

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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Moses said to the people of Israel...

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So **choose life** in order that you may live, you and your descendants”

Deuteronomy 30:19

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**What is the spiritual
culture facing
families today?**

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But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

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What struggles do families face today?

- Disease
- Depression
- Demands
- Debt
- Divorce
- Defamation
- Doubt
- Depravity
- Distractions
- Disloyalty
- Drama
- Discouragement
- Danger
- Darkness
- Discrimination
- Detours
- Disrespect
- Dilemmas
- Dreams
- Disunity
- Drugs
- Death
- Deceit
- Decrees
- Defeat
- Delay
- Drudgery

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Finding Light in the Darkness

Psalm 27

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The Lord [יְהוָה Yahweh] is my **light** [אֹר *ohr*] and my **salvation** [יְשַׁע *yesha*];
whom shall I fear? The Lord is the
defense of my life; whom shall I dread?
Psalm 27:1

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*For You **light** my lamp; the Lord my God illumines my darkness. Psalm 18:28

*Then Jesus again spoke to them [during Sukkot], saying, “I am the **Light** of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the **Light** of life.” John 8:12

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is **Light**, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my **salvation**, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2

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According to surveys, what makes families strong?

THE STATE OF KIDS AND FAMILIES IN AMERICA 2025

Executive Summary

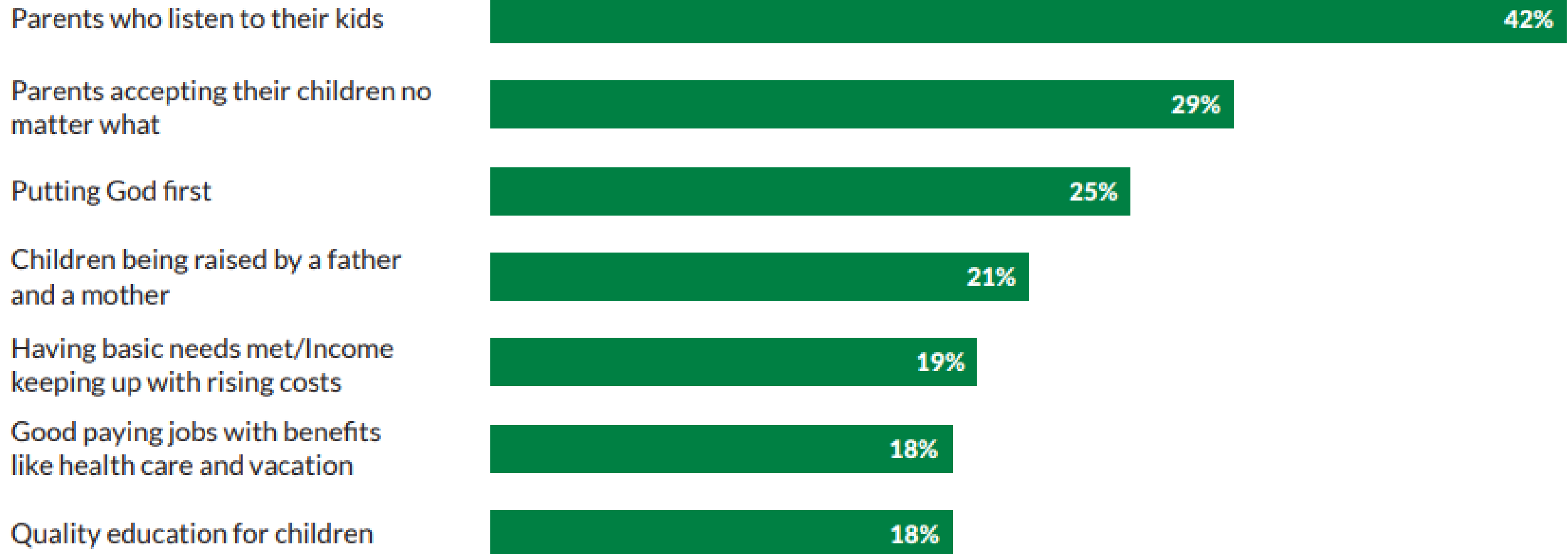


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FIGURE 14. Percent of parents who say the following makes families strong:



FIGURE 15. Percent of kids and teens who say the following makes families strong:



Biblical Guidance for Parents

- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4
- [For wives and mothers...] She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her...

