

Focus passage: Psalm 127:1-2

ESV

1 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.
2 It 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.

MESSAGE

If God doesn't build the house,
the builders only build shacks.
If God doesn't guard the city,
the night watchman might as well nap.
It's useless to rise early and go to bed late,
and work your worried fingers to the bone.
Don't you know he enjoys
giving rest to those he loves?

What stands out to you from this passage?

Have you ever felt like no matter what you did, your plans wouldn't succeed? Conversely, have you ever stumbled into success in spite of your poor efforts?

Even those things that we think God would want us to do may fail if they are not what he wills. How can you seek to better know his will?

Verse 2 says that he gives sleep or rest to his beloved. Do you feel like you can let yourself rest? Do you keep yourself constantly busy? Why?

We are called to observe a Sabbath rest, which I think in part helps us to recognize that no matter hard we work, we still must rely on God. Do you keep a Sabbath?

*This isn't to say we aren't to work. **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13.** What do you think Paul's expectations of work were?*

*Our faith calls for us all to be disciples of Christ, and this means work. It is not work in order to be saved, but work of obedience and service in order to glorify God. **Read and discuss Ephesians 2:8-10,** paying special attention to verse 10.*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

