

We know the commandment 'Thou shall not kill'. Does that apply to Soldiers and Police Officers? Is killing in the line of duty murder? What does the Holy Bible REALLY say?

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BLESSED ARE THE
Peace Makers

What does the Holy Bible really say about killing
in the line of duty and in war?

by Maria Sayle-Terry

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In the United States write:

Maria Sayle-Terry
731 Windermere Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043
E-mail: blessedpeacemaker777@yahoo.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	XI
INTRODUCTION	1
YOU MIGHT BE A COP IF.....	7
1. LIFE AS A DISPATCHER	9
2. MY STORY	11
3. ROOKIE VS. VETERAN	15
4. THOU SHALT NOT KILL?.....	17
5. FIREARMS REFRESHER COURSE.....	27
6. THE COURT SYSTEM	31
7. PEACEMAKERS.....	33
8. THINGS A COP KNOWS	35
9. BAD SHOOTINGS	37
10. WHY I CARRY A GUN.....	43
11. SUICIDE BY COP	45
12. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT WAR?	47
13. DRAFTING GUYS OVER 60	61
14. GOD'S PROTECTION.....	63
15. THE DUST STORM.....	69
16. DEALING WITH GRIEF.....	73
17. HOW CAN I BE SAVED?	77
18. FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE.....	79
19. HONORS CODE	83
20. A GUN IN THE HOUSE	85
IN CLOSING	87
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	91

INTRODUCTION

When I first published this book as 'After the Fire' in 1995, I knew of no other book that addressed the Biblical issue of line of duty shootings. This book grew out of my need to know what God said about taking another life. I was a Police Officer long before I gave my life to Jesus. After surrendering my life to Christ, I began to wonder if my job could somehow conflict with my Christian life. We become police officers so that we can help people, not kill people. It seemed to my natural mind that a job where you might have to kill someone might not be what the Lord would want me to do. Through years of study, I have come to realize that being a police officer or a soldier is a call of God. I believe that officers and soldiers are ministers of a sort. The more I learn, the more I know that God's seal of approval is placed on us no matter how distasteful the job may seem. After I retired in 2003, I felt that I needed to update the information from the first book and add the new information that I had learned.

I have interjected some humor that I have collected over the years. It is only meant to lighten the seriousness of the subject matter. Police officers tend to have a rather morbid sense of humor. Please do not take offense.

In the twenty three years that I was a police officer, I never had to shoot anyone. My use of force has been limited to physical force, pepper spray, PR-24, and ASP baton. If you are looking for an author that has 'been there' and 'done that', I cannot help you. I can recommend two men who have been contributors to Police Magazine. Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman has written books on the subject of killing in the line of duty, as has Russ Claggett. Russ's book 'After the Echo' is available through Amazon. If you Google either name or title, you should be able to find them. Police Magazine has printed articles from both writers and I have found both to be very informative. If you do not currently subscribe to Police Magazine, I would recommend that you do so. Each month they write an article about a shooting incident.

I specifically want to address how to deal with injuring, or taking another human life. The Bible tells us that, **"you will hear of wars**

and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened or troubled, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.” Matthew 24:6 (AMP). Everyday there is an undeclared war going on between police and criminals on the streets of every city. Police officers are suffering casualties not always involving physical injuries. These casualties involve injuries of the mind and heart. There are officers doing their jobs but getting little or no support from their departments. They are the victims of lawsuits and many will leave because of the pressure. After a shooting, they often have pressure from the family of the person they had to kill. They will be tried in the media and do not even get to tell the public what really happened. The general public has no idea that what they view as brutality from police officers is an appropriate use of force. We are taught to use just the force necessary to make the apprehension. Just as the soldier keeps our country safe, the cops keep our streets safe.

The difference between the citizens and the cops is this. The citizens that were not on those planes on September 11th were glad that they were not. The police officers that were not on those planes wished that they could have been; maybe the outcome would have been different. At the station we discussed for days what we would have tried to do had we been there. I know that most of the men that I worked with would have acted just as they said.

In **Nehemiah 4:17-18 the Good News translation Bible** says **“Even those who carried building materials worked with one hand and kept a weapon in the other, and everyone who was building kept a sword strapped to their waist. The man who was to sound the alarm on the bugle stayed with me”.** Just as the builders of the wall worked with their weapons at ready, so should we. Most of us even carry our guns to church. No place is immune from violence any more.

This book is also for combat veterans that have been shown little respect because their war was not the popular one. Pastor William Luffman reminds us that we should never confuse an unjust Government with a just cause. Anyone who takes a stand for human rights is taking a stand for freedom. God is proud of you soldier! It is never God’s intention to call someone to do a task only to have them

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be medically or mentally retired when that task is completed. I pray that you will find the justification you seek, for a job well done.

I felt compelled to update the book because of the wars we are currently in. There are veterans who need this information. The events of September 11, 2001 have forever changed our lives. Many are turning back to God for answers. One thing we know for sure is that wherever there is a natural war going on, there is also a spiritual battle being waged.

My prayer is that through the word of God, and time in prayer, you will find the peace that you seek. This is not an exhaustive study by any means. **Matthew 7:7-8** says, **"Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open"** (TLB).

God Bless!

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