

For the Love of God by Lawrence W. Gold, M.D.

5.0 out of 5 stars [Excavating some horrid truths](#) March 8, 2012

By [Grady Harp](#) [HALL OF FAME TOP 50 REVIEWER VINE™ VOICE](#)

Format: Paperback

Lawrence W. Gold, MD is a physician/author who takes risks with his books: his previous two books - FIRST, DO NO HARM and NO CURE FOR MURDER - are stories that revealed some rather grim aspects of the medical profession. Now in his third novel - FOR THE LOVE OF GOD - he ventures into even more controversial territory. Gold has retired from medicine (he was a Nephrologist, having served as a Battalion Surgeon in Vietnam at the same time as this reviewer) and it is understandable that he wishes to use his patently obvious skills as a writer as his post-medical career. One wonders why he continues to use the MD after his name in this successful second career, but perhaps the intent is to add validity to his writing.

Reading FOR THE LOVE OF GOD during this particular time when the political campaigns are stridently focusing on fundamental evangelical conservative religious groups as the target for gaining support of the nomination of certain candidates for the running lead for Presidential election is even more atmospheric. The timing could not be better as far as the intensity of the investigative aspects of this story unravels. The well woven tale involves the discovery of dead children who died apparently due to the lack of intervention of their parents and guardians because of the strength of belief in 'faith healing'. In the author's words, 'If you believe that prayer for the sick to the exclusion of medical care is a thing of the past, think again. Each year children in the United States suffer horribly and die from injuries or medical conditions readily treated by physicians and hospitals. Do a literature search on faith healing or go to the website of "Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, Inc." (childrenshealthcare.org) and you'll see a litany of horrors as a small segment of mostly fundamentalists allow their minor children to die from diabetes, pneumonia, asthma, and many other conditions all readily responsive to standard medical care.'

And from this beginning Gold weaves a harrowing story of the path to judgment of the religious cults behind the needless deaths of innocent children in the name of religion. How he does this is a study in detective work, courtroom drama, a battle of wits between attorneys and evangelical political action groups, leaving the reader with a sense of shock and awe at how carefully Gold has constructed this rather daring tale.

One of the reasons Gold's writing works is his care in presenting both sides of the dialogue. This is not a rant against religious conservatives, but it instead is a call to attention of how out of focused thinking can have dire results. It is a fine bit of writing by a man who understands the range of the human psyche. Grady Harp, March