

Chapter 7

Lawlessness!

The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die.

George Washington, 1732-1799

The epidemic of world lawlessness is spreading.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1882-1945

I grew up in a home that had both a godly and an evil inheritance. I was taught the Ten Commandments. I learned Bible stories. I had moral boundaries. However, in my home environment there was also corruption that had entered in to steal the covenant blessings God had intended for my family.

I came to know the Lord as a child, and I had a good understanding of some of His characteristics as I developed a relationship with Him. But as the corruption and violence intensified in our home, so did my confusion. I had a good idea of the way things should have been, but it was completely different from the way things actually were.

I witnessed my dad falling into lawlessness.

Even though as an older teen I was drawn away from the Lord and toward the enemy for a couple of years, my conscience could never tolerate lawless acts. I did plenty of bad things, but when I strayed into something of a lawless nature, it was as if alarm bells and red lights would go off inside me. The teaching and understanding that had been placed in me by a godly grandmother and mother protected me from straying too far outside of God's protective boundaries.

Daniel wrote of the Antichrist who in the last days will attempt "to change times and law" (Dan. 7:25). This is typical of the enemy's strategy. Satan tries to redefine law and pull us out of God's timing. If we are to win the future war of the Church, we must understand God's timing and the spiritual boundaries He has set for us. If we do not, deception will easily enter into our lives.

What Is Lawlessness?

Lawlessness means to be without regard for the principles and regulations established by a governing authority. It means to be uncontrolled, unruly, disorderly or unbridled. In spiritual terms lawlessness is a disregard for God's laws and His order. Why is it important to look at lawlessness as we discuss the future war of the Church? Because lawlessness and the Antichrist are linked together:

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved (2 Thess. 2:3,4,7-10, *NIV*).

As lawlessness increases, we will need to learn strategies to overthrow the enemy behind it. In chapter 2 we discussed five specific ways in which the antichrist system operates: anti-Semitism, abuse of the prophetic gift, oppression of women, ethnic domination and sexual perversion. Each of these has its roots in lawlessness, and each bears the fruit of lawlessness.

The Spirit of Lawlessness – A Modern Example

April 20, 1999. With the sun rising to a cloudless blue sky and a springtime chill in the air, the day dawned much like any other in the quiet and beautiful Colorado suburb of Littleton. But this day would not end as any other. Before the

setting of the sun, two young men who had plotted and schemed for months would bring terror and destruction to the high school they had attended. Fifteen would lie dead and several others would be hospitalized, as the shock of the worst school shooting in American history would begin to sink in for a horrified nation.

On May 27, 1999, Darrell Scott, father of one of the slain victims, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the matter. The transcript of Mr. Scott's address reads in part:

Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher and the other 11 children who died must not be in vain.

I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy; it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. . . .

We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs, politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. . . .

Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers. The young people of our nation hold the key. There is a spiritual awakening taking place that will not be squelched! . . . As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes, he did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right! I challenge every young person in America and around the world to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School, prayer was brought back to our schools.

The chill of the Columbine High School shooting hit me especially hard because, at the time, I lived less than 50 miles from Littleton, and I had two children of my own in high school. Yet in the aftermath of Columbine, I was constantly reminded of the vision I had in 1985, which I described in some detail in chapter 1. In that vision I saw a structure that was called Lawlessness. In the vision I saw acts of violence and murder taking place in schools, churches, shopping malls and supermarkets.

While I was shocked and grieved by the Columbine incident, as I had been by several school shootings that had taken place in recent years, I cannot say that I was completely surprised. Just as I had seen in my vision many years prior, Satan was carefully constructing a structure of lawlessness designed to capture an entire generation. What then is his strategy, and how is he able to do this?

Tolerance, Grace and Justice

In chapter 4 we discussed how Satan creates a confederation of demons to establish a throne of iniquity. He uses the same tactic to create lawlessness in a society. Demons will work together to remove the understanding of the law from every structure of society. If the demonic confederation is successful, the lines between right and wrong become so blurred that the people will not act with any moral conviction.

