** being THE TRUTH in His very person. (John 14:6) However, even Bruce Lee acknowledged the absurdity of utilizing the "spiritual" in personal combat. Under the heading "ORGANIZED DESPAIR," in his *Tao of Jeet Kune Do*, Bruce writes, **"Worse still, super mental power and spiritual this and spiritual that are desperately incorporated until these practitioners drift further and further into mystery and abstraction. All such things are futile attempts to arrest and fix the ever-changing movements in combat and to dissect and analyze them like a corpse."** (Tao of Jeet Kune Do, p. 14) He did correctly advance the

truth of having to go with the flow in physical personal combat without going to the supernatural into la-la land.

Interestingly, God, in giving the Law to Moses, made a clear distinction between killing somebody and murder. Killing may be the intended, because of necessity, or the unintended result of self-defense. Murder is quite another thing, being deliberate in its intention to take a life, usually for some personal gain when there is no real reason to do so. Especially since we are in no position to, like God, give life, we have thus no authority to take it unrighteously or flippantly.

The Bible is full of “martial arts” or personal-combat knowledge. Ever since there were “armies” under governments/rulers, training of individual soldiers as to how to more effectively injure or kill an opponent was and is standard procedure in this life.

Also, in the event of evil rulers, the peasants had to find ways of defending themselves or perish.

Consider Abraham’s 318 “**TRAINED**” servants (**Genesis 14:14**) who fought to rescue his nephew Lot, to the mighty men of King Saul and beyond, to King David and his mighty men of war, to Samson and his slaying of 1,000 men with the jawbone of an ass. While the Holy Spirit was obviously giving Samson the energy it took to pull this off, it is also apparent that the Holy Spirit empowered Samson’s legs to perform footwork, so as to be able to zone away from an attack, and empowered his arms to swing the jawbone in arcs and circles as well as straight lines and straight angles to deflect, parry, trap, and counter the futile attacks of the Philistines. The supernatural still used a natural Samson, or any of the mighty men of war in Israel’s history, to perform miraculous feats of personal combat power in this space-time continuum we call the universe.

2 Samuel 23:8-39 & 1 Chronicles 11:10 to chapter 12 tell us of the mighty men of war.

2 Chronicles 20:21 tells how the Levites sang the song “**the Lord’s love is unending**” as they marched the troops into battle.

Joshua and all his military conquests to take Canaan are ample proof of the validity and reality of warfare in this fallen world. Goliath, the nephilim part demon and part human, was too powerful for young David to fight in close quarter range. The then future King of Israel subdued the giant with a projectile weapon at long range. The stone which became a projectile was directly guided by the Holy Spirit to end the confrontation. The New Testament also is not shy about recording the many attempts to overthrow the Roman yoke on Israel, as in **Acts 5:36-37**. The Maccabean Revolt, which happened before the cross, speaks loud and clear of the need to stand up for righteousness, especially when the holiness of Almighty God is trashed. After the cross, the need to fight for God is only in the hearts of individuals who must account for the reason for their faith. Christians don’t take up physical arms to defend the Almighty. However, we must, if necessary, take up physical arms to fight for personal safety and for those who are physically accosted but can’t defend themselves.

It’s interesting that Abraham, the father of our faith, and who actually saw God (who never changes; **Ps. 15:5; Malachi 3:6**) face to face didn’t get the idea that he should just let well enough

alone and forget about rescuing his nephew Lot. Unfortunately, the fact that having to physically fight for life, limb, and possessions could never have been absent from Abraham anymore than it is absent from us. All this indoctrination that the world has received by the many godless leaders has done a number on the populace and especially the professing church. When one looks around and considers what's going on in the world, we see one war after another, mass murder everywhere, riots and looting and ethnic cleansing running amok.

Hardly anyone stops to think and question why this is happening. All we hear is, "It's those religious nuts." The ones who want to take our weapons, the ones who promise peace, the ones who live like kings when they are supposed to be our servants, the ones who cry, "democracy," the ones who are stealing our individual wealth by stealth, they're the ones who are the enemy of Almighty God and His people; in fact, they are the enemy of all people. They are the wolves in sheep's clothing in the church and in politics.

TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

The "turning of the cheek"—along with money, judging, being truly born-again, and the supposed Christian "freedom from any kind of law," as in antinomianism, the belief that grace covers all and thus we're not under any law, moral or otherwise—is the most misunderstood directive of the New Testament.

