

# The Art of the Christian Ninja

**A Guide to Infiltration, Combat and Assassination the Jesus Way**

## Allan Descheneau

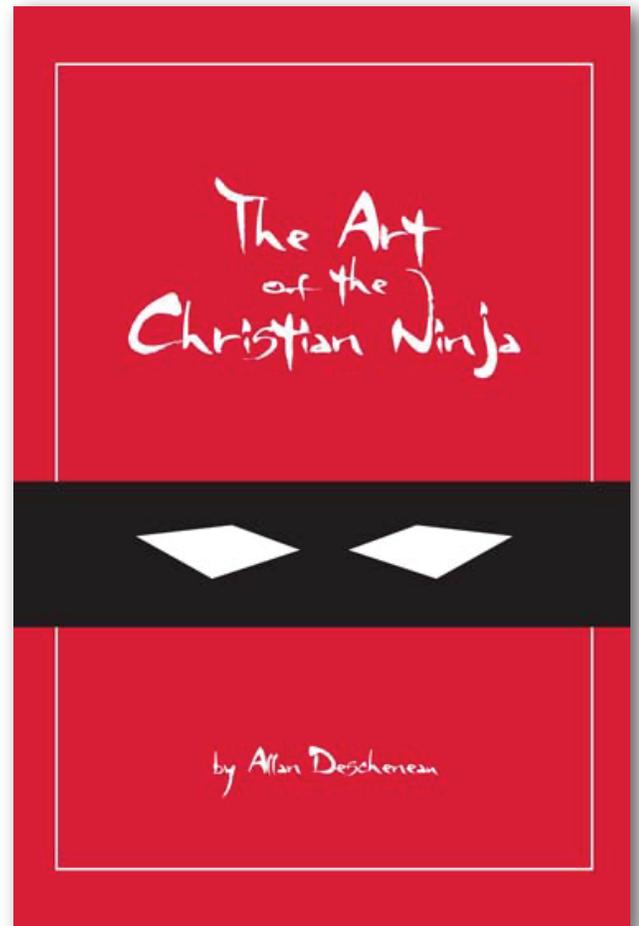
foreword by Chad Graham

There are lots of great devotional books and discipleship guides out there, but *The Art of the Christian Ninja* is different. The name “The Art of The Christian Ninja” was birthed from an encounter with God that spawned an unshakable thought: the critical importance of *the secret side* of the Christian faith. This book was written to inspire believers to build their relationship with God in ways that no one else sees.

This is more than a simple Bible study or discipleship manual. It’s a partnership between art and writing, black ink and white space, a tying together of teaching and questions, meditation and practice, humour and study. It’s a journey, a meditation, a conversation, a long walk, and a training ground to help believers connect their faith and life and become the Christian Ninjas God wants to help them be.

**Allan Descheneau** is a preacher, writer, podcaster, and pastor of Beckwith Baptist Church near Ottawa, Ontario. His passion is helping people find the tools and inspiration they need to pursue a deep, consistent, and meaningful relationship with God.

**ISBN: 978-1-4982-9883-4 | \$16 | 104 pp. | paper**



“An interesting account of the old Ninja mythology and how it can be turned to the Christian’s advantage. It should be a valuable source of spiritual help to readers who need and want to grow and become more effective.”

—Charles Dondale, Retired Arachnologist

“This book really lends itself to building up Christians to defend themselves against the attack of the enemy. Learning to be stealthy and effective is especially relevant in our culture of intolerance towards Christians. I see this book as being complimentary to C.S. Lewis’ *The Screwtape Letters* in which Lewis shows the inner workings of the enemy. Pastor Allan shows us tools to combat the enemy in practical, reflective and effective ways.”

—Steve Bastian, Teacher

“A handy tool for developing Christians. The advice and teachings within are concise, yet informative, and each chapter is just the right length to be a daily lesson. You can then take what you have been taught and work with it throughout your day, returning to review the Ninja Meditations in the evening to see how you did. The process of changing your life into that of a Christian Ninja is here at your fingertips!”

—Mary Ellen McLellan, Homemaker, Equine Specialist

“A ‘How to Grow’ manual for new believers and mature believers alike. Each chapter focuses on a discipline that needs to exist in each believer’s life in order to have a strong walk with God. If you’re looking to strengthen your relationship with your Lord but don’t know where to start, this ninja training manual will set you on your way.”

