

Visible verse™

James 5:7-8



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.

Plant

Without Excuse

Farmers are patient people. They wait for spring, then rain, then growth and finally, if all goes well, they harvest their valuable crop. The soybean crop pictured on the front of this Visible Verse™ card was still weeks away from yielding its valuable bounty, despite the months of growth that had already passed. Soybean seeds take 3 to 6 days to germinate and then 4 to 5 weeks before they produce flowers. The flowering of soybeans is activated by the length of daylight hours, something the farmer simply cannot rush. The soybean pods begin appearing two weeks after flowering, but take an additional month of rain and sun before they are ready for harvest!

Just like farmers, Christians are to be patient. After committing our lives to Christ, there is still a tendency to expect things to happen on our timetable. James reminds us to be patient just like the farmers who must wait for seasonal rains before they can harvest their valuable crops. Waiting on the Lord's timing can take great restraint at times, especially when we are experiencing difficulty. Where do we get the kind of patience James refers to? The answer is the Holy Spirit. Christians experience patience as a fruit of the Holy Spirit as we learn to daily surrender our lives to Jesus Christ and walk in step with Him. This is a powerful principle that produces a crop all of its own!

May your patience increase with every farm field you see!



Photo: Soybean Crop, Webster, Minnesota

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