

BUILT TO LAST

GOD'S DESIGN FOR FAMILY

As for me
and my
house,
we will serve
the Lord.

Joshua 24:15



Joshua said, "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve:** whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**"

Joshua 24:15

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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. Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:1-5

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Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27

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Who is the ROCK upon which the wise man builds?

- The Lord is my **rock** and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; Psalm 18:2
- For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a **rock**, except our God, Psalm 18:31
- The Lord lives, and blessed be my **rock**; and exalted be the God of my salvation, Psalm 18:46
- He only is my **rock** and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken. Psalm 62:2
- He only is my **rock** and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. Psalm 62:6
- Be to me a **rock** of habitation to which I may continually come; You have given commandment to save me, for You are my **rock** and my fortress. Psalm 71:3
- O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the **rock** of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

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Building God-honoring households

Proverbs 24

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What constitutes a “household”?

- Individuals
- Married couples
- Married couples with children
- Multi-generational families

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Do not be envious of evil men, nor
desire to be with them; for their minds
devise violence, and their lips talk of
trouble. Proverbs 24:1-2

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Who are the role models for my family?

What is considered “family success” today?

- Do not **envy** a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways. Proverbs 3:31
- Do not let your heart **envy** sinners, but live in the fear of the Lord always. Proverbs 23:17
- Do not fret because of evildoers or be **envious** of the wicked; for there will be no future for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out. Proverbs 24:19-20

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Do not fret because of evildoers, be not **envious** toward wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass and fade like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.

Psalms 37:1-8

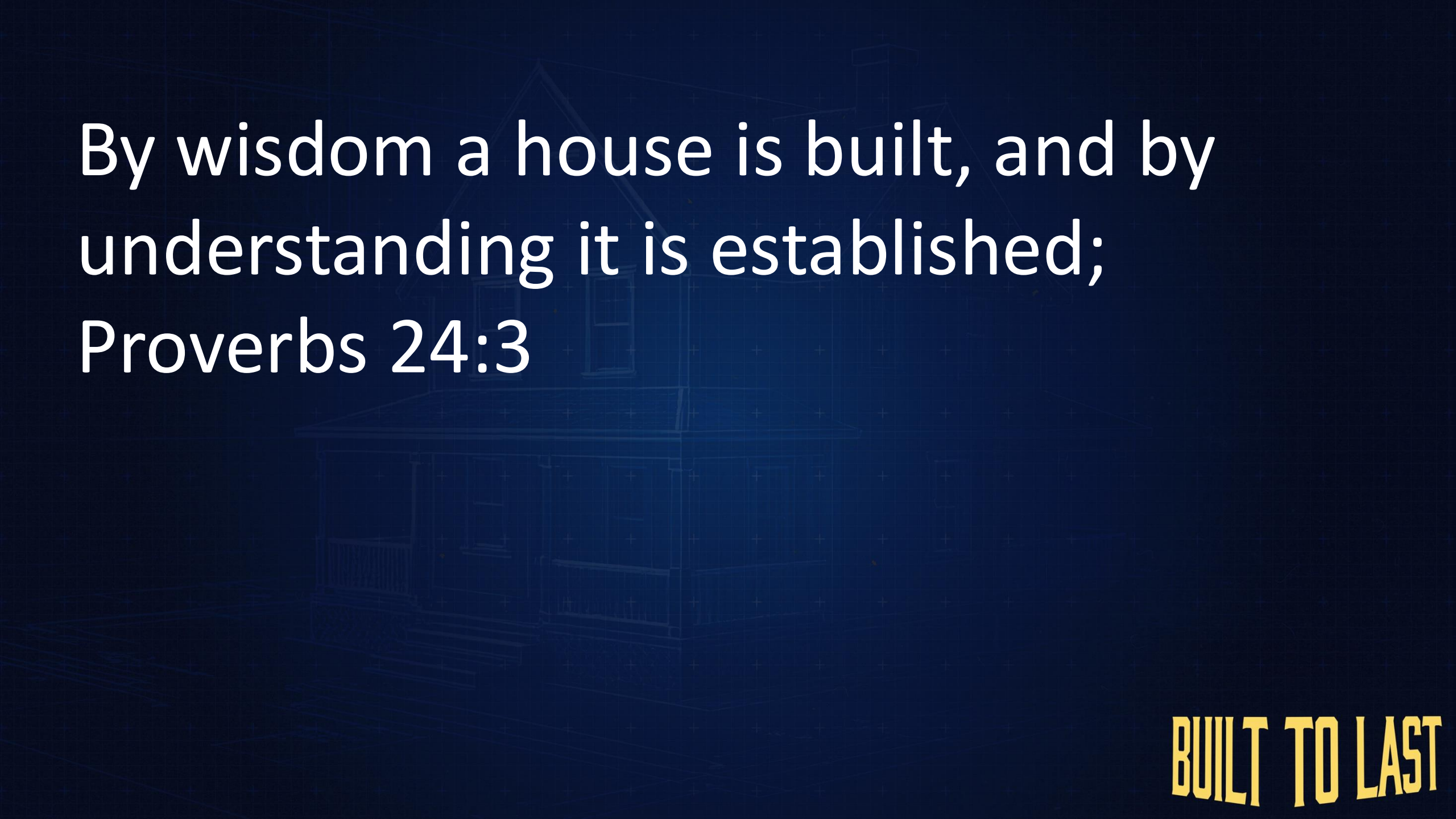
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To build a God-honoring household...

