

The Master House-Builder

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Scripture Text: [Psalm 127](#)

Introduction

Families all around us are falling apart. Satan from the very beginning has been attacking the home. He hates God and everything that God does. He knows that God instituted the family, and this great institution that God designed is the basic unit of and of critical importance in society and the church. A local church is only as strong as the families that comprise it. That is why, Satan is out to destroy you and me, our children and our homes.

But God's plan for the home is not failure but victory. God wants us to have vital and victorious family. But to have a strong and healthy, we must understand one basic principle and it is found in ...

[Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. 2: It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.](#)

One truth we need understand before we set out to build anything is that we are utterly and completely dependent upon God. We must acknowledge that in all the affairs and business of a family we must depend upon God and His blessing. We must acknowledge God and depend upon Him for the building, for the keeping and for the blessing of the family.

1. The raising of a family

[Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.](#)

First, we must depend upon God for the raising of our family.

God is not against labor and watchfulness

The point here is not that God is against labor. As a matter of fact, the Bible warns against laziness. It commends diligence and condemns laziness.

[Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:](#)

Consider and take a lesson from the ants. Learn from their ways and become wise.

Labor is a necessity. Labor is honorable. We are commanded to be diligent in business as well as fervent in spirit.

[Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;](#)

What we are warned against here is the placing of confidence in our working. The spirit we must avoid is the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-reliance. The idea is if we want a home that will last and survive we must completely rely on God for the building of our family.

The LORD must build our homes. Without Him, our efforts and labors will be in vain. But remember that it doesn't mean that we don't work or labor. We must labor partnering with God. That's exciting. When you see a successful home, you can always count on it, the couple worked and worked hard. A successful family doesn't just happen. There had been sweat and tears. There had been mental and spiritual sweat, tears of joy and tears of sorrow.

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

The success of all we do and of all we build depend entirely upon God's blessing. Our talents, our strength, our diligence, our efforts - all will be in vain without God and His blessings.

2. The keeping of a family

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: **except the LORD keep** the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. 2: It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Secondly, we must depend upon God for the keeping of our family. The safety and preservation of the family depends wholly upon God.

Again, the Lord is not against our watchings. We must watch and pray, but the idea is not to put our whole confidence on our watchings. For the Bible says ...

Psalm 127:1b ... **except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.**

We can never do without God! Unless the LORD keep the city, the watchmen, though they neither slumber nor sleep, they may be wide-awake, but without God all their watchings and precautions will not save them.

The diligence of the builder, the vigilance of the watchman, are in vain without the LORD. The watchman may secure and defend the city, or keep his watch on the wall, but he cannot secure it from dangers such as fire or the assault of enemies.

The family needs protection in today's world and only God can protect our family.

3. The enriching of a family

Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4: As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5: Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Thirdly, we must acknowledge God for the enriching of our family.

We must understand that everything which we value, or which we desire, is a gift from God, and is to be received as from Him, and to be acknowledged as His gift. One of the gifts in marriage is having children.

Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are an **heritage of the LORD**: and **the fruit of the womb is his reward**.

Ultimately it is God who decides if we will have children or not. Children come not into the world by chance or fate. God sends them as His gifts. They are gifts of great value.

The feminist movement says, "*Children are hindrances. They will keep you from pursuing your career and being somebody.*"

And a lot of men argue, "*Children are too expensive. If I have children, then I might not be able to drive the kind of car I want to, or live in the kind of house I want to, or take the kind of vacations I want to. After all, children make a rich man poor.*"

But they have it backwards. Children do not make a rich man poor. They make a poor man rich! They are a heritage, not a hindrance. They are a blessing, not a burden. **There is no such thing as an unwanted child - only unfit parents.**

Proverb 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Closing Thoughts

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, the guard stays awake in vain.

Men desiring to build know that they must labor, and accordingly they put forth all their skill and strength; but let them remember that if Jehovah is not with them their designs will prove failures.

So it was with those who attempted to build the **Tower of Babel**, they said ...

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

They were united and were determined and with all their skill they start off building the tower.

But the Lord said ...

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language ...

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and **they left off to build the city.**

In vain they labored, for the Lord was not with them.

But how different it was with **the story of Solomon** when he was resolved to build a house for the LORD. Solomon was successful in building the house of God **for the LORD was with him**.

Without God we are nothing and can do nothing. Our labor will be in vain, will come to nothing.

So it is wise to turn to the Master Home-Builder - God Himself. God designed the family. He knows what will work and what won't.

A story is told of Henry Ford. One day Mr. Ford and his wife were driving in the country and they came across a man whose Ford Model T car had broken down. He was under the hood trying to figure out what was wrong, when Mr. Ford asked if he could take a look. And in just a few minutes, Mr. Ford had the Model T car running. The owner was amazed and said, "*I'm impressed with your knowledge of my car, and I'm amazed that you fixed it so easily.*" Mr. Ford replied, "*I ought to be able to fix it because I am the one who DESIGNED it.*"

And dear people, that is how it is with God and the family. God says, "I can fix it because I designed it!"

He can help fix whatever problem our family encounters. God gave us the **blueprint**. He gave us the **instructions**. Where are those instructions? Where should we get our teaching concerning family living? Obviously, not from our own opinions, not from tradition, not from other's experience. Marriage and raising a family are very serious institutions to be at the mercy of trying to be directed by somebody's opinion or experience.

Surely we should not get our teaching concerning family living from Dr. Laura, nor Dr. Phil., nor Dr. Spock, nor Ophra, but from God Who has spoken in His inspired word concerning family living.

By the way, we are not just concerned to have traditional family values, but our main concern is to have a scriptural family values. So where do we go?

[Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.](#)

Don Whitney, author of Family Worship, says, "*We believe that the church today is in desperate need, not of new gimmicks or ideas, but instead, we are in desperate need of people genuinely and wholeheartedly pursuing God in all areas of their life. We have allowed culture and worldly pursuits to force our faith into a compartmentalized section, but God's commands in Deuteronomy 6 remind us that our faith should define every area of our life.*"

Before I speak to the lost among us, let me say these ...

No house stands that God does not build; no city is safe that God does not keep; no labor is profitable that God does not bless; no sleep is peaceful that God does not give; and no family is blessed that is not enriched by God.

To the Lost.

If you are lost, please understand that these principles can help you build a happy and healthy home, but they won't get you into Heaven. Only a personal relationship with Jesus can do that. So before you focus on building a happy and healthy home, you need to give your heart and life to Jesus. Come to Jesus! Come to the One who gave His life for you! Trust Him wholly and only!

AMEN!