

**Text** – Psalms 127:1-2

*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

**Introduction:** May 1 was Worker’s Day; the holiday that acknowledges the workers in most countries; their immense contributions to national development yet lament their relatively poor pay. Even President Tinubu’s speech on the occasion highlighted that under his watch; insecurity and poverty has become national emergencies. Hence, the text of this sermon that our hope should not lie on man but on the living God. *Some people work day in, day out as if it all depends on them and realize little or amass plenty yet lose all at the end, while some pray endlessly as if it all depends on God yet still realize little because they fail to do their part.* We have to be wise to strike the balance; **work to the best of our ability, trust God and ask Him for help, and look out for opportunities for which we must be prepared!**

**Thesis:** There is dignity in labour, we need to work and invest our abilities and resources in enterprise as individuals but should do so prayerfully, carefully looking out for honest opportunities and reward.

Numerous texts support this claim:

1. **As you work and pray, be watchful;** God assigned man work in the garden of Eden but the man wasn’t watchful, hence the fall – Gen 1:8,15-17; 3. However, as you watch for opportunities, don’t try to “help God”. Abram tried that to get an heir (Gen 16) despite the divine promise received in Gen 15:4, the deleterious effect is still reverberating till tomorrow via the descendants of Ishmael. Jesus says: “*watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*” –Mt 26:41
2. **As you watch and pray, recognize when to act;** *God expects you to take the initiative after you have been equipped*, committed your way unto Him and received instruction - See Exo 14:15, Deut 2:3, Acts 9:21-25 (Mt 10:23)
3. **As you watch and work, don’t forget to pray;** *our text reinforces this charge* –**See Lk 13:1-4.** Jacob with all his cunning was an industrious man who prayed often (Gen 28:20; 32:9,26), Jesus with his surpassing anointing prayed always (Mt 14:23, Lk 11:1; 18:1f), and Paul perhaps the greatest apostle, did likewise (Acts 9:11; 16:25, Col 1:9, 1 Thess 5:25). Who are you in the kingdom that you hardly pray on your own or even make public prayer requests?

**Conclusion:** Keep praying for our expectation is nearer than when we first believed. Be prepared and watchful, you don’t know then God will open the door of great opportunity for you but He surely will do so after your persistent prayers when He has aligned everything to work in your favour. Will you recognize such moment, enter in and make Him proud or would you miss it or barge in to make excuses unprepared? Even the church as a body must focus on its spiritual work, strategize to successfully take opportunities while watching for the imminent return of our Master and Saviour.

May the Lord help us not to wait on Him in vain but to make the best of all situations, Amen.