

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat-- for he grants sleep to those he loves. Psalm 127:1-2 (NIV)

Unless

“Unless” is a very important word for you to hear and understand. Why is that? **If you don't hear and understand the word “unless” you could waste your entire life.** How could that be possible, it's such a small word? **Have you ever wasted a day running around racing to do something that wasn't all that important?** I've wasted a lot of days doing just that. **Have you ever evaluated your “to do” list and discovered that it had a bunch of meaningless tasks on it that won't add up to anything of real value?** I've noticed that far too often. **Have you ever made your own plans without asking me what I thought?** Yes, I've done that. **Have you ever relied solely on your own strength to accomplish your work?** I've done that as well. **Are you wondering how that little word “unless” relates to all my questions?** Yes, I am. **Are you still wondering how not understanding that little word “unless” could cause you to waste your life?** Yes, I am. But, I think I'm beginning to figure out where you have been headed. **Let me hear your thoughts. I will give you a little clue.** What's that? **Begin your thoughts with the word “unless”.** All right, I will. Unless, I take time to know your will, I will be spinning my wheels in life. Unless, I understand what you want me to do, I may waste my life working on what was of little value. I may think that I have or I am accomplishing a lot. But, one day I may look back only to realize that my life has accomplished next to nothing of lasting and eternal value. My own thoughts and plans and accomplishments will amount to nothing without you. Apart from you, I can do nothing that will bear fruit for all eternity. Unless, I rely on your power and strength to work in and through me, I will never be able to accomplish the work that you have given me to do. **No, you will not. You must rely on me.**

Do you have any more thoughts about this little word “unless”? Yes, I do. Unless, I rely on your power and strength I will work even harder because I will see how little I have accomplished in life. Unless, I rely on you to work in and through me I will get up early and stay up late working in vain. Unless, I know that I am bearing the fruit that you want me to bear, I will work myself weary and never get the sleep and rest you want to give to me. My life will have no rhythm or balance. **No, it will not and why is that?** It will be because I did not understand the value of the little word, “unless.” **That's right.** I want you to guard and guide and bring balance to my life. **I can see that.** So, I will not fail to understand hear and understand all that you are saying to me through this little word “unless.” I will let you work in and through me. I will do the work that you have given me to do. I will rely on your power and strength. I will allow you to guard and guide my life. I will allow you to bring balance into my life. I will slow down and accept the sleep and rest that you want to give to me. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I want to know and do the work you have given me to do for you. I want my life to bear fruit for you that will last for eternity. Guide me to do your work. Bless my efforts as I rely on you. Guard, protect and balance my life according to your will and plan. Amen

Promises *To Those He Loves*

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat--for he grants sleep to those he loves.

NIV Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *To His Loved Ones*

Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.

NLT Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *To His Beloved*

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

NRSV Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *His Beloved*

EXCEPT THE Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; except the Lord keeps the city, the watchman wakes but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to take rest late, to eat the bread of [anxious] toil—for He gives [blessings] to His beloved in sleep.

AMP Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *His Beloved*

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.

NASB Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *To His Beloved*

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. 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.

ESV Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *His Beloved*

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.

NKJV Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *To Those He Loves*

A pilgrim song of Solomon 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?

MSG Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *His Loved Ones*

Unless the Lord builds a house, the builders' work is useless. Unless the Lord protects a city, sentries do no good. It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants his loved ones to get their proper rest.

TLB Psalm 127:1-2

Promises *To Those He Loves*

A song for going up to worship. Of Solomon. If the LORD doesn't build the house, the builders are working for nothing. If the LORD doesn't guard the city, the guards are watching for nothing. It is no use for you to get up early and stay up late, working for a living. The LORD gives sleep to those he loves.

NCV Psalm 127:1-2

To Those He Loves

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Psalm 127:1-2

In Context: *Read Psalm 127*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Unless | the LORD builds | the house, | its builders | labor in vain. | Unless the LORD | watches over | the city, | the watchmen | stand guard | in vain. | In vain | you rise early | and | stay up late, | toiling for | food to eat |-- for | he grants sleep | to those | he loves. Psalm 127:1-2 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I want to know and do the work you have given me to do for you. I want my life to bear fruit for you that will last for eternity. Guide me to do your work. Bless my efforts as I rely on you. Guard, protect and balance my life according to your will and plan. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has the Lord helped you to know and do the work He has given you to do for Him?

How are you relying on the Lord to direct, guide and bless your work in this life?

What will you accomplish of eternal value without the Lord directing, guiding and blessing your work?

What do you hope to accomplish in the work that you have been given to do in this life?

How are you relying on the Lord to guard and protect your life from danger?

How are you balancing the priorities of your life beyond just the work you do?

How has the Lord helped you to maintain a healthy rhythm of work and rest?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Ask the Lord to help you to know and do the work that He wants you to do for Him in his life.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will direct, guide and bless the work that He wants you to do for Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how your work is bearing fruit that will last for all eternity.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you know and do the work that the Lord has given you to do for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will rely on you to direct, guide and bless the work that you have given me to do for you in this life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what work have you given me to do for you today?
