

**MINDLEADING**  
ITS DEFINITION AND  
**BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS**

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## **Introduction**

All too often in today's media-laden, computer-run, push-button society when called upon to think, to actually use our minds to produce original thought and process information on our own, we find ourselves sorely lacking. Most people do the least amount of thinking necessary to survive, which in today's society is very little. This lack of ability or failure to use our full sensory and cognitive faculties is due in part to technology and in part to human nature.

How many times in the area of basic technique does the martial artist find himself simply repeating rote movements and sequences, without carefully analyzing and improving each execution? Who has not found himself to be the only student in a line to have moved forward on a basic execution, only because he wasn't actively listening and had let himself be lulled into the rhythm of the count? What instructor hasn't winced at the sight of lower belts and sometimes upper kyu students caught in the trap of my turn-your turn sparring?

More importantly, how many Christians have entered into an argument on spiritual matters unprepared, only to find that their opponent has a doctorate in philosophy or was trained by the Reverend Moon? The three elements of a complete Christian man or woman, spiritual, mental, and physical, are all too often unbalanced. When undervalued in the mental aspect, the other two can be in severe danger. The mental aspect does not only concern the accumulation of knowledge but the effective transfer and use of that knowledge as well. In any given situation, the individual with the better knowledge of his surroundings, the elements of the situation, and the potential reactions of all involved has the definite upper hand. One extremely powerful and effective method of gaining this upper hand is the use of mindleading.

It has been said that he who knows the future controls it. The implications of this statement are not immediately apparent. The study and practice of mindleading takes them into account. Mindleading is by rough definition:

**The controlling of a situation or confrontation by directing the flow of thought and thus action of an individual or aggressor in a direction beneficial without their being aware of it.**

Simply put, you want your opponent to think what you want him to think, so that he will do what you want him to do. This isn't always as easy as it sounds, and if not done correctly, the tables are quickly turned and the aggressor gains the mental advantage. Since, in mindleading, the conflict is one of mind not muscle, the weakest or frailest of persons can easily use the techniques to defend themselves against a much larger and stronger opponent. Because of its non-violent nature, mindleading is ideal for controlling intoxicated persons, unruly youths, and just about anyone not deserving of physical abuse.

As with any martial arts technique, mindleading must be practiced with conviction and focus. More than any other technique, it is painfully apparent when the practitioner has not mastered what he is doing.

Mindleading technique can be either active or passive. In active mindleading, one must actively manipulate the situation and related events, physically or otherwise, to make the opponent see and think what is desired. Passive mindleading, on the other hand, involves allowing the aggressor to think and see what he might about the situation, while the actual outcome is eventually controlled by you. Active mindleading is by definition the more difficult, while passive mindleading is less involved and ideal for someone inexperienced in strategy, acting, or tactics. Both active and passive mindleading produce startlingly satisfactory results with proper execution and more than just a little help from the Lord. As with any technique, one must have faith in the abilities which God has given and pray for their successful execution.

It must be stressed adamantly that the Christian's use of mindleading is not to deceive nor lie for personal gain.

If this sounds confusing, it is. The definition seems to imply that mindleading is nothing more than deception. It is important to remember that controlling the opponent's thoughts does not necessarily mean that lying is involved. The Bible shows numerous examples of mindleading technique, many for good, but most worked for evil. We must remember that in all of the examples for good, the Lord played an integral part, and the technique would not have been possible without his help. There are active techniques, passive techniques, and combinations of the two. We as martial artists can use these as both good and bad examples. We can use them to formulate and develop techniques of our own only after careful study and consideration.

### **Gideon, the Quiet General**

Gideon is an oft used example of what mindleading and the Lord can do for Christians. In Judges 6:25-7:25 Gideon used mindleading to defeat the Midianites. The Midianites had been oppressing the Israelites and the Lord had appointed Gideon to lead the country to freedom. Gideon had a call to arms and 32,000 men showed up. Then the Lord directed Gideon to put the men to two different tests so that they would have a fighting force that would be small enough so the Israelites would know that the Lord is the one who had led them to victory. Gideon reduced his force to three hundred men who he equipped with a torch, a pot to cover the torch, and a sword. During the night the men surrounded the Midianites, who were camped in a valley, broke the pitchers to reveal the lit torches, blew their trumpets, and cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." In the Old Testament a torch usually represented 1000 men, so when the Midianites saw all the torches they began to panic and run all over. They then began to fight each other in the mayhem and killed each other for the Israelites. The Israelites with God scored a huge victory because they were able to control the enemy's mind, therefore controlling their actions.

## **David and his adventures**

David, God's mighty man of war, had more than a few occasions to use mindleading. The two cases which stand out occurred during his flight from Saul. In the first case, as David fled from Saul, he came upon a church and the priest Ahimelech. Ahimelech, seeing that David was alone, questioned his business there. David said that he was on the king's secret business and that he required aid. Ahimelech aided David, giving him shewbread to eat and Goliath's sword as a weapon. In the second case, David came upon Gath and was brought before King Achish. The servants of Achish recognized David and said, "Is not this David the king of the land?" David listened to their recollections of him and his exploits; he became afraid that King Achish might send him back. When brought before the king, David fell down as if mad, scrambling about and foaming at the mouth. The king less than amused at his servants for bringing a mad man to audience, dismissed David as insane.

