

What Would You Do?

by

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You are having a family backyard BBQ with your family. All of a sudden, a group of strangers show up in uniforms, grab your 5 year old son and take him away, never to be seen again by you. *What would you do?*

You and your spouse are asleep in bed when strangers burst into your bedroom, hit the both of you and toss both of you to the floor. Then they handcuff you, stand you up, cover your heads with a smelly, dirty bag, and hustle you out to a waiting van that hauls you off to some destination. *What would you do?*

You are tied to a chair and are forced to watch your beautiful 13 year old daughter being raped repeatedly by different men. When they were done raping her, they then killed your beautiful daughter. All this was done because you dared to question the actions of some policeman or politician. *What would you do?*

You are walking along a street minding your own business when a group of older boys wearing arm bands, grab you, toss you onto the floor of a dirty truck, and drop you off inside a prison, without any charges, trial or sentence, all because you hold to your religious convictions that they don't believe in. *What would you do?*

Your mother is taken away from you and some person performs experimental operations on her without her consent and without any anesthesia. And when they are through with experimenting on her body, she is summarily tossed alive into a fire to burn to death. . *What would you do?*

These, and many similar tragedies, are not scenarios or fictional stories, but rather real events that have happened under socialist regimes such as Stalin's, Hitler's, and Castro's governments.

As Christians growing up, we were often told to turn the other cheek, to avoid confrontation, and not to fight. While **Matthew 5:38-39** tells us to turn the other cheek it does not mean that we should be pacifists. That is not the case. It simply commands us not to retaliate for personal offenses.

With regard to conflict and fighting, there are many verses in the Bible addressing this. There are two key takeaways from what the Bible tells us. First is that conflict and fighting should be avoided whenever it is personal. For example, if someone verbally

attacks your character, step away and don't get involved. As for fighting, if you can avoid it, even if it is personal, then do so. Otherwise protect yourself or others if necessary. The law allows self-protection but also limits how far you can go. For example if someone attacks you with fists, the law allows you to fight back but if you use a club, knife, or gun, you are then going beyond what the law allows. There are exceptions of course but you need to understand what those exceptions are.

The second takeaway is that the Bible does not say that you cannot confront or attack an enemy. **James 4:7** tells us to resist the devil/evil. **Luke 22:35-37** directs us to buy a sword (weapon). **Psalms 144:1** and **18:34** speaks of receiving training in using weapons for self defense. We are also directed in **Psalm 82:4**, **Proverbs 24:11**, and **1 Timothy 5:8** to protect ourselves and our families which also includes those innocents in our communities.

In 1839, Edward Bulwer-Lytton wrote the adage, "The pen is mightier than the sword." We have taken this to mean that ideas, expressed in writing, will outlast any violence. Words can inspire and live on indefinitely, just as our Declaration of Independence has.

The concept is not new and dates back to the early 7th century BC. **Hebrews 4:12** backs this up by saying, "*The word of God is . . . sharper than any double-edged sword. . .*" The teachings of the Bible, the Magna Carta, our Declaration of Independence, our US Constitution, and our Bill of Rights transcend time

The Bible tells us to put our trust in the Lord, but it also tells us to resist and fight against evil.

In Romans 12:19 we learn, "Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord."

***What will you do to fight the evil barbaric socialist?
Your life belongs to God and not Satan.***