



When Hate Threatens to Overcome Love

One of the most sobering things chaplains on the front lines have shared is this: **it is dangerous when our hate becomes stronger than God's love.**

What War Exposes

War exposes the darkest depths of human brokenness. What one person can do to another—violence, destruction, cruelty—is not abstract; it is seen, heard, and even felt.

Chaplains speak of the smell of burned homes, the scent of death, the heavy presence of fear that lingers in the air. It is overwhelming. It presses in on the soul. Over time, it can begin to shape the heart—hardening it, numbing it, and even silencing prayer.

□ That is the quiet danger.

When fear and anger take root, they can grow into something deeper—into hatred. And while that response may feel understandable in the face of such evil, it is not where God calls His people to remain.

Chaplains are quick to remind us: becoming accustomed to war does not make it normal, and allowing hatred to grow does not make it right.

The Outward Battle

What war does *around* us—violence, destruction, and cruelty that is seen, heard, and felt.

The Inward Battle

What war can begin to do *within* us—hardening the heart, silencing prayer, and allowing hatred to grow.

This Is Where the Battle Becomes Spiritual. The greatest threat is not only what war does around us, but what it can begin to do within us. If hatred takes hold, it can begin to overshadow the very love of God we are called to carry.

And when that happens, something sacred is lost—not just in the world, but in our own hearts.

This is the spiritual dimension of conflict that is rarely spoken of—the slow erosion of love from within, not by the enemy outside, but by the darkness that war invites into the soul.

Another Reality at Work

Yet even in the darkest places, there is another reality at work.

One chaplain shared that he can ***feel*** the prayers of believers around the world. **And because of those prayers, he is able to keep loving.**

That is not human strength—it is divine grace. It is God, through the prayers of His people, sustaining hearts that would otherwise break or harden.

☐ **This is the mystery and power of prayer.**

We cannot produce this kind of love on our own. It is not natural in the face of evil. But through prayer, God gives His people the ability to:



Remain Compassionate

Prayer sustains the capacity to feel for others even when surrounded by suffering and cruelty.



Continue Serving

Through divine grace, chaplains and believers press on in service when human strength alone would fail.



Reflect Christ

Even in the midst of war, God works through His people to make His love visible in the darkest places.

And in doing so, He works through them.



A Call to Us

For those of us watching from a distance, this reflection carries both a warning and an invitation.

The Warning

Guard your heart. Do not let the darkness of this world reshape the love God has placed within you.

The Invitation

Pray—faithfully, persistently, and expectantly.

Remember...your prayers are *felt* on the front lines. They strengthen weary hearts. They protect against bitterness. They help chaplains, pastors, and believers continue to love when everything around them pushes them toward hate.

In a world marked by violence, **the Church is called to be marked by love.** And sometimes, that love is sustained by nothing less than the prayers of God's people.

With deep gratitude

Throughout this war, our HART community has remained faithful and unwavering.

Because of your prayers and generosity, local churches and chaplains across Ukraine continue to serve, comfort, and restore hope in the midst of devastation.

On behalf of all of us at HART—and our network of church partners across Ukraine—**THANK YOU.**