Proverbs 31:26-28

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The Lord is the defense of my life Psalm 27:1

“Defense” is Hebrew noun *mā'ôz* מְעוֹז

Definitions: defense, strength, stronghold, a strong fortified place

- But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength [*mā'ôz* מְעוֹז] in time of trouble. Psalm 37:39
- For You are the God of my strength [*mā'ôz* מְעוֹז]; why have You rejected me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Psalm 43:2

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The Lord is the defense of my life

Psalm 27:1

What can be our family's spiritual
defense strategy?

According to the Bible, what makes
families strong?

BUILT TO LAST

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. Ephesians 6:10-13

BUILT TO LAST

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 6:14-17

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THE ARMOR OF GOD

Helmet of Salvation

Breastplate of
Righteousness

Belt of [absolute] Truth

Sword of the Spirit

Shield of
Faith

Feet Protected by
the Gospel

Ephesians 6:10-17

BUILT TO LAST

When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh [intense hatred], my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart [לֵב *leb*] will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident. Psalm 27:2-3

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9

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What if the “evildoers” and
“adversaries” and “enemies”
opposing my family are not
individual people but a
cultural value system?

BUILT TO LAST

Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. Deuteronomy 4:9

*What voices are our kids hearing?

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One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold [gaze upon] the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. Psalm 27:4

- What should I want more than overcoming struggles?
 - To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life
- Seek could mean “to come morning by morning, to frequent His presence, giving Him the beginning of each day.” – New Bible Commentary
- David also wrote, “Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:6

BUILT TO LAST

King David wrote...

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. Psalm 27:4

Apostle Paul wrote...

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but **one thing** I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14

*What is the destination of those who answer the call of God in Christ Jesus? The house of the Lord.

BUILT TO LAST

King David wrote...

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of
my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to
meditate in His temple. Psalm 27:4

King David also wrote...

You will make known to me the path of life; in Your
presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are
pleasures forever. Psalm 16:11

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Helpful reminders as you read Psalm 27...

- Psalm 27 begins in Hebrew with the header “A Psalm of David.” מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד
- Some other psalms written by David begin in Hebrew with a different phrase... לְדָוִד מִזְמוֹר “of David a Psalm.” Examples include Psalms 101, 110, and 139.
- In Psalms containing לְדָוִד מִזְמוֹר (“of David a Psalm”) the Holy Spirit was upon David and then he sang.

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Helpful reminders as you read Psalm 27...

- Psalms 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 27, 51, 63 and others begin with the phrase “A Psalm of David”
מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד
- In Psalms (like 27) containing מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד, David sang and then the Holy Spirit was upon him.
- The act of singing is what connected David to the Holy Spirit. King David began his prayer with sadness but would sing praises to the Lord anyway.

BUILT TO LAST

If your marriage or your family are hurting,
choose TODAY to praise the Lord in faith,
BEFORE the answers and healings come.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in
everything give thanks; for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Marriages and families who are hurting today... let's change our focus

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34:1-3

BUILT TO LAST

For in the day of trouble [רַע *ra*] He will conceal me in His tabernacle [God's dwelling place]; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord. Psalm 27:5-6

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil [רַע *ra*], for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

BUILT TO LAST

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice,
and be gracious to me and answer me.
When You said, “Seek My face,” my
heart said to You, “Your face, O Lord, I
shall seek.” Psalm 27:7-8

*It is human to ask in the midst of struggles...
“God, where are You? Are You listening?”

BUILT TO LAST

Do not hide Your face from me, do not
turn Your servant away in anger; You
have been my help [עֲזָרָה *'ezrah*]; do not
abandon me nor forsake me, O God of
my salvation [יְשָׁעָה *yesha*]! Psalm 27:9

