

Seeing Clearly Without Losing Hope

Scripture

Habakkuk 1:2-4

Reflection

Habakkuk did not ignore what was happening around him. He saw violence, injustice, conflict, and a society in which righteousness seemed to be losing ground. His faith did not require him to pretend that everything was fine.

There is a temptation for Christians to respond to brokenness in one of two unhealthy ways. We can ignore it and act as though things are better than they really are, or we can become so focused on what is wrong that we become cynical and hopeless.

Habakkuk shows us another way. Faith allows us to look honestly at the world while still believing that God remains sovereign. The darkness around us does not mean that God has surrendered His throne.

Illustration

A doctor cannot properly treat an illness by pretending the symptoms do not exist. An honest diagnosis may be uncomfortable, but it is necessary before treatment can begin.

In the same way, recognizing spiritual and cultural brokenness is not pessimism when it drives us toward God.

Application

Ask yourself whether there are areas of sin or brokenness that you have simply become accustomed to. Instead of becoming angry or cynical, allow what you see to move you toward prayer and faithful obedience.

Prayer

Father, help me to see the world around me clearly without losing hope. Keep me from becoming comfortable with sin or cynical about the future. Remind me that You are still sovereign and that my confidence is ultimately in You. Amen.