

James tells the twelve Jewish-Christian nations to “Be patient, therefore until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5: 7-8).

Farmers have many tasks as they are ‘waiting’ for their crop to yield. They have to check the crop to make sure it is still growing correctly, they have to prepare the equipment for harvest, they have to tend to their animals, providing them with food and protection, they have to prune vegetable plants (John 15), they have to plant or harvest other crops, they might have to fix some machinery, or spray pesticides. All these examples are of modern day farmers, but think about those farmers back during biblical times. They still had many tasks to do while ‘waiting’ for their crop, if not more.

If we are to be ‘patiently waiting’ for the coming of the Lord, how do we do that?

Just like the farmer, we have to be active, we have to be learning about the Lord, and we have to be tending to our minds, hearts, and souls. We have to protect our hearts and those of the people around us. James says in verse 8, “You also be patient. Establish your hearts for the coming of the Lord”.

These things look different to each person, just like each task looks different to each farmer, but the main point is that we cannot be stagnant in our faith or our hearts will grow stagnant. Don’t just wait, wait like the farmer.