—Michael Kruszelnicki, Engineer, Youth Leader

**Media, Examination, and Review Copies:**  
Contact: James Stock  
(541) 344-1528, ext 103 or James@wipfandstock.com

**Orders:** Contact your favorite bookseller or order directly from the publisher via phone (541) 344-1528, fax (541) 344-1506 or e-mail us at orders@wipfandstock.com

An interesting account of the old Ninja mythology and how it can be turned to the Christian's advantage. It should be a valuable source of spiritual help to readers who need and want to grow and become more effective. Much prayer and meditation must have gone into this.

— Dr. Charles Dondale (Retired Arachnologist)

This book really lends itself to building up Christians to defend themselves against the attack of the enemy. Learning to be stealthy and effective is especially relevant in our culture of intolerance towards Christians. I see this book as being complimentary to C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" in which Lewis shows the inner workings of the enemy. Pastor Allan shows us tools to combat the enemy in practical, reflective and effective ways.

— Steve Bastian (Teacher)

A handy tool for developing Christians. The advice and teachings within are concise, yet informative and each chapter is just the right length to be a daily lesson. You can then take what you have been taught and work with it throughout your day, returning to review the Ninja Meditations in the evening to see how you did. The process of changing your life into that of a Christian Ninja is here at your fingertips! You will find yourself returning to the book to see how you are doing, and each time you do, you will find a new point to ponder and work on.

— Mary Ellen McLellan (Homemaker and Equine Specialist)

A "How to Grow" manual for new believers and mature believers alike. Each chapter focuses on a discipline that needs to exist in each believer's life in order to have a strong walk with God. If you're looking to strengthen your relationship with your Lord but don't know where to start, this ninja training manual will set you on your way.

— Michael Kruszelnicki (Engineer and Youth Leader)



# The Art of the Christian Ninja

A GUIDE TO INFILTRATION, COMBAT,  
AND ASSASSINATION THE JESUS WAY

by Allan Descheneau

ILLUSTRATED BY MARTIN MURTONEN

BOOK DESIGN BY PIERRE BÉLANGER

— [WWW.ARTOFTHECHRISTIANNINJA.COM](http://WWW.ARTOFTHECHRISTIANNINJA.COM) —

THE ART OF THE CHRISTIAN NINJA  
A Guide to Infiltration, Combat and Assassination the Jesus Way

Copyright © 2016 Allan Descheneau. All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in critical publications or reviews, no part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Write: Permissions, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover design: Pierre Bélanger  
Layout: Pierre Belanger  
Illustrations: Martin Murtonen

Wipf & Stock  
An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers  
199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3  
Eugene, OR 97401

[www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com)

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-4982-9883-4  
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-4982-9885-8

Manufactured in the U.S.A.

JUNE 2, 2016

# Table of Contents

Dedications .....	9
How to use this book .....	10
Foreword by Pastor Chad Graham .....	11
Introduction: Concerning Ninjas .....	13
The Christian Ninja's Source of Power: (The Art of Dependence).....	21
Your Daily Exercises: (The Art of Devotions) .....	29
Hiding in Plain Sight: (The Art of Infiltration) .....	39
Staying Clean in a Dirty Place: (The Art of Purity) .....	47
Travelling Light: (The Art of Simplicity) .....	55
An Agent of Light: (The Art of Sabotage) .....	63
Covert Operations: (The Art of Ghostly Giving) .....	71
The Christian Ninja at War Part I: (The Art of Combat).....	77
The Christian Ninja at War Part II: (The Art of Assassination) .....	85
Conclusion .....	93



# Dedications

There are lots of great devotional books and discipleship guides out there, but *Art of the Christian Ninja* is different. It's more than a book – it's a partnership between art and writing, a balance of black ink and whitespace, a tying together of teaching and questions, of meditation and practical training, of humour and study.

This book has been a long time coming and I'm so excited that it's finally out and available to share with you. It comes from my heart and was born from a special time I had with God. In many ways, though I have written many other things, this feels like my first book because it has touched my heart so deeply. The first and most important dedication of this book is to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, because without Him nothing would be possible.

I would also like to dedicate this book to my supportive and wonderful wife Anita, for whom I am ever thankful, and to my children, Ethan, Edison, Erica and Eowyn who teach me something new about the love of God every day.

