"The Architect & Builder of your Home"



Psalm 127 - 128
1-20-2021



***God must be the Architect and Builder of your home** (or else your labors are vain)!

I. Realize the ABSOLUTE NECESSITY for God to build your home (Psalm 127)

A. The blessing of SECURITY only comes from God (v. 1b)

B. The blessing of PROSPERITY only comes from God (v. 2a)

C. The blessing of REST only comes from God (v. 2b)

D. The blessing of CHILDREN only comes from God (v. 3-5)

II. Fulfill the VITAL PREREQUISITES in order for God to build your home (Psalm 128:1)

A. A FEAR of God

B. OBEDIENCE to God

III. Experience the ABUNDANT BLESSINGS of God building your home (Psalm 128:2-6)

A. A GOOD life (v. 2)

B. A FRUITFUL life (v. 3-5)

C. A LONG life (v. 6)

"The Architect & Builder of your Home"



Psalm 127 - 128
1-20-2021



***God must be the Architect and Builder of your home** (or else your labors are vain)!

I. Realize the ABSOLUTE NECESSITY for God to build your home (Psalm 127)

A. The blessing of _____ only comes from God (v. 1b)

B. The blessing of _____ only comes from God (v. 2a)

C. The blessing of _____ only comes from God (v. 2b)

D. The blessing of _____ only comes from God (v. 3-5)

II. Fulfill the VITAL PREREQUISITES in order for God to build your home (Psalm 128:1)

A. A _____ of God

B. _____ to God

III. Experience the ABUNDANT BLESSINGS of God building your home (Psalm 128:2-6)

A. A _____ life (v. 2)

B. A _____ life (v. 3-5)

C. A _____ life (v. 6)

"The Architect & Builder of your Home"

Psalm 127 - 128
1-20-2021

INTRODUCTION: 127:1a

How much home construction experience do you have? If the average person were to construct their own home (plant it; purchase the materials and put it up), I wonder how our houses would look. Wouldn't it be a lot wiser to hire someone who knew what they were doing? Who had 20-30 years experience. . . who understood architecture, who knew about pouring cement, framing, electricity, plumbing, heating, roofing, laying brick, hanging sheet rock, etc.?

Of course we would say "Yes!" But I may be speaking to some who are building their homes all by themselves. This message is for you!

127:1

In every area of our lives (EX: the building of a church, the building of a business, etc.), especially in our domestic relationships we <u>depend</u> on God.

Jesus said: "Without me, ye can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5)

Contrast the builders of Babel with Solomon's success in building the Temple.

When God's face is against us, nothing we do will succeed for eternity.

SEE: Psalm 118:6-9 *<u>v. 6</u>

The word "vain" is a key note, ringing out 3 times in two verses.

"They labor in vain" - their work is futile, unsuccessful. Physical construction is very simple compared to family construction. Relationships are touchy, fragile, and must be "handled with prayer."

As the old hymn writer put it: "All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down."

Everything that constitutes a home must be entrusted into the hand of God.

--the <u>character development</u> of our children
--the <u>employment</u> to provide for our family
--the <u>education</u> of our children

etc.
"Note that the psalmist does not bid the builder to cease from laboring, nor suggest that watchmen should neglect their duty . . . (rather) he forbids their fixing their trust in what thye have done, and assures them that all creature effort will be in vain unless the Creator puts forth His power" (Spurgeon, p. 84).

***<u>God must be the Architect and Builder of your home</u>** (or else your labors are vain)!

I. Realize the **ABSOLUTE NECESSITY** for God to build your home (Psalm 127)

A. The blessing of SECURITY only comes from God (v. 1b)

If God is not protecting a city, all of their guards, military expertise, and equipment is useless!

Ultimately any security we have is in God!

B. The blessing of PROSPERITY only comes from God (v. 2a)

C. The blessing of REST only comes from God (v. 2b)

The illustration is of a man who gets up before dawn, works all day, and into the night toiling to provide enough food and make ends meet, yet he does so without God's blessing on his life.

When God works in our lives we have all the time we need to work and then God also gives us enough time to sleep.

When you study the life of Jesus, you never find a man who was flustered, spinning His wheels, to no purpose, nor running around like we do so many times, like chickens with out heads cut off.