Take, for example, the shift toward tolerance of sin in our society. Adultery, divorce, fornication, witchcraft and homosexuality seem to be more socially acceptable than ever. Homosexual behavior, which God has clearly called an “abomination” (Lev. 18:22), is now commonly termed an alternative lifestyle.

Because of relaxed moral standards in our nation and our failure to understand the true nature of grace, we have managed to pervert justice. In an article titled “United, We Fall,” Matt Daniels writes:

The activist gay legal strategy is to legalize marriage in one state, then attack traditional marriage laws in the rest of the country. In July [2000], Vermont becomes the first state in the nation to recognize homosexual “unions”

With 70% of Americans viewing marriage as uniquely and essentially the union of a man and woman, homosexual activists have instead turned to the courts to implement an end-run around popular opinion. In Vermont, a decision from the state's highest court forced the state's legislature to either grant marital status to homosexual couples or institute a statewide domestic-partnership scheme. The legislature opted to develop a system to provide all of the benefits and privileges of marriage to homosexual couples. In an effort to prevent the transfer of such "civil unions" to other states, many states have made efforts to protect the institute of marriage by specifically defining marriage for purposes of state law as the union of a man and a woman.

But there's a problem. Proponents of same-sex "marriage" are hoping that, after their first state-court victory, the resulting legal and social conflicts at the state level will encourage the federal courts to intervene in the emerging debate over marriage. Using another round of specious legal arguments, homosexual activists will demand that the federal courts remove all of the remaining state-law barriers to same-sex marriage. Although family law has traditionally been a matter for state law, past federal intervention in the abortion debate — striking down all state laws protecting unborn human life — provides ample evidence that the federal courts may well do the same to marriage law.¹

Of course, we have the freedom to sin. God has made the human race able to choose, and He allows us to choose the path of the destroyer if we wish. However, it is a very scary situation when government authority and ruling powers attempt to force a mainline society to conform to the choices of others' sin.

Two consenting adults should have the freedom to form a relationship of their mutual choosing. However, if they elect to form a relationship that falls outside the boundaries established in God's Word, their beliefs should not be imposed on a society founded on the moral standard of God's Word. I believe that anyone who chooses to orient themselves in a wrong direction sexually should be shown the love that Jesus would show them as well as the right to

choose and prosper in this nation. But their own choice of orientation should not change the course of the justice system of America.

A failure to understand grace leads us to set our own boundaries so that we can satisfy our soulish natures and carnal desires. Those who dare to suggest that homosexuality is a sin and that God has the power to transform a homosexual are now viewed as intolerant and homophobic at worst or politically incorrect at best. Because the lines of right and wrong have been virtually erased in our culture, those trapped by the enemy in these types of sins are encouraged to embrace their sins rather than feel conviction. If they never come to repentance, the Lord cannot lead them back into the best that He created them to experience here on Earth.

As demons confederate to infiltrate a society through attitudes and politics that shift the culture away from God's law, society declines and Satan is able to establish his rule and capture an entire generation. Such was the case with the children of Israel who were led out of Egypt. Rather than acknowledging God's salvation and allowing His rule to be established among them, they allowed themselves to be seduced into idolatry and debauchery. As a result, God allowed Satan to capture the entire generation and postpone God's will for the nation of Israel. The trip to the Promised Land should have taken no more than a few weeks from Egypt. Instead, they wandered for 40 years until the defiled generation had completely died off and God's law could be reestablished through Joshua.

The Law Versus the Kingdom

Lawlessness is more than just breaking a law or standard; it is rebelling against a holy God. The Bible talks about the sin we can fall into once we stray outside of God's ordained boundaries (see 1 Pet. 4:3).

The Law was a revelation of the will of God in the Old Testament. But we find that with their traditions the elders of Israel tried to add to the law and establish an incredible narrowing of the boundaries to God's covenant people and plan. The central idea of the Law was that these were instructions received from a superior authority on how to live. One thing that is missing many times from our understanding of the Law is that this was also the story of God and His heart toward the human race.

The covenant agreement between God and His people at Mount Sinai provided the foundation for Israel's future. They were to stay within the boundaries God had set for them so that they could be saved from the power of Egypt from which they had been delivered. The Law would provide health and wholeness to the covenant community. This Law would also develop a judicial system and establish policies for what was to occur if the Law was violated.