My vision for this book always included images and pictures alongside the text. I am so thankful that God brought Martin Murtonen and Pierre Bélanger into my life. I can't tell you how many times I sent them a random, only somewhat formed idea, and they created it as though it was plucked out of my brain – *and then made it better*. They are both great artists and wonderful men of God.

And finally, this book is dedicated to you. I hope you enjoy engaging with this book as much as I enjoyed putting it together. I hope you are as deeply impacted by the concepts within as I was. And I hope that when you close this book you are closer to Jesus and have taken another step towards becoming a Ninja in the service of Jesus Christ.

— Pastor Al Descheneau

# How to use this book

This book is not just a book – it's a journey, a meditation, a long walk, a conversation. You are not just reading another Christian book, but entering into a time of training. Some of it will be fun and enjoyable, while at other times it will be challenging. Part of you will want to skip quickly through, while another part wants to shut the book altogether. So, before you begin, open yourself to what Jesus wants to teach you as you turn the pages and interact with what you are about to read.

At the end of each chapter you will find a “Ninja Meditation” full of questions intended to help you remember what you've read, confront areas you struggle with, consider how the topic affects you, and apply it to your life. Don't skip these questions. Pause, pray and write. Allow God to speak to you through your pencil.

You will see a lot of whitespace in this book. This is so you can interact and reflect on what you are reading and experiencing. Don't be hasty in turning the pages. Stop along the way to write prayers, thoughts and notes. Underline and highlight parts that make you think. Add drawings, scribbles or happy and sad faces where you feel moved. Use this book to interact with God.

# Foreword

BY

PASTOR CHAD GRAHAM

My friendship with the author of the book you now hold is very important to me. Allan is a man of wisdom and integrity. He has encouraged and edified me more times than I can recall. It is a distinct privilege to have the honour of writing a forward to his latest gift to the body of Christ. And what a gift it is. It is the gift of advice for a more vital relationship with your God. In fact, what you are holding in your hands is a portal, as it were, to the throne of God. Nothing is more important than our communication with the Creator, our Lord and Saviour. Hosea noted God's condemnation of those who were supposed to be His people, "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing" (Hosea 8:12). We have to admit that God might not say much the same thing about the state of our devotional lives in the Church today.

While in the word the Lord speaks to us, we in our prayers speak back to him. We can all imagine what a poor relationship it would be if one partner never replied to the conversation of the other. Prayer is absolutely vital. Jesus taught his disciples "that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). In saying this Jesus certainly implied that the one who failed to pray would lose heart.

In this book, Allan provides the context for a really rich conversation with God. And he uses the awesome analogy of Ninjas. It might seem strange at first to use such an analogy for the Christian life. But students of the Bible know that the martial arts are one of the Apostle Paul's favourite analogies for the Christian life. He likens our struggle to in close hand-to-hand combat (Ephesians 6:12) and the work of a soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3). This referred to the Greco-Roman style of fighting and the Roman army respectively. Here we are given a fresh take on this decidedly Biblical perspective that will help us to see the same truths in our day.

After all, don't we all want to kage bunshin no jutsu our spiritual lives? This ninja technique allowed the titular hero of the animated series Naruto to reduplicate himself and overwhelm his adversary (or adversaries). Just

as the young Ninja needed to learn to tap into his power source, so every believer needs to discover and rediscover the real world power of the Holy Spirit in his or her life. Our adversaries are things like spiritual lethargy, failed witness, sin, distraction, compromise, and self-centered focus. As you converse with God, he becomes your instructor in devotions, witness, purity, dedication, integrity and focus.

It is here that the book you hold comes as your partner, in what I hope becomes a lifelong successful engagement as a Christian ninja, battling for the cause of the Lord in your own life and in the life of the community around you. My prayer is that you will engage in this conversation with proper seriousness, while enjoying the fun spirit in which it is carried out. God is a God of joy and as you converse with him your joy will become complete.

Pastor Chad Graham  
GraceLife Church of Calgary

Introduction  
Concerning Ninjas

# NINJAS ARE EVERYWHERE



Ninjas are everywhere. Just look around. There's one. There's another. And behind that wall over there are three more. What, you don't see them? Good! You're not supposed to. Actually, you don't want to. The worst thing about seeing a Ninja is that they are usually the last thing you'll ever see!

