

## Unless the Lord builds the house...

### Psalm 127 NIV

1 Unless the LORD builds the house,  
it's builders labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,  
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

### The Message

1-2 If God doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks.  
If God doesn't guard the city,  
the night watchman might as well nap.  
It's useless to rise early and go to bed late,  
and work your worried fingers to the bone.  
Don't you know he enjoys  
giving rest to those he loves?

Psalm 127 is titled A Song of Ascents of Solomon. Most believe Solomon to be the author, yet it is possible that the psalm was composed by David for Solomon.

A Psalm of Ascent was written for the Jewish people to recite as they made their way on Pilgrimage up to Jerusalem to attend annual festivals in the Temple.

The Psalmist says:

### **Vs. 1**

Unless the LORD builds the house,  
it's builders labor in vain.

Solomon understood that the work of man had its place, but it was of little use without the work and blessing of God. Without God's work and blessing, **they labor in vain who build it.**

Have you ever worked so hard on something only to find out you did it wrong or that it was lost or wasted.

**Story:** Writing an Exegesis in Bible College...

The Lord helped me finish that paper...  
The Lord helps us, when we ask...

## **God is a Builder**

From the Beginning of Creation  
To the Rise of the Nation of Israel  
To His Church after the Resurrection  
Even today; God is building

### **1. A Builder has a Plan**

#### **Acts 9**

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **3** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**"

**5** "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,**" he replied. **6** "**Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.**"

Paul Tells of this account to King Agrippa:

## Acts 26

**13** About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.

**14** We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

**15** “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. **16** ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. **17** I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them **18** to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

The Lord said to Paul - I have appeared to you to appoint you

- God had a plan for Paul’s life.
- That doesn’t mean that God made Paul do what he wanted...
- Paul had an encounter with Jesus the one who he rejected...
- Now Paul has the opportunity to be a part of God’s Plan...
  
- Where there is a plan there is a purpose...
- On this Graduation Recognition Sunday I want to encourage someone... God is a master builder and he has a plan for your life...
- In a day when most people only want God to bless their ideas, can I encourage you to ask the question: God what is your idea for my life?
  
- His Plans is Bigger than ours...
- His Plans is Better than ours...
- His Plan is Supernatural...
- His Plan is divinely orchestrated...

I want to share with someone here today:

- I felt the Holy Spirit stir me last night to encourage someone...
- Perhaps this is for you:
  
- The Lord would say to you: You pray and you pray and you wonder God will there be a shift... You might have said to the Lord, God nothing is happening...
- I feel the Lord would say to you, at the proper time and in due season there will be a shift...
- You will witness with your own eyes the maturing of things as those prayers were like seeds sown in the ground...
- The Lord would say to you: Pray and pray and pray again...
- Those requests to God will germinate and sprout and grow; Your heart will be filled with joy when you see the hand of the Lord and you will know the Lord hears your prayers...
  
- There often times can be a season of difficulty, wondering and enduring that precedes but will be followed by a season where you will witness with your own eyes the goodness of the Lord...
- The Lord looks for faithfulness...
- He sees and takes note...
- So be diligent in prayer...
- Remain steadfast in your faith...
- Things will shift by the working of the Holy Spirit...
- God's plan will take you past your own ability...

*“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.”*

### **Zechariah 4:6**

God, is a Visionary:

“A Visionary is a person who sees potential when others can't imagine it.”

- We try to see the end from the beginning...
- God sees the beginning from the end...

- He is already at the finish line and he cheers you on from their...

## 2. A Good Builder knows what he's doing

- **Have you ever noticed with Construction; things always get worse before they get better...**
- **There are times when it's overwhelming...**
- **There can be moments of doubt, when you question the design...**
- **Even times you might think it would be better to just go back to the way it was...**
- **This is where it takes FAITH...**

### **Proverbs 3:5,6** NKJV

**5**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;

**6**

In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.

- Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding...
- This is not always easy but liberating to know, God knows what he's doing...

### **Isaiah 55:8,9**

**8**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the Lord.

9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Builder knows what He’s doing...

### **Hebrews 13:5**

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**”

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. **9** But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**”

### **In God’s Plan for your life:**

- Trust in the Lord
- He promised He will never leave you
- His Grace is Sufficient for you, His power is made perfect in your weakness.

### **3. A Good Builder finishes what he starts**

Finishing is everything...

“No one remembers how you start, they remember how you finish”

Nothing great comes from something that isn’t finished...

God intends to finish everything he starts...

Dangers of the half way:

Half cooked egg  
Half baked cake  
Half run race  
Half spoken sentence  
Half built home  
Half finished job  
Half lived life for Jesus

God doesn't leave us at the Half way point...  
He finishes what he starts and he will finish what he has started in  
you...

### **Philippians 1**

**6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will  
carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### **Closing Song**

### **Psalm 127 NIV**

**1** Unless the LORD builds the house,  
it's builders labor in vain.  
Unless the LORD watches over the city,  
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

God is the greatest Architect and Engineer.  
He knows what the future holds  
He knows what's needed for the construction

- 1. The Lord has a Plan**
- 2. The Lord knows what He's doing**
- 3. The Lord finishes what He starts**