



ASCENT

Who's in Charge?

Dr. Jeff Bucknam | Psalm 127:1-2

1. Describe an occasion when you have had a plan go completely sideways. What did you feel when you became aware that things weren't going to go how you wanted them to? What did you do? How did it change your faith in God?

2. How do you know if the Lord is going to "build the house" or not? Does Psalm 127:1-2 give any commands for us to do in order to make it happen? What are the ways we try to get God to agree to our plans?

3. Why would someone read Psalm 127:1-2 and come to the conclusion that it is a waste of time to do hard work? How do hard work and God's providence interact?

4. When you read James 4:13-16, why is it "boastful arrogance" to plan in the way described there? What does it mean to plan while including an "if the Lord wills" sentiment?

5. Are we guilty of "boastful arrogance" if we try to blame people or their actions when our plans don't work out like we want? We are guilty of it when we plan apart from considering God's will, but are we also guilty when we look back on unfulfilled plans assuming God wasn't involved in them not being fulfilled? Why or why not?

6. How does Acts 16:6-10 illustrate how to live in light of God's providence? What do you think it means that the "Spirit of Jesus" stopped Paul and his companions from going where they had planned to go?

7. How does knowing God is in charge of outcomes make you feel? Why?