## **WHAT IS A NINJA ANYWAY?**

---

If there's one thing that Ninjas are known for, it's not being known. No one really knows when they came into existence. Some say 800 years ago; some say 1500. What we do know is that Japanese Ninjas had a very unique set of skills. Stealthy as night, fierce in battle, cunning in preparation and ruthless in execution – they were the mercenary super-spies of their day.

During the time of the Ninjas, Japan was experiencing a lot of war. Various families were trying to take control of the land for themselves. When a family needed something special done, they would employ the services of a Ninja. It was their job to sneak into a rival family's household, find out their weaknesses, sabotage what they were doing, spread misinformation, set the castles on fire, assassinate the leaders, and then get out quickly and quietly. And they were good at it!

They were so good that Ninjas became the most feared people in the land. Stories of their powers became legendary. They were so good at hiding that some thought they could become invisible through magic. They were so mysterious in their escapes that some thought they could run across water like a bug. They used their environments so well that it was thought they could bend fire, earth, water and air to their will. They were so deadly in hand to hand combat that many believed them to be immortal.

## **NINJA TRAINING**

---

Why were they so good? Because they trained long and hard. A family of Ninjas would begin training their children from the time they could walk. They would learn martial arts, wilderness survival skills, swimming, silent movement, long distance running, medicine, and practiced chemistry to make poisons and explosives.

A good Ninja was also a master of disguise. They wouldn't just train to be a full time Ninja, but were also expected to have basic knowledge of many other professions so they could

### **Ninja Notes**

Need to get into a castle surrounded by guards? Set a fire so some of the guards have to leave their post to put it out. Sneak in after they leave!

blend in. Your cook could be a Ninja, or the man who fixes your shoes. The gardener planting your seeds or the carpenter working on the roof of your house may have been sneaking into the king's bedroom the night before!

Their skill at camouflage was so convincing that people thought Ninjas could turn themselves into rocks, trees, and plants. A trained Ninja could curl into a ball and stay so still that people would walk right by thinking it was just a large stone!

## **NINJA TECH**

Like any modern spy, Ninjas had some pretty cool equipment. They had ropes with grappling hooks to climb walls and swing across moats. They wore spikes on their hands and feet to use as weapons or climb trees quickly. Some even carried rocket propelled arrows and collapsible ladders! Some historians believe that Ninjas used hang-gliders to fly into enemy territory!

And talk about gadgets! They didn't have electronic spy cameras and listening devices like we do today, but they did have something called a Saoto Hikigane, which was a cup they would press against walls to hear what was being said on the other side. They had created a set of wooden shoes called Mizugomo that allowed them to run across marshy places. They even inflated animal skins like balloons and used them to breathe underwater for long periods of time.

When it came to weapons, Ninjas had a lot of options. Their favourite was the Katana blade - a 60cm, viciously sharp, curved steel sword with a two-handed grip for effective slicing. They also had a large selection of blow-darts, throwing stars, arrows, chains, grenades, smoke bombs, spikes, acid spraying tubes, blinding powder, and even sharp, cat-like, metal claws they wore on their fingers. Some even flew kites in order to send secret messages or drop bombs!

### **Ninja Notes**

Wall too high to climb? Get a group of ninja buddies and make a human ladder by climbing on each other's backs!

## ✪ CHRISTIAN NINJA?

---

These were some pretty intense characters! Are you starting to wonder how we could possibly learn anything about being Christian from a Ninja? God doesn't want us dressing in black masks and hang-gliding over walls with metal claws on our fingers, does he? Probably not (though, wouldn't that be cool if He did?), but that doesn't mean we can't learn from them. In fact, there are some places in the Bible that sound very Ninja.

Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 6:1-4:

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Hmm... Jesus says that the good things we do shouldn't be done to be seen by others, but done in secret. Ninjas love doing things in secret! Jesus says that when we help people, we should do it quietly. Ninjas love doing things quietly! Jesus says that we should be sneaky about how we give to the needy. Now that's Ninja talk!

There are a lot of great books that concentrate on helping Christians live their faith in public. They help us know where to go to spread the love of Jesus or how to be a leader, teacher or missionary. We are often encouraged to get out off the couch and join a small group so we can be with other believers. This isn't that kind of book. I absolutely agree that we need to be sharing our faith, influencing our world, and doing good but this book isn't written to help you be a Christian in public, but one in private. We're not going to concentrate on what you need to look like, but who you are when no one is around. You, like a Ninja in training, are going to learn some necessary skills to live life as a Christian Ninja.

Are you ready to begin your training?