**Choose God-honoring people as
your role models and counselors**

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By wisdom a house is built, and by
understanding it is established;
Proverbs 24:3

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Wisdom and Understanding

- In the Bible, understanding is the ability to grasp the meaning and implications of facts and God's truth, while wisdom is the skill to apply that understanding to life's circumstances, knowing what to do and how to live righteously.
- Understanding is like getting the facts and seeing the picture clearly, whereas wisdom is using that clear vision to make correct decisions and take appropriate actions.
- Both are gifts from God and are necessary for godly living.

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“By wisdom a house is built”

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. Proverbs 29:15

Raising God-honoring children requires:

- Discipline (for parents and children)
- Teaching
- Attention
- Boundaries
- Time

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Building a God-honoring household requires TIME

- Tenderness
- Initiative
- Moral standards
- Expectations

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To build a God-honoring household...

**Seek wisdom and understanding
with tender discipline**

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and by knowledge the rooms are
filled with all precious and pleasant
riches. Proverbs 24:4

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In our family, what are we thinking about?

- Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

- Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2

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How to Live This Principle

1. Renew your mind

- Focus on godly values and ethical attitudes, which will help you understand God's will.

2. Be Christ-like

- Imitate Jesus by letting your actions be shaped by Him, not by cultural pressures.

3. Be discerning

- Be aware of how cultural norms might interfere with your Christian walk, especially the underlying beliefs and assumptions.

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To build a God-honoring household...

Seek knowledge of real and
edifying topics

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A wise man is strong, and a man of
knowledge increases power.

Proverbs 24:5

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Building spiritual “muscles” in the family

- Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

- Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

- So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:12-14

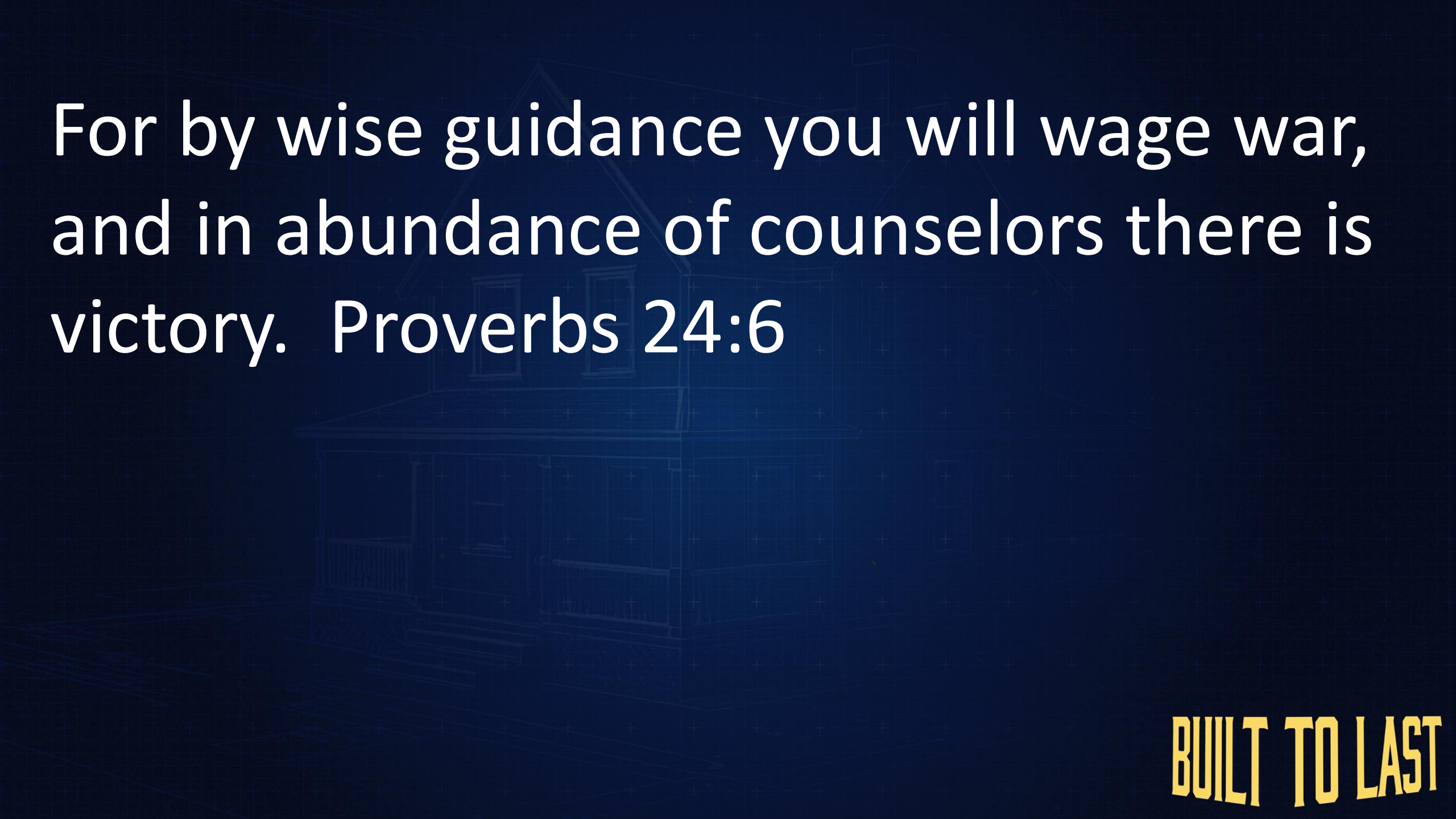
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To build a God-honoring household...

**Demonstrate humility, patience,
forgiveness and love**

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For by wise guidance you will wage war,
and in abundance of counselors there is
victory. Proverbs 24:6

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**Building a God-honoring household today
requires fighting against the values of the culture**

Blessed be the Lord, my **rock**, who trains my
hands for war, and my fingers for battle; my
lovingkindness and my fortress, my stronghold
and my deliverer, my shield and He in whom I
take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.

Psalm 144:1-2

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Building a God-honoring household today requires fighting against the values of the culture **BUT NOT ABANDONING THE CULTURE**

- Jesus prayed, “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”
John 17:15-18
- To raise God-honoring children, parents who love Jesus must model lives that follow and reflect Jesus **IN THE WORLD** while not being **CONFORMED TO THE WORLD**

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Preparing for spiritual warfare

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:10-18

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To build a God-honoring household...

Be prepared to fight spiritual
battles with a spiritual army
around you

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Wisdom is too exalted for a fool, he
does not open his mouth in the
gate. Proverbs 24:7

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Proverbs 24:7 means that true wisdom is beyond the comprehension of a "fool," not in terms of intellect, but in terms of his ungodly attitude, arrogance, and stubbornness. A fool, characterized by his lack of humility and his focus on his own desires, cannot grasp the profound truths of divine wisdom.

The phrase "in the gate" refers to the ancient public square where city matters were discussed, and a fool's inability to contribute wisely there shows his inherent limitations when it comes to genuine insight and judgment.

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To build a God-honoring household...

Listen, learn, and speak truth

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One who plans to do evil, men will call a schemer. The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men.

Proverbs 24:8-9

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What are my goals for my family?

- Do not **devise harm** against your neighbor, while he lives securely beside you. Proverbs 3:29
- Deceit is in the heart of those who **devise evil**, but counselors of peace have joy. Proverbs 12:20
- Will they not go astray who **devise evil**? But kindness and truth will be to those who devise good. Proverbs 14:22

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To build a God-honoring household...

Devise humble, righteous plans

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To build a God-honoring household...

- Choose God-honoring people as your role models and counselors
- Seek wisdom and understanding with tender discipline
- Seek knowledge of real and edifying topics
- Demonstrate humility, patience, forgiveness and love
- Be prepared to fight spiritual battles with a spiritual army around you
- Listen, learn, and speak truth
- Devise humble, righteous plans

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What is my family's highest priority?

“Surely I will not enter my house, nor lie on my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, **until I find a place for the Lord**, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” Psalm 132:3-5

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