

When You Face the Pressures of Life

Psalm 127

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Take-Home Truth: The way to open our lives to God's provision and find peace in the midst of life's pressure is to surrender ultimate control for the success of every venture to Him.

Observation #1: WHEN GOD IS LEFT OUT OF ANY ENDEAVOR, HUMAN ACTIVITY IS NOT ENOUGH.

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. ²It 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.

Psalm 127:1-2 (English Standard Version)

Lazy hands make a man poor; but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 10:4 (New International Version)

The blessing of the LORD brings wealth and he adds no trouble to it.

Proverbs 10:22 (NIV)

Three Examples of the Principle

- Family Life (Our part: Deuteronomy 6:2-7; Proverbs 22:6; 15; 24:3; Ephesians 6:4)
- Security of a city or nation (Our part: Proverbs 20:18; 24:11; Genesis 41:46-49)
- Work (Our part: Ephesians 6:5-8; Proverbs 10:4; 14:8; 16:3; 21:5; 23:4)

Observation #2: EVEN THE BIRTH OF A CHILD IS A GIFT FROM GOD AND NOT SOMETHING WE CONTROL.

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵Blessed 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.
Psalm 127:3-5 (ESV)

APPLICATION: In what areas of your life do you need to give up control to God? You might recognize these areas by evaluating where in life you feel anxious, pressured, or frustrated.