

# Faith Alive!

*Patience ... He's Coming!*

James 5:7-9

- Oak tree or Squash?
- Instant maturity and pleasant spirituality?
- Help and hope: the Lord's Return!

## **The Lord's Return (vs. 7a)**

- **Often either ignored or misused**
- **Clearly revealed in the Bible**
  - See Acts 14-11
  - Plus over 300 NT references
- **We do know...**
  - **It will be preceded by a time of great opposition, persecution, tribulation** (See Christ's 'Olivet Discourse' – Matt 24,25)
  - **It will come suddenly and without warning** (See Matt 24:36; 23-27; 37-39; I Thess 5:2)
  - **He will again be present with us – the *Parousia!*** (See John 14:3; 18; 27-29)

## **The Lord's Return (vs. 7a)**

### **Wait Patiently... (vs. 7b,8)**

- **A command for those in distress and difficulty**
- **The Christian's true hope is found in submitting to something outside of his control...**
- **Like a farmer, the Christian bets his life on the outcome of a long wait...**
- **Biblical hope is not a hope-so, but a know-so concerning a future certainty.**

## **The Lord's Return (vs. 7a)**

## **Wait Patiently... (vs. 7b,8)**

## **Don't Grumble... (vs. 9)**

- **Teaching about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming always leads to a practical exhortation to godly living now...**
- **Waiting easily leads to frustration... stressful circumstances easily bring out the worst in us...**
- **Patience is to be accompanied by humility and gentleness towards others (Eph 4:2,3) and does not repay evil with evil (II Thess 5:14-15)...**
- **Take care: at the *Judgment Seat of Christ* we will give account... (See I Cor 3:10-15)**

## Personal Application

- **Not just 1<sup>st</sup> century farmers!**

**Our hope is in the personal and immanent return of Christ to establish His kingdom, set right all wrongs, and take us to be with Himself forever!**

- **While we wait ... live right!**

**See Titus 2:11-14**

*Say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness...*