Approximately 2,000 years later, Jesus presented the law of the Kingdom to the people. To present the law of the Kingdom, He had to fulfill the Law of the Old Testament (see Matt. 5:17; Rom. 10:4). Jesus then set a new standard of judgment and even gave a new commandment:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another (John 13:34, *NIV*).

Here we see the principles of the Law transferred into the Kingdom law being established by Jesus. For instance, being rightly related to God should compel us to be rightly related to our neighbor. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves (see Matt. 22:39). Likewise, in the Ten Commandments the Lord tells us not to covet anything that belongs to our neighbor (see Exod. 20:17).

But Jesus violated the traditions of the elders, particularly those concerning what could or could not be done on the Sabbath. Jesus said He didn't come to destroy the Law, but rather, to fulfill it (see Matt. 5:17-20). Jesus transferred the Law from an external, legalistic domain into a spiritual one. He moved the emphasis from outward appearance to inward living (see Matt. 5:21-22). Jesus called attention to the spirit of the Law and thus moved the Law into a deeper level of meaning.

Jesus said in Matthew 22:37, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Love can never be adequately portrayed through rules or teachings; it must be demonstrated through the heart, as seen in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord.

Paul had a lifelong struggle with the Law. In Romans 7 he writes about the law of sin and the law of faith. Paul recognized that the Mosaic Law had been given for a good purpose—its demands were not evil but were for the purpose of making us holy. However, in Galatians 3:10-13 he writes that the Law became a curse instead of a blessing. If we were going to be true children of God it wouldn't be by keeping the Law but rather by getting free from its requirements

and coming into a level of faith that would produce an overcoming power within us. The only way this could be fulfilled was through love and by the Spirit of God. Whereas the Law was given to help reveal the nature and life of God in Christ, we could never enter into the fullness of Christ without embracing Him, His death and His resurrection life.

Lawlessness Versus Legalism

You have to understand the law in order to understand how lawlessness operates. Yet in order to operate in the Spirit of God, we must understand grace. Grace is undeserved acceptance and love received from someone else. God provided this through salvation in Jesus Christ. The Greek word for grace, *charis*, is related to joy, pleasure or something attractive in a person. Therefore, grace is linked with favor, kindness and thankfulness.

God is kind to us in many ways when we make mistakes. This doesn't give us liberty to do wrong; instead it shows that He has an understanding about our ability to choose that allows us to operate in freedom. In the days ahead we are going to recognize and receive a superabundance of God's grace. This is what propelled the Early Church forward, and it will propel us forward. Grace leads us into communion with God, and communion leads us into revelation.

With lawlessness on the rise, it's hard to find our balance in the operation of grace. We tend to respond to lawlessness by setting much more stringent boundaries than the law of love ever intended us to. Therefore, not only will lawlessness be a problem in the coming days, but so will legalism.

There is a major difference between legalism and faith. Legalism leads to obsession, which leads to destruction. Obsession, the domination of one's thoughts and feelings by a persistent desire, keeps you from seeing your sin. The prophet Malachi would tell the people that they had violated God's law by robbing God and they would respond by saying, "How have we done this?" (see Mal. 3:8). They could not stay in touch with the reality of God through the Law. Consequently, they couldn't hear the voice of God and fell into 400 years of darkness.

Apostle John Kelly gives a great example of how legalism works in the Church:

A friend of mine was saved in a very legalistic Pentecostal church. Everything in that church was called sin – except breathing. Going to movies was sinful, wearing certain kinds of clothing was sinful and long hair on a man was sinful. As a child he went to see the movie *Mary Poppins*, and it took him six months to get over the guilt feelings. When he was older and was called to preach, he preached and acted in the same fashion he had been raised in. Inside the place of worship he never told any jokes, and outside the church sanctuary he was never lighthearted or frivolous because for him such things were nothing less than sin. What a powerless and joyless way to live in Christ!