Rather, you see Him systematically and methodically and consistently fulfilling all the will of the Father, yet He had time to invest in others, time to teach, talk, pray, etc.

If pastors relied on God more, and prayed more and spent more time at the feet of Jesus, our productivity would multiply!

D. The blessing of CHILDREN only comes from God (v. 3-5)

V. 3
"Children are an heritage of the Lord" - Children are an inheritance from the Lord.

We inherit our children from God. They are a treasure, a blessing, a gift, from God.

God opens the womb. He constructs the body parts of a child (Psalm 139)

He . . . "maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD." (Psalm 113:9)

Jacob said regarding his children, "The children which God hath graciously given thy servant." (Gen. 33:5)

"Our best possessions (in this life) are our own dear offspring."

ILLUS: How on Dec. 26 at 1:30 a.m. while holding Stephen in my arms, I praise God for him and told the nurse that the Bible says that "Children are an inheritance from the Lord." To which she said, "Yes, but also a little help from Mother Nature." People are so quick to rob God of His glory. (Note: God created the natural reproductive elements and caused them to work)

A reward not based on our merit but on God's grace!

Just as arrows defend, help, and provide a sense of security to the archer, so children--if they are obedient and respectful--will stand by their parents, assist them, and event take care of them when the parents are old and needy.

A man of war is glad of weapons which may fly where he cannot; good sons are their father's arrows. Speeding to hit the mark which they themselves aimed at but missed (Spurgeon, p. 85).

"They shall speak . . . in the gate" - Fathers of large families had more prestige (influence) in community affairs, which were conducted at the city gate (the place where public business was conducted).

If God's blessing is not on a home, the house may be build up; "but instead of being the house of God, it will be the synagogue of Satan" (Spurgeon, p. 87).

If God is for you, who can be against you? (Rom. 8:31)
The reverse of that is also true. If God is against you, who can be for you?

II. Fulfill the <u>VITAL PREREQUISITES</u> in order for God to build your home (Psalm

128:1)

"Blessed" = happy - domestic happiness is in view.

Who does God bless?

1) Those who <u>fear</u> Him
2) Those who <u>obey</u> Him
(a fear of God always results in obedience.
You can measure your respect for God by your obedience to Him)

A. A <u>FEAR</u> of God

Christians should not fear:

1. Man (Prov. 29:25)
Fear hinders believers from speaking about Christ
(Jn. 7:13).
Fear has been the cause for "secret" believers (Jn. 19:38).

2. Physical circumstances (Mt. 8:26)

3. Death (Heb. 2:14-15)

Christians should fear <u>God</u> -

The fear of the Lord is "<u>clean</u>" (Ps. 119:9)

1. A fear of <u>respect</u>
Ps. 112:1; Mal. 1:6; Luke 12:4-5; I Pet. 2:7; Rev. 14:7

2. A fear of <u>displeasing Him</u>
II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 6:5; Phil. 2:12; I Pet. 1:17

One of the biggest problems (even among some Christians today) is a lack of a fear of God.
Verses from Proverbs on *"the fear of the Lord"*: Prov. 1:7, 3:7, 8:13, 9:10, 14:16, 15:16, 16:6, 23:17.

"Fear God" (1 Peter 2:17) - we must continually live in reverence for God (*"holy and reverend is His name"* - Ps. 111:9).

Stand in awe of God! (Ps. 33:8 - *"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.")*

The highest authority (God) deserves the highest respect.

Heb. 12:28-29

Rev. 14:7
Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Having a "fear of God" is to fear disobeying Him and to fear displeasing Him.

All of Life's responsibilities can be reduced to a simple axiom:
"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God**, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man." Eccles. 12:13

> The FEAR of the LORD is a Profound Respect for Who God is and What He can do to you.

**** God is WORTHY OF RESPECT!***

A New Testament Fear Factor:
*Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and **walking in the fear of the Lord**, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied. Acts 9:31*

Do you respect God enough to take His Word (with its warnings) seriously? Do you "tremble at His Word" or treat it lightly?

Who is the one who refuses to listen to God?

A person who does not reverently listen to God is one who:

1) Views His imperatives (N.T. commands) as options rather than obligations

2) Hears but doesn't heed

3) Knows the truth but doesn't practice the truth

4) Has answers for everyone else, but doesn't apply the truth to his own heart

5) Mentally drifts during a preaching service, or slumbers during private devotions

6) Treats lightly the message His preacher or teacher gives (jokes around; whispers under his breath to his/her friends, etc.)

