

The farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it ...

- **Filled with the fruit of righteousness for the day of Christ:** And so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with **the fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:10b–11 ESV).
- **In the good soil we bear fruit with patience:** As for that in **the good soil**, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and **bear fruit with patience** (Luke 8:15 ESV).
- **Give up the life we love for a life of much fruit:** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies, it bears much fruit.** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life (John 12:24–25 ESV).
- **The momentary, painful process of the fruit of righteousness:** For the moment all discipline seems **painful rather than pleasant**, but later it **yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:11 ESV).
- **Abide in Christ and bear much fruit:** I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5 ESV).
- **The fruit of the Spirit:** But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV).

Outline for James 5:7-12 ...

(1) Be patient: We live in view of the coming of our Lord, 5:7.

- We wait for the fruit of his plan and purpose to develop in our lives.

(2) Be patient: We live in view of the nearness of our Lord, 5:8-11.

- We set/reset our hearts toward the plan and purpose of the Lord, 5:8.
- We set our hearts away from our purposes (grumbling), 5:9.
- We see the compassion and mercy of the Lord from the steadfast example of the prophets and Job, 5:10-11.

(3) Be true: We live true to the Lord in view of his coming and his presence, 5:12.

- We reject the deceptive theatrics of religious pronouncements and self-important proclamations.
- We live in God's world with yes and no.

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- **When you find yourself in the furnace, go to the throne of grace** and receive from the Lord all the grace you need to endure (Hebrews 4:14–16). Remind yourself that the Lord has a gracious purpose in all of this suffering, and that He will work out His purposes in His time and for His glory. **You are not a robot caught in the jaws of fate. You are a loving child of God, privileged to be a part of a wonderful plan.** There is a difference (Wiersbe, W. W.)!
 - The New Testament contains **over 300 references to Christ's return**—one of every thirteen verses! The Scriptures ooze with the return of Christ (Hughes, R. K.).
 - The brief passage under consideration in this chapter was written to people who ached for the Second Coming of Christ. **The author—James, the Lord's brother—had been with the apostolic band on the Mount of Olives at Christ's Ascension.** He had seen the Shekinah glory, the luminous cloud of God's presence, overshadow the mount, and then watched his elder brother/Savior disappear into its shimmering folds (Hughes, R. K.).