God wants to send forth an army with His anointing that will smash the strongholds of hell, enter strong-walled cities and shatter the power of the enemy. Sad to say, God’s army, the Church, is often crippled by legalism. This attitude makes it hard for people to be genuine with each other.

In Christ’s day the religious, legalistic phonies were a type and shadow of the Dark Ages to come. When Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the religion of the state, the Church began to lose its genuine power and joy. The moment the Church stopped being an enemy of the world, it became a submitted friend of the world. The Church gradually lost all its power, and its priesthood became not all that different from the priesthood of the Greco-Roman Empire. Even the secular historians call it the Dark Ages which means “the light is not among us.” The Church was a political entity – powerless, joyless, only a shell.²

Legalism in the world is not much different from legalism in the Church. In December 1999, *Time* ran an article by John Cloud called “The Columbine Effect.” The article states:

It’s understandable that school officials are unsettled these days. Polls show that most Americans favor “zero tolerance” policies for campus violence, and many parents demand tough-minded, short-term solutions even as they wait for the results of more complex

approaches like better mentoring and earlier intervention for troubled children.

It may seem silly to go after a kid whose only crime is manicuring during school hours. But how do you know whom to treat sympathetically at a time when 11-year-olds commit murder? And how do you decide which kids are just morose and creative—and which ones are plotting to kill? A zero-tolerance approach ends the guesswork. In the early '90s, schools began adopting one-strike-and-you're-out policies for kids who secreted weapons or drugs on campus. . . . But by definition, zero tolerance erases the distinctions among student offenses. . . .

The consequences for rule breaking are getting harsher. What's new is that even pranks can land kids not just before the school board but before a judge.³

We must not allow legalism to overtake us in the midst of lawlessness. If we do, legalism can easily cause us to adopt obsessive behaviors and create an abundance of rules that can lead to our destruction rather than propel us into our future. We need to understand the boundaries that God has set for us and determine to live by the spirit of the law (which is a picture of Jesus) rather than the letter of the law (which Satan can easily pervert and use to bring us into bondage).

Revelation of Lawlessness from a Group of Boys

One of the ministry assignments God gave me several years ago was to be the executive administrator of the largest children's home in Texas. My role was to bring order to the administration of this large home. After Pam and I and our 18-month-old son moved to the campus of this home, some interesting things happened.

The home housed boys who were predominantly fatherless. The complex was divided into 12 staff homes. Each staff home had 8 to 10 boys living in it. There was a separate campus for girls. The house parents of the home where the older teen boys lived had left abruptly. Therefore, my wife and I had to become the house parents of this home for a season. This home was known as the "seat of

Satan” for the whole campus. In this home were eight tough high-school boys. After moving there I began to realize what a challenge this home was. One night I discovered a small hole in the wall between my closet and one of the boys’ bedrooms. I saw all kinds of things happening in that bedroom that should not have been happening. These boys were indeed lawless. Not only was this house affecting the whole campus, but certain vile things happening in this particular dorm cottage were affecting the whole community.

I was in a quandary. I wanted to protect my wife and son from what was going on there, but I was also trying to set order in the home. After about three months, the struggle had worn me out. I felt paralyzed from dealing with the lawless spirit that permeated the house. One night I had a group of friends and intercessors over for my birthday, but I was so wearied that my guests actually had to come into my bedroom and minister to me. LaCelia Henderson, a dear friend of mine and a very mature intercessor and teacher, rose up over me and began to bind the spirit of antichrist and lawlessness that was trying to overtake me. I was a little clueless as to what she was talking about, but my spirit began to come alive again.

My wife then told me just to rest the next morning, something I had not done in several months; she assured me she would take care of getting the boys up and off to school. Pam rose early, started preparing breakfast and then got the boys up. It was then that a transformation began to occur. The boys came out with their same terrible attitudes and disrespect. Pam had breakfast prepared and waiting for them. I was watching from my office, and I heard her say, “I do not have the same out-of-balance mercy that Chuck has toward each one of you. You are required to get your beds made before you leave for school. In case you get killed on the way to school today, I don’t want to have to make your bed. That is not my role in life. So get your bed made before you leave. I will have dinner waiting for you when you get home.”

