

“Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.” James 5:7-8 NLT

## lectio // James 5:7-12

Be patient. Can I be honest. We’re ALL dumbfounded by the mystery of why Christ’s return hasn’t happened in the 2000+ years since he left the planet. Every Biblical writer that discussed his IMMEDIATE return, and addressed it as though it would happen in their lifetime. How many generations have passed? In terms of a 70 yr generational model, it’s only been 28/29 of them. But with each generation there was the same intense belief that Jesus would return any day now. In my teen years (70’s) there was a film series called “Thief in the night.” That drove a fresh frenzy that we would not see the 1980’s. Robin thought Jesus would return before she got married, for sure before she had kids! It was real folks. It was super real for almost every believer alive during those days. Why the intensity? Because, in everyone’s mind, “it just couldn’t get any worse!” I’m now positive that every generation has had a “it can’t get worse moment.” In the years following Christ’s resurrection and leaving the planet, EVERYTHING got worse - way worse! It had to have been the most terrifying, tumultuous times in the history of humankind! Yet, no return. Since then we’ve seen every kind of “natural” disaster, evil leaders rising and causing untold holocausts, humans unraveling their beliefs, revolting against their governments and unleashing every possible wickedness that has ever existed. Yet, no return. Currently, the most wicked, destructive to oneself, calling wrong a right behavior has permeated most of the globe. Is Christ parousia near? Apparently not. We’ve been patient (not really) for 28 generations, many falls and springs have come and gone. And yet, it’s still not yet. I’m okay with that. There is plenty of work to be done, plenty of souls to be saved. And, lots of opportunity for humans to come to the end of themselves and find salvation.

## oratio

Dad,  
 I am thrilled to see the finality, the resolution of all things!  
 However, I do not feel I need to rush or control your plans because that has NEVER worked. Christ will return, that is a fact. And his return will be sudden and many will miss it. That’s a fact too. But dates, times, seasons, feelings and wishful words will not make his return one moment sooner. By making Jesus’ coming a game or a prophetic circus of theories, we have hurt your church and hurt your kids. I am satisfied in trusting you about all things, endings and all.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root