

We Need God's Help *Psalm 127:1-5*

INTRO:

Psalm 127 is one of a special collection of Psalms known as the “*Songs of Assents*” or “*Songs of Degrees*.” These are probably songs sung as the pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem for the three great feasts, the feast of unleavened bread (Passover), the feast of trumpets, and the feast of booths.

As such, this Psalm has a very Jewish meaning. The Psalmist is not really commenting on the importance of work as much as how God must work with us and in us to accomplish His work. We the people of God sometimes think that we can do everything all by ourselves. Solomon’s point is unless God is in the process nothing of importance can be accomplished.

I. God's Part in the Large Things (v. 1-2)

II. God's Part in the Family (v. 3-5)

I. God's Part in the Large Things (v. 1-2)

A. ***“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.”*** Psalm 127:1-2.

Solomon tells us first in this short song, that we can accomplish nothing significant apart from God.

1. If we are involved in constructing a structure, a house, all effort is useless without God working with us. The structure here could very well be an allusion to the Temple. If Solomon did write this **Psalm** it is very likely it was his own building of a House for God that He is thinking about here.

2. Not only must God be involved in building temples or other major projects. If the City is to be adequately guarded, probably the City of Jerusalem is in his mind, God has to be involved in guarding it. Yes, we do all that we can to do the job, but God Himself has to help us or we will fail horribly.

B. God’s people often fall into this trap. In **John 15** as the Lord Jesus taught the disciples on the road to Gethsemane, He talked about the vine and the branches. He said, ***“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*** (John 15:4–5).

1. Our ability to do things for the Lord are not of ourselves alone. We must work together with the Lord Jesus Christ to accomplish these things in our lives.

2. The other side of this concept is a verse that Paul wrote in **Philippians 4:13**. There he wrote: ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”***

C. If we try to just do it ourselves, we will find ourselves described in verse three. We will work hard and really not accomplish anything. Peter always comes to mind here. In **John 21**, Peter and his fellow disciples were waiting for the resurrected Jesus to show up in Galilee. Peter could wait no longer and he headed down the mountain to the sea to start fishing. He thought he really knew how to fish. They fished all night and caught nothing. Without Christ, even Peter could not fish! Are we seeking to know what God wants us to do and seeking to do it with all of our strength?

II. God's Part in the Family (v. 3-5)

A. Not only are we not able to build houses or protect cities without God, we cannot even have and raise children without God's ever-present help.

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.” (Psalm 127:3)

1. Children are God's gift to parents. We often think that having children is a natural thing, and God is not involved. In fact, Solomon reminds us that we have families because God has blessed us with children.

2. The phrase “heritage of the LORD, is often used of the Promise Land given to Israel. We cannot have a family without God's help.

B. Children were many things in the Old Testament economy. Solomon reminded us of their importance in v4.

“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.”

1. As arrows were tools for accomplishing the work of warrior and completing him. So, also are children useful to accomplishing the goals of the family and helping in the work of the family.

2. Quite often children followed their fathers in his trade. They became a part of the family business if it was farming, or carpentry, or whatever else the parent did to make a living.

C. Finally, Solomon reminds us also that our influence was established by our children.

“Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.”

The children grow up to become their family's advocate in the important place of commerce and decisions of policy which affect everyone. This is Solomon's way of saying God helps us in the future through the children He has given us.

Do we recognize how helpless we are without God with us? We live in a day when James advice in **James 4:13-15** falls on deaf ears.

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’”

James did not tell us not to plan. He did tell us not to plan without allowing for God's input.

Is the Lord Jesus Christ our personal savior? We cannot have God in our lives, if we have not first asked the Lord Jesus to save us from our sin.