

**A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP
SONGS OF ASCENT
UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE - BUILDING**

Text: Psalm 127

Key Word: Building

Key Thought: The Lord Needs to Be the Main One Included in what we Build from the Beginning to the End.

There is the man-part and the God-part in every opportunity in which we build. To forsake this truth is to be led into a time of **disappointment** and **discouragement** and often **defeat**. We must learn to follow God's leading. Too many people make their own **decisions** and then **demand** God to bless them. It will take a consistent watchfulness in this area.

"Trust in God, and keep your powder dry"

Thoams Cromwell
Former Secretary of State of the Kingdom of England

*** A man was showing off his well-kept garden to his minister, who not wanting the man to become too proud, remarked:
"It's certainly impressive. You and the Lord have done a fine job together."
To which the man replied, *"Yes ... but you should have seen it when the Lord was doing it alone."* ***

Man has continued to forsake to acknowledge the Lord's blessing in what is accomplished. The problem goes all the way back to the book of Genesis. Here we have unfolding a building project that was solely the work of man.

"The unexcelled organization and enormous energy that were concentrated in building the Tower of Babel resulted in such a shattered community and garbled communication that civilization is still trying to recover."

Eugene Peterson
"A Long Obedience"
p.101

One of the easiest things to get Christians involved into is a building project. Yet when the time is right, God can and does perform miracles. I believe we should search our hearts well before we check our pocket books. We must understand our motive for building. Is it God-directed or man-generated?

This Psalm does not tell us to keep away from building projects. It simply states that God must be fully involved for success to be established. It is not how well we start but rather how well we end. Solomon is a case in point. Psalm 127 proclaims both the blessings and curses of entering into a time of building.

This Psalm is ascribed to Solomon. No other king in Israel's reign was involved in such massive undertakings of building. He built the famous Solomon's Temple; Palace and gardens (One of the 7 wonders of the world). He also had more wives and children than anyone in Biblical history. His fortunes were the largest and his empire the most respected. Yet it all fell away because he forsook the Lord who had blessed him.

What Can We Learn from this Psalm When We Are Considering Building Anything for God?

I. FRUITLESS EFFORTS (Psalm 127:1,2)

II. LIVING ASSETS (Psalm 127:3-5)

I. FRUITLESS EFFORTS (Psalm 127:1,2)

This Psalm is NOT seeking to discourage us from attempting the impossible. On the other hand it is also NOT endorsing laziness.

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

7. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you,

8. nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

9. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.

10. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.'

11. We hear some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

12. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat."

II Thessalonians 3:6-12

I. FRUITLESS EFFORTS (Psalm 127:1,2) (Contd.)

"And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle."

I Thessalonians 5:14

There is plenty of good found in an honest day's wage for an honest day's work. The Lord though must be the superintendent of our efforts. Once He speaks we need to respond. Either we become involved in the Lord's doing or we will face an inevitable fruitlessness. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, can it be that He disregards the efforts of our hands?

"How much happier might we be if we would but trust the Lord's house to the Lord of the house!"

C.H. Spurgeon
"Spurgeon's Treasury of David"
Vol VII p.30

May it not be said of God's Church that,

"Once everything is said and done, that much is said and little is done."

Dove from Above

** A preacher who loved to make his sermons dramatic, noticed that his church had a trap door in the ceiling above the choir, and he became determined to make use of it.

He planned a sermon on the subject of the Holy Spirit, borrowed a trained dove from a local magician, and arranged that a small boy would be up in the loft to open the trap door and set the dove flying into the church on cue during the middle of his sermon.

The boy's cue was to be the minister saying: *"Behold! The Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove!"*

Everything was in place when the minister began his sermon. He came to the appropriate place in his sermon and called out loudly: *"Behold! The Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove!"*

Nothing happened. Looking up, he called out again, even louder: *"Behold! the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove!"*

Silence prevailed.

He tried once more calling out with great exuberance.

"Behold! the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove! THE DOVE! NOW!"

(Contd.)

I. FRUITLESS EFFORTS (Psalm 127:1,2) (Contd.)

** The trap door opened and a mess of bloody feathers came hurling down, hit the organist, bounced off the pulpit, and went rolling into the congregation.

The pastor looked up and saw the small face of the boy peering down whispering,

"PSST! Sorry, Pastor! A cat ate the bird."

**

Dr. Douglas Mantz
"Let There be Laughter"
p. 10

Solomon made it very clear that unless the Lord is involved in our building projects or watching over our city that our efforts are in vain. Yet when He is involved we can rest while God is working on our behalf.

Jesus rested in the boat as it was being tossed to and fro by the winds and the waves because He knew that His labour was not in vain. **Peter was at rest** in Herod's prison until the angel of the Lord delivered him. It was while **Abraham** was in a deep sleep that God confirmed His covenant with the patriarch (Genesis 15). It was also while **Adam** was in a deep sleep that God formed Eve to become the mother of all the living. It was while **Jesus was in the grave** that God birthed the Church of the Living Christ.

II. LIVING ASSETS (Psalm 127:3-5)

When we take time to seriously consider it, we have little to do with giving birth to our children. Our part is essentially completed at the time of conception. It is God who forms us in the womb of our parents.

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart; I appointed
you as a prophet to the nations."*

Jeremiah 1:5

*"My frame was not hidden from you when I was
made in the secret place. When I was woven
together in the depths of the earth,
16. your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days
ordained for me were written in your book before
one of them came to be."*

Psalms 139:15,16

II. LIVING ASSETS (Psalm 127:3-5) (Contd.)

Hopefully, we can get a true understanding of just how much the Lord is involved with any of our "Building Projects" by the illustration of birthing a child.

God rewards those who are faithful with a heritage of children. One of the signs of God's blessings is a heritage of offspring in which to pass on to our children.

"So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions."

Joshua 11:23

The land was allotted according to the census of each tribe (Numbers 26:52). A man with many children was given a defence team in times of trouble. The family is the greatest living asset we have.

"Nowadays you'll find almost everything in the average American home . . . except the family."

*"The World's Greatest
Collection Of Clean Jokes"
p. 104*

Perhaps the American family is so weak today because our quivers are no longer full. We are told that children are a burden. Families in the 3rd and 4th world countries understand this principle better than we do. We have placed ourselves in a predicament that we MUST increase our immigration while we continue to abort our babies and are seriously setting a law in place to kill our seniors. These are our Living Assets

The "**gate**" was the place of access to every walled city. It was also the place that the city elders held their open court to make the right decisions on behalf of the people (Deuteronomy 21:19; 22:15,24).

We need to build in God's timing and with His plan. God will begin to stir our hearts to prepare for the changes we will experience. We do not want to build a work of vanity. **He must be given the right to guide and protect the work that will be used to bring glory to His name.** Lets keep a close ear to the voice of our God so we do not miss our opportunity as we travel on our pilgrimage of faith.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2016\Psalms\Ascent\Psalms 127.wpd

Date: June 5/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: The Lord is Building Jerusalem - Dm

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II. LIVING ASSETS (Psalm 127:3-5) - *Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:15,16; Joshua 11:23
Numbers 26:52; Deuteronomy 21:19; 22:15,24*