BUILT TO LAST

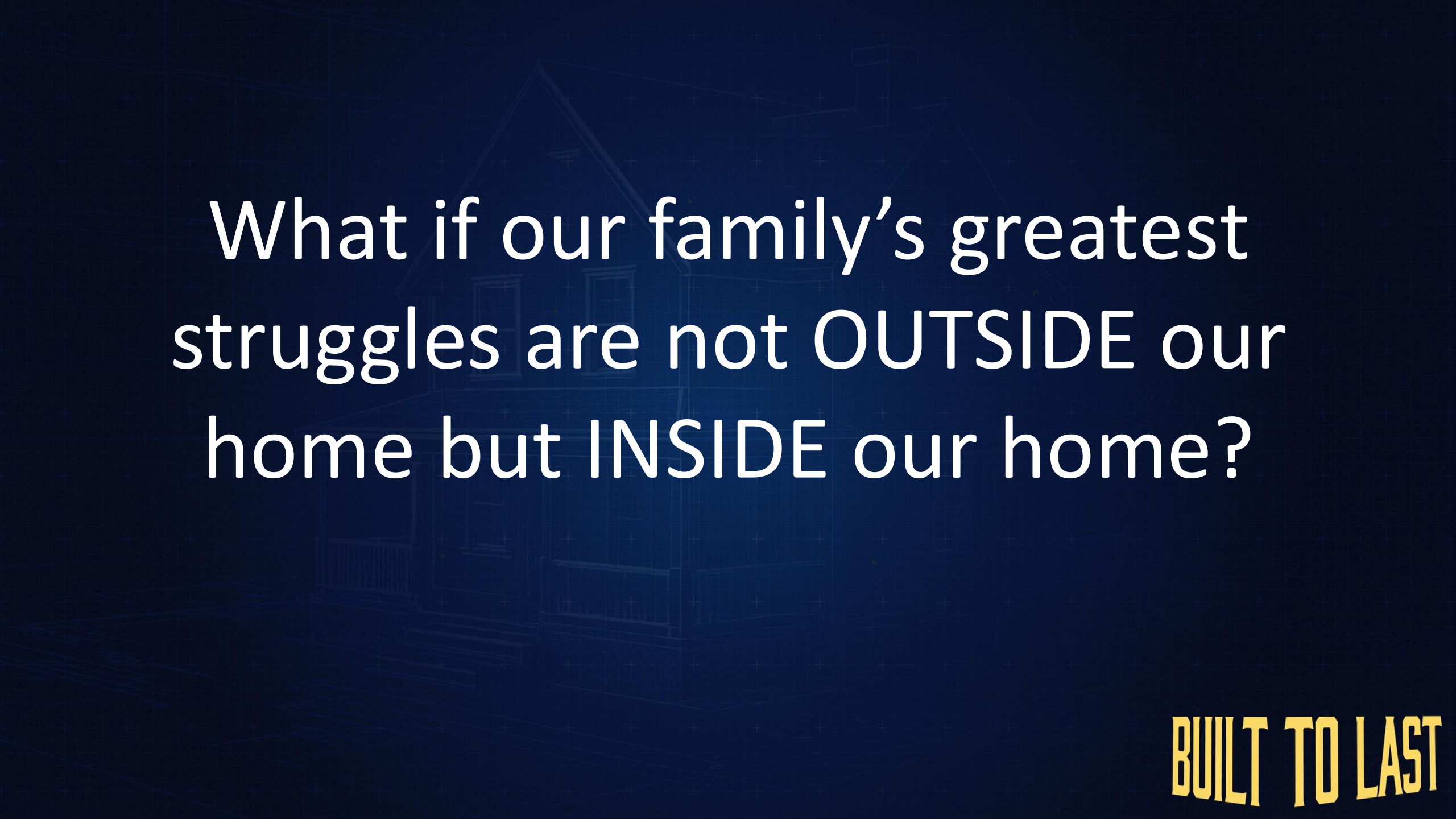


For my father and my mother have forsaken
me, but the Lord will take me up.

Psalms 27:10

*Even if the strongest human love should reach its
limit, the Lord's love remains. – New Bible Commentary

BUILT TO LAST



What if our family's greatest
struggles are not OUTSIDE our
home but INSIDE our home?

BUILT TO LAST

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. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

BUILT TO LAST

Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level [straight, righteous] path because of [away from] my foes. Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries [צָר *tsar*], for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. Psalm 27:11-12

*David asked God to teach him before he asked God to protect him

BUILT TO LAST

I would have despaired unless I had
believed that I would see the goodness
of the Lord [בְּטוֹב-יְהוָה] in the land of the
living. Psalm 27:13

*If I am still alive, the Lord is not finished
with me, not finished working in my home.

BUILT TO LAST

King David concludes by writing a message of encouragement directly to his readers...

Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

BUILT TO LAST

What makes a family strong?

The Lord says...

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

BUILT TO LAST

Prayer for our Families

Dear God,

As followers of Jesus, we long for the light in the midst of the darkness. We face struggles and temptations that pull us away from You and from the truth of Your Word. Please help us stay strong in faith and diligent in our obedience to You. Help fathers and mothers to walk closely with Jesus as they model faithfulness to their children. Protect our children from evil inside and outside our homes. Raise up the next generation of spiritual warriors who are ready to proclaim the gospel in bold and grace-filled ways. Help us live daily in Your presence. Please be our Rock and our Shield.

In the name of Yeshua the Messiah, amen.

BUILT TO LAST