It is suggested on the one hand that those who believe in "turning the other cheek" are accepting of criminal activity in terms of violent behavior and that Jesus taught that in no way, shape, or form must the Christian resist this type of assault. They cry, "**DO NOT RESIST ONE WHO IS EVIL.**" (Matthew 5:38-39) Is this, however, the correct attitude to take?

When looked at in terms of common sense, given the fact that we are living in an evil world, and considering the mind-set of those to whom Jesus addressed this issue, we can come only to one conclusion: This proposition is most untenable. It is irrational and illogical, and it says to the perpetrators, you're permitted to continue what you are doing and I want to give you confidence that this lifestyle of assaulting people is rather easy because we offer no resistance and therefore uphold no standard of right living in society. To facilitate that, which could be profitable for the mugger, thief, or rapist, namely, a better understanding of right behavior, we're not to let them get away with that kind of inappropriate and evil action. This is akin to fighting fire with fire. A physical violent assault can rarely be stopped or even slowed by something other than at least equal, or even greater, physical force. It has been well said that "**it's not the size of the man in the fight, rather it's the size of the fight in the man.**"

Doing our best to physically stop a physical assault on us or someone else is saying to the offender, what you're doing is wrong and I am not going to let you have an easy way of it, thus giving credence to justice and hopefully leave a spark of decency in the assailant's mind. How can God's justice be upheld when criminal acts are not challenged by those of us who are supposed to be the light of the world, and the salt of the earth? It's not just about telling people about Jesus, it's also about showing them that justice should prevail. It is rather like the neighbor who's watching thieves rob the house next door but doesn't even call the police.

Cowardly actions cannot but result in defeat, compromise, and denial. God in fact hates the cowardly and consigns them to the Lake of Fire. (**Revelation 21:8**)

Cowardice, according to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, **originates** in fear for life (**Gen. 12:11-13**), fear of others (**Exod. 32:22-24**), unbelief (**Num. 13:28-33**), and fear of rulers (**John 9:22**), and it **results** in defeat (**Num. 14:40-45**), escape (**2 Sam. 15:13-17**), compromise (**John 19:12-16**), and denial (**Matt. 26:69-74**).

Amazingly, the ones who have no understanding of faith would cry that their faith in God coming to protect them is all they need should they be accosted, but this attitude is unfortunately the exact opposite of what the Lord says in the above Scriptures. The proponents of no physical resistance at all, no matter what, think that their faith is in God to protect them but God never said that He would protect them from criminal harm. Thus, their faith is not in God but is instead in an imagined action that God never promised. **Luke 22:36** is clear in that no selling of a coat was necessary for the purpose of taking them to the place where Jesus got arrested and for fulfilling **Isaiah 53:12** because two swords were found and were enough for Jesus' purpose at hand. They were not enough, however, to effectively ward off a real attack by the crowd that came to arrest Jesus, so physically protecting Him was not His plan, yet Jesus said they were enough for what He knew would transpire. The only viable explanation for the command to take the drastic action of selling one's coat in order to buy a sword with which to now go out into the world to witness for the gospel is for personal protection against human crime, and possible animal attacks. Furthermore, this admonition to sell their coats in order to buy a sword is couched alongside the directive to now take the moneybags and the knapsacks along, **something they weren't supposed to do before**. It now makes total sense to include the sword for the reasons given above.

Mark Cahill believes that **“the Bible says we have the right to defend our lives, our families, our homes, and our nations—even if we have to kill the people who attacked us.”** (One Heartbeat Away: Your Journey into Eternity; p. 120)

In an online article from Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries by **Ron Rhodes** titled “Enter the Dragon? Wrestling with the Martial Arts Phenomenon: Part Two,” he states, **“Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus revealed to His disciples the future hostility they would face and encouraged them to sell their outer garments in order to purchase a sword (Luke 22:36-38; cf. 2 Cor. 11:26-27). Here the ‘sword’ (maxairan) is a ‘dagger or short sword [that] belonged to the Jewish traveler’s equipment as protection against robbers and wild animals.’ [19] It is perfectly clear from this passage that Jesus approved of self-defense.”** (The [19] is a reference to Myrtle Langley, *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, ed. Colin Brown [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978, 3:978].)

I personally never leave the house without one of my knives in my pocket, and many times I carry my 9mm handgun. I am licensed to carry concealed. With all the school shootings and holdups of convenience stores and gas stations and the phenomenon of road rage in today's world, is any place so safe that responsibly armed citizens aren't needed? The answer, of course, is that there isn't such a place in this entire fallen world.

