

**Sermon Title:** Unless the Lord Builds

**Sermon Series:** Gospel Directed Worship

**Scripture:** Psalm 127

**Speaker:** Pastor Jay Richmond



How are you at building?

Is it possible to live your entire life working hard and doing a lot of good things, and yet in the end to find that your effort was “in vain”?

### **Psalm 127:1-5 ESV**

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. 5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

What does “in vain” mean?

Do you ever live your life in defiance of God?

What is the outcome (fruit) of the \_\_\_\_\_ life?

What is the outcome (fruit) of the \_\_\_\_\_ life?

*“For we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease God turns us into helpless sacks of sand once a day. How humiliating to the self-made corporate executive that he has to give up all control and become as limp as a suckling infant every day.”*

—John Piper

Sleep facts!

- God made sleep.
- Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God.
- Sleep is a reminder that we should not be anxious but should rest in him.

**How do we come to this \_\_\_\_\_ trust in God?**

**Complete surrender!**

**Open in Prayer**

1. What were your favorite building blocks to play with as a child?
2. How are you at building?
3. Is it possible to live your entire life working hard and doing a lot of good things, and yet in the end to find that your effort in “in vain?”
4. Read Psalm 127. What does “in vain” mean?

***Psalm 127 ESV***

*1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. 5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

5. Do you ever live your life in defiance of God?
6. What is the outcome (fruit) of the self-dependent life?
7. What is the outcome (fruit) of the God-dependent life?
8. How do we come to a complete trust in God?

**Close in Prayer**