

- We must keep our eyes fixed on the Lord.  
Psalm 97:1a (ESV): "The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice."
- Our posture should be:  
"Rejoice evermore."  
"Pray without ceasing."  
"In everything give thanks." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- Regardless of circumstances, we should:  
Be always listening to what He is saying  
And watching what He is doing

**I. Watch and Be Prepared to be amazed!**

A. *"How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore, the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted."* Habakkuk 2:4

- Observing events in the House of Commons can evoke feelings like Habakkuk had.
- Laws like Medical Assistance in Dying are a perversion of justice.
- When such legislation passes in Parliament, we may feel:  
Like asking, "God, why is this happening?"  
Wondering if God is paying attention, like Habakkuk's questioning.  
Does God really have control?

B. Let's look at God's reply to Habakkuk.

*"Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."* Habakkuk 2:5

He says if we are paying attention, we will be amazed.

- What is happening in your community? Are we paying attention?
  - God is saying watch, so you can be amazed.
- C. We are all in the ministry and most of us have 4 spheres of influence.  
Our family, the local church, our jobs, our neighbourhoods.

We need to pay attention. If not, we will miss what He is doing. When we pay attention, we can come alongside in that place of agreement with Him. Only by paying attention will we be amazed.

Let's look at MAID as an example.

- Feeling that God is not working or paying attention can lead us to get angry – angry letters, phone calls, protests
- It can cause us to take our eyes off what He is doing and put our hope in man  
Perhaps things will change if this other party comes into power? This is the wrong messiah. Jesus is our Messiah. We must always look to Him. No political party can save us or our nation.
- Even when the legislation is unjust and unrighteous, we must continue to look to Him.  
What is God doing?  
What is my part in what He is doing?

Looking specifically at MAID

- Perhaps we need to change the acronym – MAIL – “My assistance in Living”
- We often look to the government to change culture, but in reality, it's culture that shapes how the government operates. Perhaps God is calling the church to be the salt and light, bringing His love and hope to a world in despair. When the church steps up and acts according to His will, such as through initiatives like "My Assistance in Living," laws like MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) could become irrelevant. The real change shouldn't come from the government, but from the church having the courage to speak truth and bring love and hope to our communities. When we pay attention, God may provide us with a different solution, and He wants all of us to be actively involved.

## **2. God can raise leaders that catch us off guard.**

*“This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus,” Isaiah 45:1a*

- Can a Cyrus be one that is not friendly to Christians?

*"whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. 'I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create*

*darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things." Isaiah 45: 1b-7"*

- Sometimes He raises leaders who do not align to our values.  
He sets up kings and He deposes kings (Dan 2:21)  
God can influence the hearts of rulers and leaders (Prov 21:1)
- We are called to pray for all of our leaders whether we like them or not
- Joshua asks the commander of the Lord's army whose side he was on and his response was "neither" (Joshua 5:13-14)
- In prayer, this is our response: When it comes to politics and praying for our leaders, we should remain on neither side. Instead, we are called to lift all of them up in prayer, regardless of their position or affiliation. God desires to be present in all political parties. Our role is to bring His influence into every space, ensuring His love, truth, and values are represented everywhere.
- God commands us to love our enemies, and immediately provides the way to do so: by praying for them. (Matthew 5:44)
- When we pray for them, we begin to love them
- We must always be listening and watching, asking: What is the Father saying and doing?

### **3. Showing Honour**

4. Daniel was a slave.
5. He was taken captive into Babylon.
6. Thrown into the lion's den.
7. Daniel's situation could have easily led to complaints.
8. But after coming out of the lion's den, his response was:  
**"O king, live forever!"** (Daniel 6:21, MSG)

- Would we maintain that same posture of honor if we were unjustly thrown into prison?
- The posture of honor that Daniel exhibited led to his promotion.
- Are we missing out on our calling due to a lack of honor?
- Is offense preventing us from partnering with His plan?

### **4. Why do prayers not get answered**

- When things become difficult, we have a propensity to complain.
- Then we wonder why our prayers are not getting answered

*"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water." James 3:9-12*

- James says that only fresh water should come from our mouths. Even mixed brackish water is unhealthy for us. With our language, are we blessing or cursing.
- River of God in Ezekiel 47  
Picture of our prayer lives.  
We can go ankle, knee, waist or shoulder deep or even swim in this river of prayer. Each level represents different depths of our prayer lives
- The river in Ezekiel 47 flows into the dead sea.
- Here we see a miracle. The water does not become brackish but the salt water from the dead sea becomes fresh.
- Ezekiel speaks of new life emerging in the Dead Sea, with fish and life in the water, and fishermen along the banks.
- He also describes trees with deep roots, symbolizing the Oaks of Righteousness mentioned in Isaiah 61.
- These trees have their confidence in Him; they don't worry about drought and never fail to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

*"Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:12*

- We recognize we are swimming in this river when our language changes.
- Only fresh water comes from our mouths.
- Our prayers then bring life and healing.

#### **4. Living Sacrifices**

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service." Romans 12:1

- Dying to ourselves is reasonable.
- As living sacrifices, on the altar of God, burning with the fragrance of God, the anointing of God permeates through us and from us. This is our reasonable act of worship.
- We are called to die.
- The only right we have is the right to die.
- We are crucified with Christ, nevertheless we live.

The sovereignty of God requires us to die.

We live in a partnership with God.

- By showing honour
- By checking our tongues
- By dying to our opinions
- By always listening to what He is saying
- And by watching what He is doing
- And then having the courage to be obedient in prayer and in action

God is Sovereign no matter what it looks or feels like. Prepare to be amazed.