Ron Rhodes goes on to state, **“Self-defense may actually result in one of the greatest examples of human love. Christ said, ‘Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.’ (John 15:14) When protecting one’s family or neighbor, a Christian is unselfishly risking his or her life for the sake of others.”**

What if one or more of the teachers had been armed at Columbine or the many other school shootings since? We would have lost far fewer of our young people and teachers to the senseless/demonic slaughter we’re all experiencing. The police cannot but show up after the fact. Until a crime has (past tense) been committed, the police have nothing to do. The key to successful self-defense always was, is, and will be, until the Lord consummates all things to Himself, for the individual to deliver a definitive first strike.

Popular Christian writer **C. S. Lewis** has this interpretation of “turn the other cheek”:

“Does anyone suppose that our Lord’s hearers understood him to mean that if a homicidal maniac, attempting to murder a third party, tried to knock me out of the way, I must stand aside and let him get his victim? I think it impossible that they could have so understood him. I believe the meaning of the words was perfectly clear—insofar as you are simply an angry man who has been hurt, mortify your anger and do not strike back. If however, your motives are other than egoistic retaliation, then not only are you free to protect yourself and others, rather it is your responsibility to do so.” (Quoted in article, “Martial Arts and the Christian Faith,” by Bob Or; www.burrese.com/Self_defense/Self_Defense_Articles/Martial_Arts_and_the_Christian_.F; 2/26/03)

Well-known biblical theologian Francis Schaeffer has said, **“The Bible is clear here: I am to love my neighbor as myself, in the manner needed, in a practical way, in the midst of the fallen world, at my particular point in history. This is why I am not a pacifist. Pacifism in this poor world in which we live—this lost world—means that we desert people who need our greatest help. What if you come upon a big, burly man beating a tiny tot to death and plead with him to stop. Suppose he refuses? What does love mean now? Love means that I stop him in any way I can, including hitting him. To me this is not only necessary for humanitarian reasons: it is loyalty to Christ’s commands concerning Christian love in a fallen world. What about the little girl? If I desert her to the bully, I have deserted the true meaning of Christian love—responsibility to my neighbor. (*The Great Evangelical Disaster*, reprinted in *The Complete Works of Francis Schaeffer: A Christian World View, Vol. 4*; Westchester: Crossway Books, 1982, p. 391)**

Likewise, **J. P. Moreland** and **Norman Geisler** say, **“To permit murder when one could have prevented it is morally wrong. To allow a rape when one could have hindered it is an evil. To watch an act of cruelty to children without trying to intervene is morally inexcusable. In brief, not resisting evil is an evil of omission, and an evil of omission can be just as evil as the evil of commission. Any man who refuses to protect his wife and children against a violent intruder fails them morally.”** (*The Life and Death Debate: Moral Issues of Our Time*; New York: Praeger, 1990, p. 135)

I wholeheartedly agree with the fact that stopping crime physically or any other way is most definitely our responsibility. Lest I'm being misunderstood, the fact that I carry a weapon has nothing to do with my being overly cautious or weird; it has everything to do with being prepared for the unthinkable. Many individuals carry, either on their person or in their car, a weapon of some sort, be it a club/table leg/bat/tire iron, etc., or a knife, hand/shotgun, or rifle.

THE ACTUAL MEANING OF "TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK"

To turn the other cheek is something one does in response to an active slap one has received across the face because the slapper wanted to excite action from the one but can't get the necessary response, so the last resort is the slap. Against this there is no need to reprise because this action is not the same as an all-out attack on life and limb.

Even though slapping isn't the same as an all-out vicious attack, it is still wrong. When Jesus was slapped across the cheek by the high priest's officer in response to what he believed was a disrespectful attitude on Jesus' part in **John 18:22**, Jesus didn't respond by turning His other cheek. The next verse gives us Jesus' response: **"If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike me?"** (verse 23) Nowhere are we told and in no way can we deduce, or exegete, much less produce evidence, that Jesus offered the other cheek to be struck too. It simply wouldn't have fit the whole scenario. To the contrary, Jesus came against the slap on the cheek by acknowledging that it was an unjust slap, to say the least. People who take this command literally **without proper context** are the reason for much of the confusion. Why don't they also take it literally when Jesus tells us to pluck out our offending eye or offending hand as He did in **Matthew 5:29-30**?

Just as those Scriptures must be ascertained with wisdom, common sense, and context of the underlying message, so must be the teaching of the "turning of the cheek."

