



Resist Hurrying the Harvest

"...Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain." —James 5:7

Does it ever seem to you like the things that we count the most important, often seem to take the longest to wait for ..or to reach? Does it ever seem like your most important prayers are being ignored when so much is at stake? Like me, do you ever feel impatient to the point of feeling like you need to take matters into your own hands? Hey, just give God some time to work.

I used to live in California not too far away from those 300-plus-foot-tall sequoia trees near Yosemite Park. Did you know those trees are the height of one 30 story building? God and His creation are more than amazing huh! And each tree started out as a little tiny seedling. In fact, before each one was a seedling, it began its existence as a small dead looking brown seed just lying there alone on the ground. But a maturation process began with that seed before the time that Jesus was walking along the shores of Galilee! Man, those enormous trees have been there a long time!

*I want to be a fruitful Christian, like a tall tree by a stream ...waiting and winning precious souls for Thee;
Faithfully telling others of how Jesus came and gave His life to set them free.*

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts.
—Ecclesiastes 3:11

You may say to all your friends that you are totally determined to serve God in evangelism or something. Then, you start to do something on your home turf for the Lord ...maybe in ministry at ..or from your church, but when you face tough opposition or don't reap an immediate harvest, you slowly grow discouraged inside.

Man, I can relate to that feeling. I remember when a Rastafarian cultist with really cool looking dreadlocks started throwing unripe mangos at me in Jamaica. He was fine with our talk as we walked along together in downtown May Pen, but when I told him the truth about my best Friend and that it wasn't true that Jesus smoked ganja buds... that's when he got upset. At that point I held my peace, but his yelling and message became so heated that he

took off all his clothes to emphasize it ...as the mangos kept zipping in my direction.

Man, it's hard to hear people reject what's best. It's sad to see some of your friends and loved ones continually refuse (or put off) the only One who can meet all their needs in this life. Whatever happens, please don't try to take the role of the Holy Spirit or to hurry-up the harvest ...and please don't pass up ripe fruit that's waiting there for you to reap either.

Just keep doing what you are called to do; living the life of love consistently! Keep telling people the Good News having a good attitude and gentleness... with unselfish deeds of kindness and accurate sentences verbalized right when they are indeed necessary. Sure, why not? It can be helpful to preach wordlessly if haughty familiar hypocrites are brazenly swamping them with mere lip service.

Yes, give them God's Word in the right Way, for ***"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant..."*** (Eccl. 3:1-2). Don't give up! In due season, you shall reap if you faint not!

Jesus never asked you or me to evangelize the whole world by ourselves ..or in our time and our way. We aren't even able to. He never asked us to use words only. We need to use whatever we can short of sinning. But He did ask you and me to pray, to obey, to abide, and to go ...and to bear much fruit—***"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit"*** (Jn. 15:8).

One way to bear fruit is to lead someone to Christ when they are ready. One way not to bear fruit is to force the issue when they are not ...because we are impatient or just being weird. Remember that any person, who complies too quickly ..or is apparently convinced against their will, is of the same opinion still. If they can be talked into "it" ... and that's all, then they can also be talked out of "it" just as easily. Why have that happen?

God will have no one in Heaven who does not want to be there. But often times, people will become ready when painful or challenging circumstances invade and alter their cozy-comfortable experience. Do you use God's Top Ten list (the 10 Commandments) and respectful questions when fishing for people? Does the Holy Spirit want to convict sinning ones? Sure! But we need to be there for them when that happens ..and not try to take His role. They are so blessed when God grants them that "readiness"—they really need to have that first. You and I can never give it to them even though we'd like to. Again, we can't convict, convert or save them and we aren't called to.

*We're waiting for You, Lord, to convict and to save ..and then come catch us all away ..to stay.
We want to fully obey, intelligently pray and to all our friends boldly say..
that all Your promises are true and far better than OK! —kVs*

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. —Isaiah 40:31

*We must wait, wait, wait on the Lord.
We must wait, wait, wait on the Lord,
Learn our lessons well and in His timing He will tell us
Who to see, what to say and where to go. —Maranatha Music*

Got a question for ya: Have you been patiently waiting for God to intervene? You can't really join the rescuing effort until you have first been rescued yourself. No beach patrol puts a dead person in a chair in a tower to watch out for those locals surfing on the waves of the sea.

Do you think you came out of your mother's womb a Christian? Believe me; you haven't done that, but [God can make you into one](#) right now. What would prevent you from allowing Him to at this moment? The bottom-line is this: Jesus Christ is the Person you must know if you want to go ...go on living beyond the tombstone. I didn't say know about! What do you have to lose, man? Zilch, nada, null.. nothing but a moldy old gross way of life that does even let you experience real L-I-F-E like we will have up there! And that life can begin now.

Christian, have you shared your story with a lost individual... your personal experience, your testimony ...or some explanation and verses regarding the Gospel ..in a gracious and non-pushy way? You can today! Receive encouragement by reading [Isaiah 55:11](#) and [Romans 10:13](#).