

## **DON'T LABOR IN VAIN** **(Psalm 127:1-2)**

### **1. Invite God in and acknowledge His work.**

- a. In 1 Chronicles 17, it is recorded that David had the idea to build God a house.
  - i. He brought in Nathan, a prophet of God, and asked his advice.
  - ii. Nathan told him to do it and that God would be with him.
- b. However, God didn't want David to build Him a house, He wanted Solomon to do it.
  - i. God did allow David to prepare material for the house.
  - ii. 1 Chronicles 29:2 tells us that David prepared with all of his ability.
  - iii. David then prayed, which is recorded in verse 10-19, and he asked God to be a part of the work and acknowledged God's ownership of all that was going to be used.
- c. When Solomon was made king, he carried out the work of building the temple.
  - i. Notice 2 Chronicles 6:10 - Solomon acknowledged God fulfilling His promise to David.
  - ii. When the temple was being dedicated, Solomon prayed a beautiful prayer in which he asked God to be a part of their lives and work.
  - iii. 2 Chronicles 7:1 lets us know that God accepted the invitation.
- d. The most powerful Being there is will not force His way into your home.
  - i. Matthew 7:7-11 tells us of the God who is our Father.
  - ii. He wants to give us good gifts and to build our homes into secure and strong safe havens.
  - iii. However, He won't if He is not invited to do so.
  - iv. How many homes, no matter the number in them, have not received the blessing of security and strength because the Lord hasn't been invited into it?
- e. Once we invite Him in, we need to acknowledge the work He does.
  - i. Proverbs 3:6.
  - ii. Ephesians 3:20-21.
  - iii. If we have invited Him in, we must remember that God's hand is at work in our homes.
  - iv. David and Solomon both worked hard on the temple, but they both acknowledged the fact that of God's hand at work through His grace, mercy, and benevolence.
- f. If we want the Lord to build our homes, we must invite Him in and then acknowledge His presence in them.

### **2. Follow God's pattern.**

- a. When Moses built the tabernacle, he followed a pattern given by God.
  - i. We are told the pattern in Exodus 25-31.
  - ii. We are told it was built according to that pattern in Exodus 35-39.
  - iii. The Israelites followed the pattern step by step.
- b. When you read about the temple being built, there isn't that same extensive writing about a pattern.
  - i. However, that doesn't mean there wasn't one.
  - ii. If you're not paying attention, you can miss it and may have.

- iii. Notice 1 Chronicles 28:11-18.
- iv. David gave this pattern to Solomon.
- v. Did David just come up with this pattern on his own?
- vi. The answer is no - 1 Chronicles 28:19.
- c. The temple, like the tabernacle, had been designed by God.
  - i. David didn't come up with something and Solomon didn't have the freedom to modify that which his father gave him.
  - ii. It came from God and Solomon had to follow it.
- d. If the Lord was going to build and guard this house, Solomon had to follow the instructions.
  - i. Have you ever wondered if Solomon didn't like the fact that he was told to build a temple with a room in it in which he could never go?
  - ii. Solomon had to follow the plan whether he liked it or not.
- e. You and I, in order to allow God to build our homes, have to follow His plan.
- f. If you look at the world, you see so many homes where God's plan is not even considered, let alone followed.
  - i. Sadly, this happening in the church as well.
  - ii. God's plan has always started with each individual, whether married or not loving Him, which means obeying Him.
  - iii. When a man and a woman meet, God's plan is for two such people to meet and that is all, they then follow God's plan for marriage.
  - iv. They then, if blessed with children by God, rear them in the teachings of God (Ephesians 6:1-4).
  - v. The children obey their parents and then go out on their own to follow God's plans and meet someone else who is following God's plan and marry that person.
- g. We don't turn to man's ways when it comes to building a home (Jeremiah 10:23).
- h. Hopefully, in these first two points we see the foundation for a God-built home: prayer and study of God's word.
- i. Without connection to God through prayer and study, we are laboring in vain!

### **3. Have a mind to work and then work.**

- a. Psalm 127:1-2 teaches us that without God our work is in vain.
- b. All that is involved in a God-built home is not our prayer and study.
  - i. David and Solomon didn't believe that all they had to do was pray and read God's instructions.
  - ii. 1 Chronicles 29:2.
  - iii. 2 Chronicles 2-4 shows the labor that Solomon did on the temple.
  - iv. Yes, they realized that God had to be involved but they had to work.
- c. Someone once said, "Pray as if it all depends on God and work as if it all depends on you".
- d. This is very fitting for a God-built home.
- e. Later, when God's people return from captivity to rebuild Jerusalem, this was God's plan.
  - i. Nehemiah knew that God was involved (Nehemiah 2:8, 18a).
  - ii. Now notice the rest of verse 18.
  - iii. Now listen to Nehemiah 4:6.
  - iv. God was involved in every facet of the building, but the people had to

work.

f.If you and I want our homes to be God-built, then we have to pray and study and then put into practice that which we've studied.

i.We have to base our efforts on God's plan.

ii.We have to acknowledge His involvement.

iii.If we do that, God will accomplish more than we can think or ask (Ephesians 3:20-21).

#### **4.Don't get distracted.**

a.When you read the book of Ezra, which is about the return of God's people, you realize that the people had quit working on the temple.

b.Their first year back, they built the city walls back and the altar.

c.In the second year, they began the foundation of the temple.

i.Notice Ezra 4:4-5.

ii.They got hindered by their enemies and for 16 years there was no work done on the temple.

d.We can understand being kept from working because of enemies for a time, but not for 16 years: what had happened?

e.Notice Haggai 1:1-8.

i.The people had gotten used to an unfinished temple.

ii.They had begun working on their own homes and let God's home lay in pieces.

iii.They kept putting off the building of the temple until the Lord was angry with them and hindered them in their material laboring because they had let their spiritual work go undone.

f.How many times do we allow the physical work of life to get in the way of the spiritual work that must be done to maintain a God-built home?

i.We start working more hours to pay for things.

ii.We spend more time at the ballpark or on the lake or on trips.

iii.The truth is, when we do these things, though they may not be sinful in a vacuum, we allow them to crowd out the spiritual work that must be done in our homes.

g.We must remember and apply Colossians 3:2.

Not an original outline but do not know source.