The above "normal" interpretation fits the best because we see it elsewhere in the Bible. In **Acts 16:37** Paul and his companions were unjustly beaten and imprisoned. Then the perpetrators wanted them to be released in secret. Paul was having none of that, for he said, **"...let them come themselves and let us out."** Paul **didn't** say, please beat me some more. He instead upheld true justice by forcing the matter into the open and by having the ones responsible, and who gave the imprisonment order, come and personally reverse their decision.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is this: Getting slapped across the cheek has been and still is **DESIGNED TO GET SOMEBODY RILED UP ENOUGH TO TAKE PHYSICAL ACTION**. It is also used to embarrass individuals, especially young men with something to prove, maybe to their girlfriends or whatever. In general, no drastic reaction to the slap is necessary because one can prove one's manhood by taking it like a man and **CHOOSING** not to retaliate because one has a grasp of the situation and realizes that there's no need for such aggression. This is also where "agape" love enters the picture. We're clearly commanded to "love" our enemies. How is this

possible? I believe this is truly possible only in the context of the following description of “agapeo” in a commentary on **Matthew 5:44** by **Homer A. Kent Jr.**, Professor of New Testament and Greek, Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana:

“Love your enemies. *The love (agapeo) enjoined [this means ordered or commanded] is that intelligent love which comprehends the difficulty and extends itself to rescue the enemy from his hate. Such love is akin to God’s loving action toward rebellious men (Jn 3:16), and thus is a demonstration that those who so love are true sons of their Father.*” (*The New Testament and Wycliff Bible Commentary*, p. 19; brackets and italics mine)

The intelligence described above is exactly what we need when confronted with trouble or especially physical harm from another human being. In taking self-defense training we desire to be able to take control of the situation without getting seriously hurt in the process. This cannot be accomplished without having spent a considerable time being trained in good common-sense methods of close-quarter combat. A real attack on the street happens very quickly and viciously. The sad thing too is that the majority of “martial arts” practitioners aren’t really able to successfully defend themselves because they have bought into the lie of the Oriental martial arts as they are taught throughout the world.

The lie is that after you train for a while, your spirit will enable you to miraculously thwart any attack with the “secret” techniques you’ll learn at most Karate, Kung-Fu, Tae-Kwon-Do schools. Speaking from personal experience, I can say that the heaviest dose of “spirituality” seems to emanate from the so-called “soft”-style arts such as Aikido, Tai-Chi-Chuan, and many styles of Kung-Fu. The formula for real success in personal combat has always been **first, fast, hard, repeatedly, and often.**

WHY DO SOME PRACTICE MARTIAL ARTS ANYWAY?

Many people train or practice martial arts for health reasons, others for self-defense, and still others because they want to learn the Oriental methods of the many selfs: self-discipline, self-realization, self-protection, self-motivation, self-balancing, self-confidence, etc. In truth, none except self-defense should be our motive. If I want balance and a more healthy life, I need to just exercise; if I want rock-hard abs, I just have to do sit-ups and eat accordingly.

Not only do we have people who engage in these forms of training for a myriad of reasons that don’t make any sense, but they are combining martial arts skills with Yoga thinking that they are compatible. This goes back to the lie that martial art is something found only in the Orient or that the Oriental arts are much more advanced, leading to a deeper knowledge of the self. We must face the fact that Eastern philosophy is the big thing in the West. We must also face the fact that as true Christians we can’t partake of the same. If you belong to any outfit that stresses bowing to shrines, or to statutes, or to pictures of founders, of whatever system, or tells you to practice your ki/chi energy, **get out!!!!!!** You don’t need it and they don’t know how to fight for real anyway.

True martial art has nothing to do with invisible miraculous spirit power to either help in a stressful situation or just help in making you into a beautiful person. **Martial art has one**

purpose and one purpose only, namely, to greatly heighten your chances of successfully escaping death or serious injury during a violent physical attack by one or more perpetrators who couldn't care less about your abilities to meditate or what your mind-over-matter capabilities may be.

True martial arts training encompasses a lifetime of a constantly evolving personal journey into refining, adding to, and taking away, carving away at the un-essentials as Bruce Lee put it, and getting down to the nitty-gritty of understanding the differences between punching and pushing, pulling and jerking, balance and footwork, speed and timing, gauging distance and proximity, reading (physically monitoring) pressure, triangulation of footwork and strike possibilities, static and flow, ranges of motion, fear, confidence, and attitude. While this is a self-discovery of sorts, it has zero to do with the mystical concepts of Buddhism, ki/chi, yin/yang, and the like. Just as a child must go through self-discovery by playing games that cause one to think, act, and learn a concept or two for the next time, within the confines of his or her surroundings, so a martial artist is one who plays games, in the confines of his or her surroundings. We call them drills, and they heighten the skill level of all the things listed above. The more repetitions, the more muscle memory. Thrown in are times of testing these drills by sparring anywhere from easy to hard - full contact, to put into action that which we have learned. Time spent on personal fitness activities that complement doing anything physical are of course a no-brainer, such as running, swimming, lifting, calisthenics, biking, stretching, general gymnastics, etc.

