

# SUMMER HITS

The Best of the Psalms



**What is success?**



# Psalm 127

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.

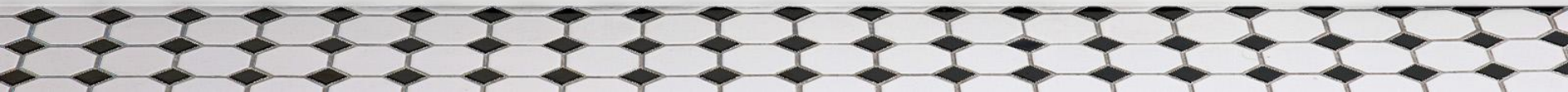
Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.



**Consider the Source:**  
*Solomon, King of Israel*

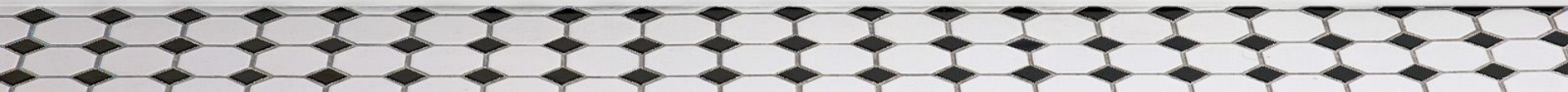


**VAIN:** useless, worthless, empty, deceiving



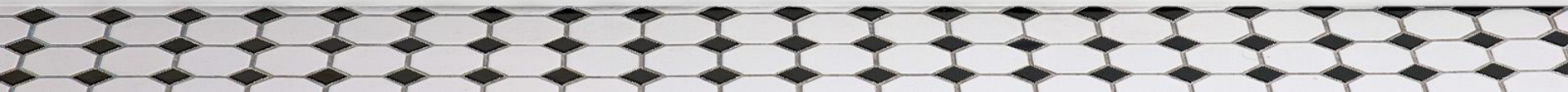
# Reality Check

Hard work, perseverance have their rewards...



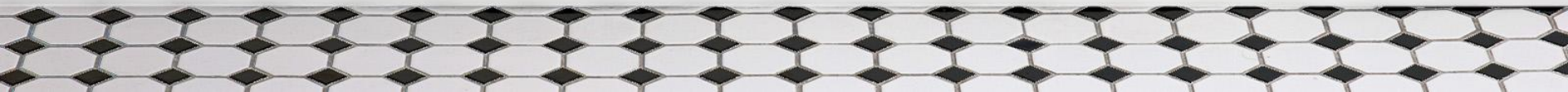
# Reality Check

Hard work, perseverance have their rewards...  
but success apart from God leads nowhere.



# Luke 10

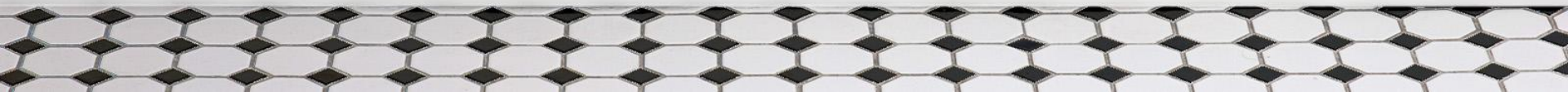
“Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’ “That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”





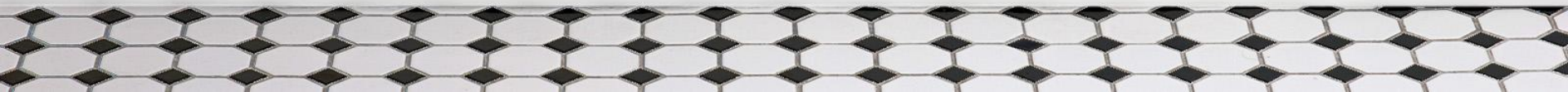
# Good News!

- God is interested in us and our well-being.



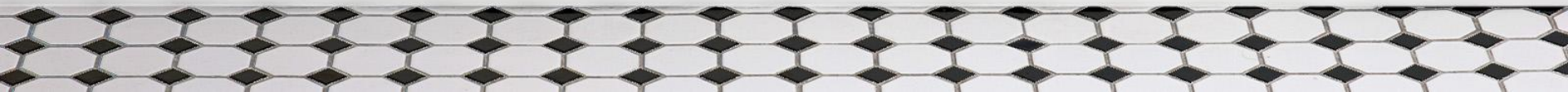
# Good News!

- God is interested in us and our well-being.
- He likes to get “mixed-up” in the lives of ordinary people.



# Good News!

- God is interested in us and our well-being.
- He likes to get “mixed-up” in the lives of ordinary people.
- Family life is his domain too!



Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.

You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;

your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.

Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

Psalm 128:1-4



Practically speaking, how do we collaborate with God in the ordinary events of our lives?



# Collaborating with God

1) Invest in people.



The character of our work is shaped not by accomplishments or possessions but in the birth of relationships: “Children are God’s best gift” We invest our energy in people.... We learn a name; we start a friendship; we follow up on a smile—or maybe even a grimace....

Such work can be done within the structure of any job, career or profession. As Christians do the jobs and tasks assigned to them in what the world calls work, we learn to pay attention to and practice what God is doing in love and justice, in helping and healing, in liberating and cheering.

*Eugene Peterson*



# Collaborating with God

- 1) Invest in people.
- 2) Cultivate a life of prayer.





When we are faithful in keeping ourselves in his holy presence, keeping him always before us, this not only prevents our offending him, but it also brings us a freedom, and if I may say so, a familiarity with God where we may ask and receive the graces we are so desperately in need of. In short, by often repeating these acts they become habitual and the presence of God becomes something that comes naturally to us.

*Brother Lawrence*



# Collaborating with God

- 1) Invest in people.
- 2) Cultivate a life of prayer.
- 3) Practice Sabbath



Whatever is foreseen in Joy  
Must be lived out from day to day  
Vision held open in the dark  
By our ten thousand days of work.  
Harvest will fill the barn; for that  
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.

And yet no leaf or grain is filled  
By work of ours; the field is tilled  
And left to grace. That we may reap,  
Great work is done while we're asleep.

When we work well, a Sabbath mood  
Rests on our day, and finds it good.

*Wendell Berry*

