

## Essay from the bold pastor.

### #268 - I Will Not Give You the Gift of Hating You -

A year flew by so quickly and Last November commemorated its first memorial anniversary of the 2015 Paris attacks. A plate embedded with those names of 90 victims who lost their lives was unveiled, and President Hollande gave a silent prayer for the lost souls to the terrorist attacks. However, perhaps one of the most vividly memorable event that shook the society during this ordeal, and which might have given the profound impact globally; might have been the message titled “I Will Not Give You the Gift of Hating You” written by Antoine Leiris, a French journalist who lost his wife to the Paris attacks at the Bataclan theater.

“On Friday night, you stole away the life of an exceptional being. The love of my life, the mother of my son, but you will not have my hatred. I do not know who you are, and I don’t want to know – you are dead souls. If the God for whom you kill so blindly made us in His image, each bullet in my wife’s body would have been a wound in His Heart. Therefore, I will not give you the gift of hating you. You have obviously sought it but responding to it with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that has made you what you are. You want me to be afraid? To cast a mistrustful eye on my fellow citizens, to sacrifice my freedom for security. You lost. Same player same game.”

This message was written after he saw his wife’s body. Afterwards, it was shared among more than two hundred thousand times on the Facebook, and had tremendous response from the audiences with their messages; including such as “Your word is stronger than any kind of arms”. The word of our Lord says;

**“Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. “**

**Proverbs 10:12**

But this is completely different from “Non-violence nonretaliation”. As we see in Leiris, there is a determination or an intent and assertiveness against evil and sin that he actively and outwardly pushed them away. On the other hand, if we immerse ourselves in bitterness and anger, it will not only create conflict between each other, but it will eat us up inside. God’s love is so great that Christ died for the humanity that acted as if God being their enemy. By no means love is something lukewarm, but it is an intense power of determination that shatters bitterness in pieces.

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