



Speak It Before You See It: The Power of the Proclamation

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."— Galatians 6:9

Some mornings, you wake up, and your heart is heavy.

Not because you have lost faith. Not because the vision has changed. But because leadership is weight – real weight – and some days you feel every ounce of it before your feet hit the floor. The deals that aren't done yet. The projects are still waiting on approvals. The people are counting on you to hold it together when you are still asking God to hold *you* together.

But here is what I have learned: **you still have to speak life to it, even when it looks like there is no life in it.**

If leadership were easy, there would be more leaders than followers. The willingness to carry the weight, stay in the wait, and still open your mouth and proclaim victory, that is what separates a leader from a bystander. That is not bravado. That is faith in its purest, most costly form.

This week I have been anchored in **Habakkuk 2:2-3**, and one phrase will not let me go:

*"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an **appointed time**; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come."*

The appointed time. Not our timeline. Not the schedule we built into the budget presentation. God's appointed time. The instruction isn't to panic, shrink the vision, or make it feel more "realistic." The instruction is simply: *write it, make it plain, and wait – because it will surely come.*

That is not wishful thinking. That is the proclamation of faith.

I will be transparent with you, because that is what this platform is for.

I carry big visions for Irondale. Some are already built, a new public library that welcomed over a thousand neighbors on opening day, parks and sports complexes rising from land that once sat idle, a Costco development that will bring the largest private investment in our city's history.

But some of the vision is still on the tablet. Still in the wait.

I see a **microtransit system** connecting residents to jobs and opportunities. I see a **bookmobile** rolling into neighborhoods where the library cannot easily be reached. I see a **new Public Administration Building**, a **recycling center** on the eastern side of town, a rebuilt **water facility**, a renovated **Civic Center**, and parks, Heritage Place from Ruffner to Beacon, where families can exhale, and children can dream.

I am speaking about these things before they are built. Not because I am naive about the process, but because I know the Author of the story. That is what a proclamation is. It is not arrogance. **It is faith with a microphone.**

Isaiah 40:31 promises that those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. And Galatians 6:9 reminds us not to lose heart, because in due season, we shall reap.

Don't describe the storm. **Speak to it.**

Write the vision. Proclaim it out loud, even while it tarries. Irondale's best days are not behind us; they are moving toward us right now, at exactly the speed God intended.

Peace, be still.