Question: What does Proverbs 24:27 mean?

> *Proverbs 24:27 (ESV):*
> *“Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.”*

Answer:

This verse offers practical wisdom rooted in a theological understanding of priorities, responsibility, and stewardship. In ancient Israelite society—where agriculture was central—this advice would have been very practical: make sure your fields are productive and your income secured before building a house or focusing on comfort.

Solomon, known for his wisdom, is reminding us that stability must come before expansion. In other words, build a firm foundation before reaching for outward success. The field represents your means of survival and income; the house symbolizes security, comfort, or even status. In a modern context, this could mean focusing on education, skill-building, or

establishing a reliable source of income before indulging in luxuries or outward appearances.

Theological Insight:

The Bible frequently teaches the principle of order and timing in God’s economy. There’s a season for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and wisdom involves discerning what to do and when. Acting out of order—even with good intentions—can lead to destruction, as illustrated in the story of Gehazi.

2 Kings 5:20–27 (ESV) recounts the story of Gehazi, the servant of Elisha. After Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, was healed of leprosy, he offered Elisha lavish gifts. Elisha, knowing the healing came from God, refused them. However, Gehazi secretly chased after Naaman to take the gifts for himself. Elisha rebuked him, saying:

> *2 Kings 5:26 (ESV):*
> *“Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and*

> *female servants?”*

Elisha’s question highlights a key spiritual principle: not everything that is good is appropriate at every moment. There is a time for receiving blessings—but there is also a time for waiting, working, and trusting in God’s provision.

This connects to 1 Timothy 6:5–6 (ESV), where Paul warns against those who think godliness is a means of material gain: “...imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Spiritual Application:

Today, many desire the rewards of a godly life—peace, prosperity, honor—without first embracing the discipline, service, and obedience that come before them. People seek titles in ministry without first serving in humility; they desire financial blessings without a spirit of stewardship and hard work.

Likewise, in daily life, people may prioritize external appearance over internal strength. For example, someone may purchase

luxury items without first securing a stable income or financial foundation. This is poor stewardship, and it can lead to long-term hardship.

Practical Wisdom:

Establish your career, business, or skill set—then pursue material goals.

Invest in spiritual growth—then expect fruitfulness in ministry or calling.

Focus on long-term impact—before short-term comfort.

Conclusion:

Proverbs 24:27 teaches us that wisdom involves planning, preparation, and proper priorities. It warns against impatience and chasing comfort before establishing sustainability. In both spiritual and practical matters, God calls us to prepare the field before building the house.

May the Lord help us align our lives with His order, so we build wisely and live fruitfully.

Shalom.

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