A wave of shock went through those eight tough boys. My wife showed mercilessness in the face of their lawlessness. When they came home that evening there was a difference in them. She was in the kitchen preparing dinner when one of them confronted her. She backed that young man into the wall and began to tell him what she would require in their relationship from that point on. She then said, “Over the next three weeks you will be cooking dinner with me, and you and I will get to know each other.” When we came to dinner that night,

one of the boys (sort of the ruler of the house) pulled me aside and said, "We'll change if you won't leave us to her all the time."

The Lord began to break into that cottage. All but one of the boys got radically saved. To this day we have relationships with most of them. I was speaking in Houston in a televised message when the station managers received a call from one of the boys whom I had not heard from for several years. He had been freed from his lawlessness and was living a Christian life.

I have seen how lawlessness works. I now have faith to see how it can be overcome.

Our Youth at Risk

Satan would use lawlessness to capture the entire generation of young people now arising. While every generation has had to deal with some form of lawlessness or rebellion, it seems the youth of today have been particularly targeted.

In their book *Confident Parents, Exceptional Teens*, Ted Haggard and John Bolin write:

Sure, parents have been dealing with troubled teenagers for centuries. But aren't today's teenagers a little different? Aren't they facing issues that we didn't face as teens? Our youth detention facilities are busting at the seams, our juvenile courts are jammed, and our family therapists are swamped. Our elementary schools are Ritalin-controlled; our high schools are installing metal detectors and security cameras . . . and our college campuses are soaked in armed guards.⁴

Fatherlessness

One of the ways Satan draws kids into lawlessness is through fatherlessness. Our young people must have fathers in the days ahead. My father died when I was 16. Since that time the Lord has always made certain I had a spiritual father in my life. I have always submitted to these father figures whom God brought into my life to help grow me into the destiny for which I was created.

My wife, Pam, was able to deal effectively with the spirit of lawlessness because she herself had also been, in essence, abandoned by her mother and father, who fell into alcoholism when she was just a child. Pam has told me stories of how she would wander the streets of Houston and Los Angeles. Thank God for His grace! She was adopted when she was 12. The father who adopted her was a chief master sergeant in the Air Force, so you can imagine how he set for her proper boundaries and influenced her growth.

The statistics linking fatherlessness to lawlessness are very real. Here are some recent statistics published at a website called KidsNeedDads.com:

- 63 percent of youth who commit suicide are from fatherless homes.
- 90 percent of homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes.
- 85 percent of all children who exhibit behavioral disorders live in fatherless homes.
- 71 percent of all high school dropouts are from fatherless homes.
- 75 percent of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.
- 70 percent of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes.
- 85 percent of all youths now in prison grew up in fatherless homes.⁵

The statistics also tell us that children from fatherless homes:

- Are 5 times more likely to commit suicide than children from single-father households;
- Are 20 times more likely to have behavioral problems;
- Are 20 times more likely to become rapists;
- Are 32 times more likely to run away;
- Are 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances;
- Are 9 times more likely to drop out of school;
- Are 33 times more likely to be seriously abused;
- Are 73 times more likely to be fatally abused;
- Are 10 times as likely to be in a juvenile prison.⁶

Another study examined specifically the link between fatherlessness and crime:

A recent study on young men growing up in homes without fathers revealed that these men are twice as likely to end up in jail as those who came from traditional two-parent families. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University found that those boys whose fathers were absent from the household had double the odds of being incarcerated – even when other factors such as race, income, parent education and urban residence were held constant.

Surprisingly, those boys who grow up with a stepfather in the home were at an even higher risk for incarceration, roughly three times that of children who remain with both of their natural parents. The study also found that young men whose parents part ways during their adolescence were roughly 1-1/2 times as likely to end up in jail as children from intact families – faring slightly better than boys who are born to single mothers. Furthermore, juveniles sent to jail were three times more likely to commit a violent crime than those who were sent to other programs.⁷

Satan has a plan to ensnare our young people through an epidemic of fatherlessness. God's remedy for this – a spirit of adoption – is wrapped in His plan of redemption for the entire human race. God is neither an abusive father nor an absent father. He is an ever-present Father who has provided a great inheritance for His children. Romans 8:15 says, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'"

The spirit of adoption releases us from a spirit of bondage and fear, which is often caused by fatherlessness. Therefore, the Church needs to cry out for the spirit of adoption to invade the nations of the earth.

