

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." James 5:7 KJV



Harvest doesn't come in the spring, and the heat of summer must torment us before the cool of winter chills us. There must be a tilling of the ground, and a planting at the proper time. You cannot plant in the middle of winter and expect a crop. After planting there must be rain, cultivation, and patient waiting. You can't will the rain to fall; it comes when God sends it! The vine must mature before it can bear fruit, and the husbandman must carefully prop the tender young plants and prune the older ones to produce the best fruit. One thing farmers must have is patience. They know harvest is coming and wisely prepare for it while being careful to tend the fields at the same time. Farmers are usually very wise. You can't neglect the fields and expect a good harvest. We so often attend to what we consider the mandates of Truth like soul-winning and church work, but neglect the propping up and cultivation of prayer and meditation. Beware *"the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes."* Little *"presumptuous sins"* destroy our fruit before it matures and our vineyards never produce. At the same time you must prepare the equipment and workers for the harvest. Patience is the key. Patience is not just waiting. Fishing is a good example of patience. It's knowing when to be still and when to be busy. The line must be kept still, but it also must be baited with the right bait and cast in the right spot. Patience is faith in the outcome. Experienced believers know this, and must teach it to younger ones. *"If we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."* There's a story about an old farmer visited by a government inspector. The farmer warned the official not to go into a certain field. The official insisted that he had the authority to go where he pleased and promptly produced a card to verify it. The farmer said, "OK, do what you want." Later on, he heard yelling and hollering so he ran to see what was going on. The farmer's prize bull was chasing the official across the field in question. The farmer ran towards the fence yelling, "Quick! Show him your card! Show him your card!" While this is a humorous example of inflated egos the inexperienced often have, it nonetheless demonstrates the fact that not all things must be understood to be obeyed. Listen to faithful men whose wisdom comes from experience and practice. They do not have to be old in years to be wise in faith. Some have believed from their childhood and by virtue of their long walk with God, have wisdom beyond their years. *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."* The sooner you start the wiser you'll be. Patience comes with wisdom and wisdom comes from God. Trusting God in spite of fearful circumstances is the first step of wisdom. Heaven and earth may pass away, but, Jesus never fails!

Patience, indeed a virtue rare,
In this old world of sin and care,
It gleams above all earthly fare,
Revealing Truth beyond compare. -CGP

Know that the promise of Christ's return is as sure as the order of the seasons. He will return as promised at the appointed time. We must endure the toil and wait with patient hope for His return. *"Work, for the night is coming!"* Tend to your vineyard for Master will soon arrive! Perhaps today!

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3 KJV