

The Biblical Blueprint for the Home # 2
The Fortress within the Home
Psalm 127: 1-5

In our last study we discussed the foundation of the home. Anyone with experience in building a house is aware of the importance of the foundation. Without a solid foundation, the integrity of the entire structure is compromised. The same is true when seeking to build a home on biblical principles. We must ensure we are starting from a firm foundation. Jesus warned of building upon the sand. He confirmed that rock would provide the stability desired.

Once the foundation is established, work can begin on the structure. This also requires wisdom and devotion. Prior to any structure being started, a set of plans is necessary. The plans or “blueprint” will lay out the design of the structure and ensure everything is located in its proper position, complementing the rest of the structure.

If we desire to build a spiritual home, we must follow the same principles. Once the home is complete and established, it provides a fortress for the entire family. We all are forced to live among the world and encounter much that is contrary to our faith. The home provides that place of safety, comfort, and rest from the struggles of life. I want to discuss a couple [elements](#) of a spiritual home as we consider: [The Fortress within the Home](#).

I. The Potential in the Home (1-2) – This psalm is attributed to Solomon. As you read the writings of Solomon, especially in Ecclesiastes, you discover he speaks much of vanity. Here he speaks of the vanity of a home built apart from God. However, as we consider the vanity of which he speaks, we also see the potential in building a home according to God’s plan. Consider:

A. The Construction (1a) – [Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:](#) Solomon declares the vanity, the vain attempt to build a house within ourselves. He declares that unless the LORD builds it, the effort is all in vain, and the house will not stand. Many today have not heeded this foundational principle. They seek to build their lives and homes apart from the Lord, pursuing their own wishes and desires. Many have not consulted the Lord regarding any of their decisions, and when trouble comes, they wonder why their lives are such a mess. If God isn’t consulted and allowed to build our lives according to His will, our labor will end in vanity.

- However, as we look at this we discover hope and potential for the home. Solomon says – [except the LORD build the house...](#) We find the possibility of God being involved in the building process. In fact, He desires to be involved in every facet of our lives, not excluding the building of our homes. If a lack of God’s involvement results in a vain effort, one can rightly assume His involvement would result in successful construction of the home. If you want a prosperous and godly home, allow God to be the Master builder. Build your home according to His design!

B. The Protection (1b) – *except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.* Here Solomon speaks in larger terms, dealing with the entire city, but the principle remains the same regardless of the size of the structure or number of people involved. He reveals that those who seek to defend their lives within their own means and abilities watch and labor in vain. The city could post as many watchman as they desired, but their keeping watch would not ensure the safety and survival of the city. God would have to cover the city with His presence and protection if they were to survive the attacks of the enemy.

- This principle applies to the home as well. Often parents and families give little thought to the Lord. They live their lives as they please, assuming their prosperity and achievements have all been accomplished through their efforts. They assume their marriages remain strong because of their love and devotion. They believe their health is the result of proper diet and exercise. They take the credit for their children's obedience and success. However, this is all a façade. In fact, if our families enjoy anything of value, it is because God has covered us with His good grace. Granted we all have responsibilities to meet if the home is to enjoy harmony and prosperity, but ultimately our blessing and security within the home is from the Lord.

- Also, I do believe our homes are our fortress within the world. It is that one place we can go and be welcomed, loved, supported, and encouraged. If a home is as it should be, it is a place that fosters growth and love. However, if God is not allowed His rightful place within the home, even the safety and tranquility of the home can be damaged and ruined by sin. I have known many that once enjoyed an encouraging fortress, but it came crashing down due to sin. If God isn't protecting the home with His grace, the fortress will be overcome by the enemy!

C. The Satisfaction (2) – *It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.* Solomon reveals the vanity of human effort and worry within the home. Some assume all that is required for a home to prosper is old fashioned hard work and sweat. Granted these do contribute, but we can work our fingers to the bone, seven days a week, and still not find genuine satisfaction. In fact, apart from the Lord there is no peace and satisfaction. Often when God is not present within the home, accomplishment is not enjoyed. It usually generates greed and a desire for more. When we are not trusting the Lord to meet our needs and provide for our lives, we depend upon ourselves. Such dependence creates dread and worry. Solomon declares those who seek to build a home apart from God are never satisfied.

- Did you notice the alternative Solomon mentioned? While those striving to obtain their desires apart from God face long, worrisome days and sleepless nights, those who have allowed the Lord to build their homes, enjoy sleep and comfort from above. Solomon didn't say their lives were void of the same struggles others face, but that God gave them rest. They have learned to trust the Lord and be content with His provision! The Lord offers satisfaction the world cannot give. Peace is not obtained through personal effort and material wealth. It is provided by the Lord.

