



**Distant
Husband,
Bitter Wife**

Giddy Newlyweds

**Absolute
Chaos**

**Hanging on
by a Thread**

**Making
Memories**

**TV &
More TV**

**Tired &
Hangry**

**Lots of
Love**

1
The
Frustrated
House

2
The
Blessed
House

3

The Difference

When the Lord Builds

'A Song of Ascents'

Psalms 127
and 128

'A Song of Ascents'

Psalms 127
and 128

**"Unless the Lord
builds the house, those
who build it labor in vain..."**

Psalm 127:1

'A Song of Ascents'

Psalms 127
and 128

**"Unless the Lord
builds the house, those
who build it labor in vain..."**

Psalm 127:1



1

The Frustrated House

A Vain Struggle?

Dusting is a good example of the futility of trying to put things right. As soon as you dust, the fact of your next dusting has already been established.

– George Carlin

“How many times do I have to tell you . . . ?”

“No! I JUST cleaned that!”

“We have to find a way to cut back our spending this month . . . again.”

“Honey, I love you, but we can’t keep having this same argument.”

“I just don’t know if I can do it anymore.”

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5
English Standard Version



“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.**”

John 15:5
English Standard Version



A large, light blue silhouette of a house with a chimney, centered in the background. The house has a simple, geometric design with a gabled roof and a single chimney on the right side.

Building a House

Psalm 127:1

The Elusive Ideal





2 The Blessed House

127:1 The CONDITION 128:1

127:2 The BLESSING 128:2



127:5



128:6

What is the Blessing?

- * **Fruitfulness** (128:2) and **peace** (127:2; 128:6)
- * **Mostly (in these Psalms) it is the simple gift of a thriving family** (127:3-5; 128:3)
- * **There is more to family than marriage & kids, and "God settles the solitary in a home"** (68:6)



God's Blessing:

FRUITFULNESS
& PEACE

God's Blessing:

FRUITFULNESS

Meaningful Accomplishment

The Opposite of Vanity | "Eat the Fruit" of Your Labor | Not Put to Shame

"Godly Offspring" (Mal. 2:15)

Arrows | Fruit | Heritage | Olive Shoots Around Table | Children's Children

Blessing in Your Marriage

Your Wife Like a Fruitful Vine

God's Blessing:

FRUITFULNESS & PEACE

Opposite of Anxious Toil | The Gift of Restful Sleep

SHALOM Be Upon You! | "It Shall Be Well With You"

Your Wife Will Be "Within Your House"

The Blessing that Began in a God-Fearing Man...

"You"
128:1-2

The Blessing that Began in a God-Fearing Man...

"You"

128:1-2

"Your" Family

128:3-4

The Blessing that Began in a God-Fearing Man... Changes the Family, which Blesses the World.

"You"

128:1-2

"Your" Family

128:3-4

The City and Nation

128:5-6

UNPRETENTIOUS, PROVIDENTIAL

BLESSINGS

DISGUISED AS

RESPONSIBILITIES

OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD WITH GOD

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

1 Corinthians 15:10

English Standard Version



But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, **I worked harder** than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10

English Standard Version



But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was **not I, but the grace of God that is with me.**

1 Corinthians 15:10

English Standard Version





③ The Difference

127:1 The CONDITION 128:1

**"...The Lord Builds
the House..."**

**"Fears the Lord...
Walks in His Ways"**

127:2 The BLESSING 128:2



127:5



128:6

...do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall **honor as holy**. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense...

Isaiah 8:12-14
English Standard Version



...do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense...

Isaiah 8:12-14
English Standard Version



...do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And **he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense...**

Isaiah 8:12-14
English Standard Version



...do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense...

...do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts...

1 Peter 3:14-15
New American Standard Bible

Isaiah 8:12-14
English Standard Version



Who is Lord of Your House?



127:1

128:1

Happy
Harmony
Holy

Order Determines Outcome

Putting Your House in Order
How do we manage it all?

**BEDTIME | OFFERING THANKS | VIDEO GAMES
PERSONAL GROWTH | DISCIPLINING CHILDREN
COMMUNITY SERVICE | HOMEWORK | BUDGET
VISITING SHUT-IN CHRISTIANS | EATING OUT
CHOIR PERFORMANCE | DEBT | SOCCER PRACTICE
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS | VACATIONS
FAMILY GAME NIGHT | INVITING NEIGHBORS
HOUSEHOLD CHORES | COACHING THE TEAM
OVERTIME | HOBBIES | DIAPERS | IN-LAWS | TV
SHOPPING | DATE NIGHT | MORNING COMMUTE
CAR TROUBLES | NEW BABY | STRESS | LAUGHTER
RETIREMENT | ROMANCE | MOURNING | HOLIDAY**

Putting Your House in Order
How do we manage it all?

We each have our hobbies,
preferences, and commitments
and we work it out from there.

(We build the house.)

Putting Your House in Order
How do we manage it all?

The calendar gets filled up,
the money gets spent,
and we survive another day.

**(Somehow, life just
builds the house.)**

Putting Your House in Order
How do we manage it all?

We habitually ask each other
how God's priorities, precepts,
and purposes for our family
should shape our next step.

The Lord builds the house.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5
English Standard Version



I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.**

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