This is how we know what we're to personally throw away or keep or whether we should newly adopt something previously not considered. A short, stocky person is unlikely to be successful in utilizing long-range kicking techniques, but would fit a boxing or grappling/wrestling scenario much better. Conversely, a long-legged, skinny person may do much better in utilizing his or her legs with various learned kicking skills than in any ground-fighting possibilities. It should be noted, however, that cross-training is the best because all skills are needed at any given time. Again, all this has nothing whatsoever to do with any pagan systems of belief. It is strictly martial arts or close-quarter combat training.

The issue nowadays isn't whether we should practice martial arts, **but rather whether we should engage in Eastern mysticism that comes along with much of what is offered as martial arts training.** This is surely a "last days" phenomenon. The speedy drifting away from sound biblical doctrines and instead adopting foolish Oriental religious, and thus pagan, methods of supposedly improving our health, along with the false feeling of being secure with some knowledge of empty hand combat, is the myth that is ever so popular with the masses.

Home is always the place no one wants to stay, especially the young. They might think that it's boring, nothing ever happens there, it's not cool or classy enough, they want some excitement, etc. On the other hand, Oriental methods of combat and the mysticism that is part and parcel of them are looked at as exotic and adventuresome. These are the facts and they won't be reversed except in very few individual cases. The individuals who are able to see through the nonsense of it all will be the ones who know what they believe and what they don't believe.

* * *

Anyone with a question can email it to us at jw.hartwich@gmail.com, or you may write to us at our new address: P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041. Visit our website at www.victoryseekersministries.com.

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BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP SERVICES

Monday Night Bible study: 6:30pm, Lafayette. For more information, call 765-714-5113.
Victory Seekers Church: 10:30am Sunday, Tippecanoe County 765-714-5113

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Recommended websites and reading:

www.christianworldviewnetwork.com – Brannon Howse
www.thebereancall.org – The Berean Call, Dave Hunt & T.A. McMahon
www.WorldNetDaily.com – Joseph Farah
www.moriel.org – Moriel Ministries, Jacob Prasch
www.ariel.org – Ariel Ministries, Arnold Fruchtenbaum
www.watch.org – Bill Koenig, White House Correspondent

1. *The Last Christian Generation* – Josh McDowell
2. *Seduction of Christianity* – Dave Hunt & T.A. McMahon
3. *Foxe: Voices of the Martyrs* – John Foxe and The Voice of the Martyrs
4. *Apollyon Rising 2012* – Thomas Horn – This book is highly recommended in order to understand the days that are upon us.

* * *

We currently have several of Walt's teachings available on CD & DVD:

1. "The Day of the Lord"
2. "Spiritual Warfare"
3. "Mammon—The Other God" & "Federal Reserve Briefing"
4. "What Time Is It?"

Item numbers 3 & 4 are available on DVD.

For prices and ordering, email jw.hartwich@gmail.com, or write to VSM, P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041.

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We wish to thank God for supplying the ways and means for publishing this quarterly update, and those whose hearts He has moved to donate to the cause of teaching the church. All donations are appreciated and should be sent to Victory Seekers Church, P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041, with “for VSM” in the memo for a tax-deductible qualification.

We solicit your prayers for our ministry that we will continue with boldness as we present the truth, no matter what, and that **we** will not be deceived as **no one** is immune.

If you would like for Walt to speak at your church or group, or if you have questions regarding anything you’ve read in our Update or any biblical subject, you may send your requests via mail or email to jw.hartwich@gmail.com or call 765-714-5113 / 765-426-1413. This change of phone number was effective Oct. 2010.

If you wish to add someone to or be deleted from this mailing list, respond by mail or email. **Changes of address are appreciated to keep the cost of mailing to a minimum.** If you wish to receive your newsletter via email rather than regular mail, please notify us of that as well.

Victory Seekers Ministries
P.O. Box 823
Frankfort, IN 46041

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Victory Seekers Ministries is based on the Scriptures **Ephesians 5:11**, “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them,” and **Colossians 2:4, 8-10**, “lest any man should beguile you with enticing words...beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.”