David may have inadvertently used mindleading when he fought the battle with Goliath, the Philistine giant. In I Samuel 17:31-51 David had come from his father's sheep to bring his brothers some food to eat, when he overheard the giant blaspheming God. He became angry and when he found out that everyone was afraid, he volunteered for the job. He refused to wear any armor, and carried only a sling and 5 stones. God used him to defeat Goliath with one stone. David then used Goliath's sword to cut off his head. Goliath so underestimated his size and lack of armor that he became overconfident, let his guard down, and was defeated. This could have been an example of passive mindleading by God on David's part.

## **Moses, the Wizard**

Moses used a form of mindleading when he was trying to gain the respect of the Israelite nation with the help of God. Exodus 4:27-31 documents the first meeting between Moses and the people of Israel. The Lord had talked to Moses about leading the people of Israel out of the Promised Land while he was in the desert tending his father-in-law's sheep (Exodus 3:1-6, 4:1-9). The Lord recruited him by speaking to him through a burning bush and giving two signs to show the people of Israel. He met the people and showed the signs to the people who immediately believed that God had sent him to save them from the Egyptians. God used his miracles to convince the doubting minds of the Israelites that God indeed had sent Moses to deliver them.

## **Jacob's Sons, the Revengers**

In Genesis 34:1—26 Jacob's sons used mindleading to take revenge on a pagan called Shechem the Hivite for raping their sister. To retaliate against Shechem the brothers of Dinah used a bit of mindleading to accomplish their objective. Shechem had decided he wanted to marry Dinah, so his father came to negotiate for Dinah to become his son's wife. The sons agreed as long as the whole city was circumcised. Shechem who was the

son of the city's mayor managed to persuade the men of the city that they could become rich if they agreed to this proposition because Jacob was very rich. So the men agreed and were all circumcised. The next day Dinah's brothers stormed the city killing all the men to revenge the rape of their sister. The sons used mindleading to lure the men of the offending city in by their lust for riches.

### **Michal, A Women's Courage**

David used mindleading to save himself many times in his colorful life as an aid to Saul, running from Saul to save his life, and as King of Israel. In I Samuel 19:1-17 Michal, the daughter of Saul the king was David's wife. One night Saul tried to capture David by waiting until he was in bed and then taking him captive. But Michal learned of the plan and told David who escaped through a window into the night. Michal then put pillows in David's bed to make it look like he was there. When the men came she said that David was sick. Saul then sent them back to bring him in his bed, but when the messengers returned they only found a bed full of pillows. Michal used mindleading to trick them into thinking that he was sick in bed. It would have gone unnoticed except Saul was so bent on killing David that he told them to bring the whole bed.

### **Peter, An Angels Visit**

In the New Testament, an angel of God may have used a form of heavenly mindleading in freeing the Apostle Peter from jail. In Acts 12:5-12 Peter had been arrested by Herod and was in the city jail. They had Peter chained to two soldiers, one on either side of him. An angel of the Lord appeared, loosed the chains without the guards knowing, and led Peter out of the gates into the city. So the Lord may have had his angels use some type of mindleading.

### **Jacob Genesis 27**

Knowing that Esau was to receive the inheritance of their father, Jacob, with his mother's help, determined to trick his father into bestowing the blessing upon him instead. (Prior to this, Jacob had "traded" Esau some pottage for his birthright in a less than official exchange.) Using goat stew rather than the venison which Esau was to have captured and covering his arms and hands with goat skins to simulate the hairy skin of his brother, Jacob was able to trick the almost blind Isaac into granting the birthright of Esau upon him instead.

### **The Christians Use of Mindleading**

Many other Biblical figures used mindleading, among them Peter, Abraham, Joseph, Samson, Delilah, and Eve. The list is long and obviously tarnished. Looking at the examples cited, three are blatantly sinful in nature and outcome. How then is a Christian supposed to practice or even study mindleading techniques? To answer that question, one must carefully study not only the Biblical examples of mindleading, but Biblical principles concerning the use of force and deception. The Bible speaks out against both

killing and false witness. Why then did God have Gideon and his men attack the way they did, and why again was it wrong for the sons of Jacob to attack the men of Canaan the way they did? To answer that, the motives must be clearly understood and studied. In Gideon's case, the motive was one of military necessity and tactic. In the sons of Jacob's case, it was one of unrighteous anger and vengeance. It is important to realize that although the Bible speaks out against killing, it records hundreds of justified killings in the course of war. When defending Biblical principles and ideals for just reasons, God condones killing as necessary. It is never the decision of man to kill however; if he is to do so, it is in the course of upholding that which is right. When man kills for personal gain or gratification, then it is always wrong. As we can see in Gideon's case, deception in time of war or righteous conflict is also condoned. As with any type of force, deception is only to be used when there are no other avenues left. It is interesting to note that there has always been a punishment for mindleading when used outside of a righteous cause when other avenues were open. Both David, and Jacob's lines were cursed in part for their deceptions, and Jacob's sons even inherited his tendency to deceive. Mindleading is evidently a powerful tool which when used must be used with cautions prudence, and justification.

### **Sources**

1. The Holy Bible
2. In-formation from devotions and talks given by Professor Haralson on mindleading
3. Pastor Glenn Armstrong, Pastor of Calvary baptist Church, Rochester Mn.