God's Cure for Lawlessness

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love

for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen (1 Pet. 4:7-11).

The heart of this passage as it relates to God’s cure for lawlessness is the fervent love that covers a multitude of sins. Here are five principles that will help us dismantle a spirit of lawlessness:

Prayer

We are to be serious and watchful in our prayers. The prayers outlined in chapter 5 will help us to overthrow thrones of iniquity, including lawlessness.

Love

Faith works by love. Therefore, the power of love, through faith, will dismantle the power of lawlessness.

Understanding God’s Timing

At the beginning of this chapter we saw that the antichrist spirit will try to change timing. To dismantle lawlessness, we must understand God’s timing and be vigilant against Satan’s plans to throw us off. In his book *Spiritual Timing*, Roberts Liardon writes:

One of the things that Jesus came and produced for us at Calvary was the ability to perceive and regain the correct timing of God. By receiving His redemption and walking in the Spirit, we can come back into it. We can fine-tune our spirits to know when to be in the right place at the right time, or to stay out of the right place at the wrong time. Through knowing God and His ways, we can build the character within ourselves that will position us strategically in the proper season. When you live in the Spirit, time is lovely. Time is a blessing. A Spirit-filled man can walk in step with God and

work the works of God without stress or strain. He understands time.

To a Spirit-filled man, time means stability and nurturing. Time matures and heals. It brings understanding and abilities. Time expands and deepens our insight. When we walk with time, we walk with patience. As a result, we have the ability to possess our whole man, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Walking securely in the timing of God alleviates fear. There is no fear or doubt in the proper timing of God. Godly timing produces courage, boldness, security and strength.⁸

Purity

God's cure for lawlessness is not legalism but rather purity – purity of heart and mind. Purity does not mean that we stringently follow a strict set of rules (legalism) but rather that we are so sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and so aware of the law of God written on our hearts that we know when we are moving into an area that does not please Him and we choose to turn back. Legalism produces bondage of heart, whereas purity produces freedom of heart.

The people of God should never fall prey to Satan's trap of militancy. Only love, grace and purity of heart will lead individuals out of a harsh, legalistic, hate-filled religion to embrace the good news of a living Christ.

Operating in Spiritual Gifts

As we each learn to operate in our gifts, the Body of Christ will function as it was meant to. No demonic force, including lawlessness, will be able to stand against a fully functioning Body of Christ. Operating properly in the gifts will lead us back to love (see 1 Cor. 13:1-10), where we can work together according to the heart of God.

God is ready in these days to display His power through the gifts He has given us, so that His glory can be manifested on Earth. As we, the Church, come together to demonstrate God's power, even those who are caught in Satan's trap of lawlessness will be able to see the unmatched and awesome glory of God!

Notes

1. Matt Daniels, "United, We Fall," *World* (June 17, 2000), p. 65.

2. John Kelly, *End Time Warriors* (Ventura, CA: Renew, 1999), pp. 61, 62.
3. John Cloud, "The Columbine Effect," *Time* (December 9, 1999), p. 51.
4. Ted Haggard and John Bolin, *Confident Parents, Exceptional Teens* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999), p. 10.
5. "Why We Need KidsNeedDads.Com," *KidsNeedDads.Com*, 1999.
<http://www.KidsNeedDads.com/thatswhy.htm> (accessed December 1, 2000).
6. "More Reasons We Need KidsNeedDads.Com," *KidsNeedDads.Com*, 1999.
<http://www.KidsNeedDads.com/moreasons.htm> (accessed December 1, 2000).
7. "Fatherless Males at Higher Risk for Jail," Reuters News Service, August 20, 1998. The article reports the results of a joint study by Cynthia Harper of the University of Pennsylvania and Sara S. McLanahan of Princeton University.
8. Roberts Liardon, *Spiritual Timing* (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1990), p. 7.