

A misty landscape with a tree and a fence. The scene is hazy, with a single tree on the left and a fence line receding into the distance. The sky is a mix of blue and white, suggesting a foggy or overcast day. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

When “Near” Seems Far

James 5:7–8







PATIENCE is not an absence
of **objective** or **purpose**.

PATIENCE is the ability to wait
(without worry or anger) while
a **larger purpose** is coming to fruition.

I wait for the Lord, my soul
waits, and in his word I put my
hope *[attitude]*. My soul waits
for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning
[objective] (Psalm 130:5-6).

PATIENCE is a willful acceptance
of the waiting, a realization that the
GOAL will be worth the delay.

Because I am patient, I can be:

- reasonable
- resilient
- resolute

I am patient WHEN:

- **attitude** is not “instant gratification”
- **happiness** is not dependent upon immediate circumstance
- **confidence** is not disturbed by unexpected changes
- **commitment** is not affected by failure/inconsistency of others.

Patience is a **QUALITY** of God
and a **GIFT** from God.

The RETURN of CHRIST is often ridiculed/rejected simply because it has not yet happened.

All of creation has been groaning...
we ourselves groan inwardly as we WAIT
EAGERLY for our adoption...
and redemption... For in this hope we are
saved... And if we hope for what we do not
yet have, we WAIT PATIENTLY for it.

(Romans 8:22-25)

So you do not lack any spiritual gift while you **EAGERLY WAIT** for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Cor. 1:7)

- **Jesus** – Do not take conflict, disaster, or persecution as a signal.

(Mt. 24:4-14)

- **Jesus** – Be alert! I will come when you do not expect it. *(Mt. 24:44)*

- **Paul** – “man of lawlessness” must first be revealed (*11 Thess. 2:18*)
- **Paul** – Bam! Like labor pains unexpectedly hitting a pregnant woman (*11 Thess. 5:3*)

- **Peter** – Time (days, years) is irrelevant to God's schedule/promise
(11 Peter 3:8-9)
- **Peter** – It will come like a thief!
(11 Peter 3:10)

- **James** – Be patient (5:7)
- **James** – the Lord's coming is near! (5:8)

NT teaching regarding Christ's
second coming:

✓ **Relax!**

✓ **Better pay attention!**

1. Do not allow cynicism/criticism of fellow men to cause your faith to waver
2. Do not allow the obstacles of the wait to discourage you
[farmer!]
3. Do not mistake the delay for a delusion ["stand firm"]