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## HARVESTS TAKE TIME.

*Be patient, therefore, brothers, 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. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. <sup>12</sup> But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

### What to remember when waiting:

- Be **patient** because harvests take time – 5:7

*Be patient, therefore, brothers, 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.*

- **Establish** your hearts in a future reality: the coming of Jesus Christ – 5:8  
*You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*

- **Encourage** one another rather than **grumble** against one another – 5:9  
*Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.*

- You’re not alone: Look back and remember your **heritage** – 5:10-11  
*As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

- Prophets: ‘suffering and patience,’ a major theme of James.
- Job: The “3 J’s” to properly understand suffering: Joseph, Job, and Jesus.

John Piper: “Death and sickness have an amazing way of blowing the haze of triviality out of life and replacing it with the wisdom of gravity and gladness in the hope of resurrection joy.”<sup>1</sup>

- You have a compassionate and merciful God.

- Be **unwavering** in an age of constant fluctuation – 5:12  
*But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990), 62.