***"Reverence" -** to have a deep respect for God*

***"Godly fear" -** to be in awe of God*

EX: Song: "Our God is an Awesome God"

"There is a big difference between the flame of a candle and the roaring blast of a forest fire. We cannot even stand near a consuming, raging fire. Even with sophisticated fire-

fighting equipment, a consuming fire is often beyond human control. God is not within our control either. . . He cannot be contained (by man)." (Life Applic. Bible)

His fire will one day try (test) our works (service we rendered for Him)
SEE: I Cor. 3:10-15; II Cor. 5:10-11a

Wisdom from <u>Proverbs</u> about the FEAR of the LORD

A. When you FEAR the LORD… You <u>GAIN WISDOM</u>
Proverbs 9:10
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Why?
*One who fears God **Listens** Intently to His Word and thereby gains wisdom for <u>Learning</u> (Prov.1:7; 2:5)*

Proverbs 1:7
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:5
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

*One who fears God **Obeys** His Word and thereby gains wisdom for <u>Living</u>*
Psalm 111:10
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever.

***B. When you Fear the LORD…You <u>HATE SIN</u>** (Prov.8:13; 16:6)*

Proverbs 8:13
The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 16:6
By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

C. When you Fear the LORD…You <u>EXPERIENCE BLESSING</u>

Proverbs 10:27
The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 14:26

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Proverbs 14:27
The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:23
The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 22:4
By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.

Eccles. 8:12
Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

D. When you FEAR the LORD…You <u>WALK HUMBLY</u>

Matthew 10:28
And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

1. *Such humility leads to **Salvation** for the lost*

   "Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear, as grace my fears relieved" (John Newton in <u>Amazing Grace</u>)

   No one flees from the wrath to come and into the arms of Jesus Christ who does not first have a fear of God. (cp. Matthew 3:7)

2. *Such humility leads to **Sanctification** for the saved.*

   Note: When you respect God you will also respect the authorities that God has placed over you

   - *<u>Government officials</u> Rom. 13:1ff; Prov. 24:21*
   - *<u>Your parents</u> Lev. 19:3; Mt. 15:4*
   - *<u>Your husband</u> Eph. 5:33; I Pet. 3:6*

   Note: When you respect God you will also fear that which God warns us about

   - *<u>Sin</u>:*

   a. Fear what sin can do to your life (Acts 5:5, 11; Prov. 3:7)
   b. Fear what sin can do to others (Jude 23)

   - *<u>Judgment</u>:*

   II Cor. 5:10, 11; Heb. 10:30, 31

The Second Vital Prerequisite in order for God to build you home is…

B. <u>OBEDIENCE</u> to God

The Lord does not build the home of the disobedient. To the degree that you follow His principles for family relationships, you are blessed! An

unloving husband, an insubordinate wife, unruly children, are symptoms of a home that God is not building.

III. Experience the ABUNDANT BLESSINGS of God building your home (Psalm 128:2-6)

A. A GOOD life (v. 2)

Futility or vanity would be to labor and not benefit, to work and not enjoy the fruits of it. To sweat and toil -- work 2 jobs, etc.--and not prosper.

The wicked, says Solomon in Proverbs, works to lay up treasure, but does not enjoy it as it is left for others upon the death of the wicked.

B. A FRUITFUL life (v. 3-5)

"Fruitful vine" = a fruit vine yields fruit, refreshes, nourishes, etc. So is the wife of a blessed man.

"By the sides of your house" - lit. on the insides of your house.

Rather than merely having a wife that merely does a good job for her employer outside of the home, a man who fears and obeys God will have a wife who excels in his house.

The opposite of this woman is the loud, stubborn woman of Proverbs 7:11,. whose "feet abide not in her house"

"Olive plants" - olives were a most important and useful staple in Bible days. They would use every part of an olive plant from its wood, of its oil, from its seed to its leaves.

When you realize the value of olive plants to the ancient Hebrew, you begin to realize the worth (value) of children he is comparing the tree with.

To reemphasize verse 1 and to show that good families just don't happen, they are the result of a Godly father.

C. A LONG life (v. 6)