

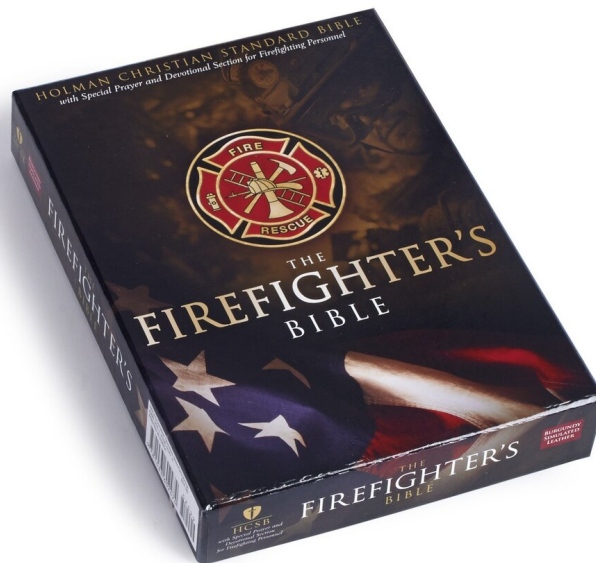
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## May 2022

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### Faith in the Fire

You've probably heard the saying, "There are no atheists in foxholes." This is attributed to Father Cummings, a civilian missionary Catholic priest in the Philippines during World War II. The phrase was coined during the Japanese attack at Corregidor. During the siege, Cummings had noticed non-Catholics were attending his services.

Perhaps the phrase of the fire service would be, "There are no unbelievers

when facing the beast.” And while it’s true that life-and-death experiences prompt a reality check, the focus of this article is not about those who find their faith in a crisis. Rather, I want to speak to the challenge of maintaining your faith on a day-to-day basis.

Some view faith as a crutch; something we use to get us through life. Add to this the self-reliant, always in control nature of firefighters, and you have the makings of a difficult environment to live out your faith.

So how do you remain faithful to what you believe? How do you live out your faith every day?

The answer, I believe, is found in 1 Peter 3:15. Peter was writing to the first century church about suffering persecution for their faith. Although our struggle with living out what we believe at the firehouse can’t compare to their struggle, Peter’s words apply very well.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

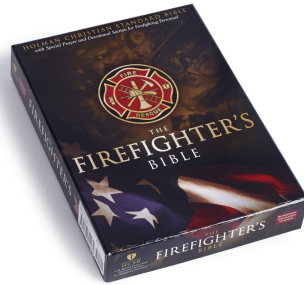
As you consider this verse, I believe there are two essentials that will help you keep your faith in the fire. First, take note that you are seen as a responder in this verse. Peter says you should be answering the questions that others have about what you believe. Are others seeing your faith? Are they asking you about it? More than what you say, people will notice what you do and what you don’t do. The way you live day in and day out will be the strongest indicator of what you believe.

And this leads to the second essential. How do you do the things that you do? What is your attitude as you live out your faith? Do people write you off as having a “holier-than-thou” approach? Have you become the self-proclaimed morality police? Peter says we should live out our faith and talk about it in a manner full of gentleness and respect.

Living out your faith can be a challenge. There can be a gap between what you say you believe and how you live your life. The goal on duty and off duty should be to narrow this gap and boldly live out your faith in the fire.

Check out [some of these videos](#) for more insight on living out your faith in the fire service.

--Chaplain Joe LaCognata



*Click image for more information*

## **Faith in the Fire**

Chaplain Joe LaCognata shares about some of the unique challenges faced while trying to live out faith in the fire service.



## **Upcoming CISM Training**

May 10-12, 2022  
Largo, FL

July 12-14, 2022  
Pembroke Pines, FL

August 16-18, 2022  
Windermere, FL

Contact us to host training at your agency

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



## **Stress Management Information**

Click the logo for some timely information on how to better manage your stress during these difficult days.



## **In Remembrance**

**The following firefighters died in the line of duty  
during the month of April**

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4/4 - Timothy Williams - Carlsbad, NM

4/7 - Darren D. Krull - Elwood, NE

4/8 - Brendan Bessee - Scottsdale, AZ

4/11 - Philip M. Wigal - West Salem, OH

4/15 - Isaac David Hassen, Sr. - Northern Cambria, PA

4/24 - Timothy Klein - Brooklyn, NY

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## **44 firefighters have died in the line of duty in 2022**

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### **Our Vision**

Imagine an organization committed to one task – supporting fire rescue personnel. From their work in the field to their lives at home, picture an organization working to equip these first responders to be more successful on the job and in life. Envision an organization that extends the support of those serving in fire rescue by offering care and comfort to the people they serve. Finally, picture an organization that would impact emergency services workers all across the country. That organization is Fire Rescue Support – supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.

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## Donate Today

As a non-profit organization, Fire Rescue Support operates thanks to the generosity of individuals, churches and other organizations. You can give online by clicking the logo.

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How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Fire Rescue Support Inc" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



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