Phil.4:11 – Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

II. The Prosperity of the Home (3-5) – Here Solomon addresses the prosperity found within the home God has built. Notice:

A. The Provision (3) – *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* Solomon speaks of the great blessing of children within the home. He affirms they are a gift from God, a heritage of the LORD. One cannot deny the miracle of conception and birth. We can't explain how it all transpires, but God creates a child within the womb of the mother. Each child born into this world is the result of God's miraculous work. *Psalm 139:13-14 – For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. [14] I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.* Those who are blessed with children have received a gift from above!

- Sadly, many today do not recognize the miraculous provision of God in giving children. The promiscuous lifestyle of many, and their presumed right to choose, has reduced the value of children and the precious life they possess. Regardless of the opinion of many and the political correctness permeating our society, children are given of the Lord. Many will give account to God for the premature deaths of innocent children within the womb. He alone has the power and ability to create life, and He alone should be allowed to take that life. We are so consumed with the rights of women, that we have removed any rights for the unborn!
- I do not wish to cause grief or added pain to those who may be unable to have children of their own. That too is within God's hands and we must trust His wisdom. He is able to bless those who are unable to have children in other ways. Just because a couple is unable to have children is no sign that God is punishing sin or refusing to bless their home.

B. The Instruction (4) – *As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.* Solomon used a common illustration to communicate a profound truth. Along with the blessing of children comes the responsibility to raise them in the ways of God. A mighty man can use his arrows to accomplish great feats. However, he is very particular with his arrows. He seeks out those best suited for the task ahead. They need to be straight, strong, and well prepared prior to attaching them to the string of the bow. Time and effort are put into each arrow before it is ever released from the string toward the intended target.

- This reveals the care and effort necessary in raising children. We cannot expect our children to hit the mark if we are unwilling to spend time with them, instructing them and teaching them the ways of God. Children are a gift from above, but they come with responsibilities and obligations.
- Many are forced to practically raise themselves. Their parents may provide a roof over their heads, clothes to wear, and food to eat, but little personal interaction is present. Many do not spend time instructing their children or teaching them the ways of God. Many are left to seek the

wisdom they desperately need from among the world. They are expected to tend to themselves, occupying their time with video games, television, and the internet. When they don't turn out as the parents had hoped, they often want to blame others, rather than assuming any responsibility of their own. We cannot expect others to instill the wisdom, values, and principles our children need. Others can help with that effort, but it remains our responsibility! [Prov.22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.](#) [Eph.6:4 – And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.](#)

C. The Jubilation (5a) – [Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:](#) Solomon reveals the joy children bring to the home. He declares the man who has his quiver full, (some assume 5) is a happy man. Many within Scripture had more children, while others had less. I don't think a specific number is emphasized here, but the joy that children bring to the home, however many God has blessed the family with.

- I am certainly thankful for the children God has blessed our family with. They have brought great joy and satisfaction to my life. I know God has entrusted me with their care and instruction, and I am humbled to have such a gracious opportunity. I could not imagine my life without our girls! We are certainly blessed of the Lord, and I look forward to seeing their continued blessing.

D. The Assimilation (5b) – [they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.](#) Finally Solomon reveals the end result of children raised within a godly home and instructed in His wisdom. Children who embrace the ways of God and live their lives for Him will bring honor to their parents. Their parents will be able to speak publicly with joy and pride regarding their children. The principles instilled in the children are revealed in the lives they live.

- Now I realize some children stray from the teaching and admonition of godly parents. Some were raised in godly homes and still chose a path of sin, contrary to the teaching and wishes of their parents. I am not seeking to bring shame or hurt to anyone, but these principles must be sought and practiced. What hope would any of our children have for the future, if we failed to raise them according to the Word of God, within a home He has built? Some may stray, but I believe they will find their way home. If there is to be any hope of honor among our children, we must strive to establish a godly home and environment in which to raise them.

Conclusion: I pray you are trusting God to build a fortress for your family where His is allowed to rule and reign. We cannot expect our homes to be places of safety and love, or our children to serve the Lord, if our homes and lives are not built by Him. This is only possible through a personal relationship with Christ in salvation. You cannot have a home built by the Lord if you have never submitted to Him in salvation. If God has blessed you with children, you must point them to the Lord, praying for and seeking their salvation as well. Christ Jesus is our only hope in this life and throughout eternity.

Are you following the guidance of the Lord, allowing Him to build a home for your family? Have you trusted Him in salvation? If not I urge you to seek Him today! Are your children saved by His grace? If not, are you praying for them? Maybe you need to come and pray for your home, your children, or grandchildren. Whatever the need is, Jesus can provide!