

How to wait for the coming of the Lord

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. (James 5:8)



Waiting for the Lord requires more than sitting still. It requires _____.

1. The Good News: The Lord is on His way

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! (James 5:7-9)

- The Lord will return at the end of the ages to redeem the saved. But that's not the only return of the Lord. He comes to redeem us every time we are in need. Indeed, a divine _____ is already on its way.

Seven Promises of God

1. God will give you grace (2 Cor. 12:9).
2. God will never leave you (Deut. 31:8).
3. God will protect you during trials (1 Cor. 10:10f).
4. God will supply your every need (Phil. 4:19).
5. God will give you strength when you're weary (Isa. 40:29).
6. God will work all things together for your good (Rom. 8:28).
7. God will take you home with Him (John 14:1f).

- To receive the crop we have to _____.
- So, while you wait, don't complain. Complaining is a sign of _____.

2. Good News gets better: He'll come with mercy and compassion

Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers, do not swear-- not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. (James 5:10-12)

- To say that God is compassionate is to say that He _____.

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it. (Hebrews 4:15-16, NLT)

- The biggest enemy of faith: My _____. Don't trust your _____. Trust your God. He will do what He says.
- So, while you wait, don't swear. Swearing is a sign of _____.

3. How do I wait? Learn the discipline of active waiting

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. (James 5:13-20)

- Pray. God does big things when we pray. Just ask Elijah.
 - The biggest reason Christians don't pray: _____.
 - The promise of anointing with oil. Very subtly, James crosses the promises: anointed prayers bring _____, confessed sins bring _____.
Not every disease gets cured, but every repentant sinner gets healing.
- Sing. Singing synchronizes our hearts with the story of God's salvation.
- Confess. Confession speaks truth, and the truth _____.
- Rescue. Just as the Lord is on a search and rescue mission for you, you should be on a search and rescue mission for others.

The man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:25)