

GOOD BEFORE GO

**A Kingdom Rhythm for Building
with Patience, Wisdom & Peace**



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Lessons from Genesis 1 and the Mission Mall journey

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& Peace

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Introduction: Building in the Presence of God

This book began with a simple conviction: God did not rush creation. Genesis 1 shows the Lord bringing order, filling what He formed, and pausing to see that each stage was good before the next stage came. That rhythm became the language of this book: Good Before Go.

The Mission Mall journey has been a living classroom for that conviction. A ministry app can easily become a pile of good ideas if the builder keeps adding without examining. A bookstore, a giving page, a church wing, a help wall, a vendor shop, a family feature, a resource center, an ambassador dashboard—each one must serve the larger mission and protect the people it touches.

Genesis is not being reduced here to a project-management chart. It is the Word revealing God as Creator. But the Creator's rhythm teaches us something about stewardship. We learn to build in order, evaluate truthfully, ask for wisdom, pray through anxiety, and wait long enough for strength to be renewed.

Good Before Go is for builders, pastors, founders, parents, volunteers, and anyone carrying a God-given assignment that is bigger than their natural strength. It is an invitation to build without panic, to proceed without presumption, and to let patience do the work hurry cannot do.



CHAPTER ONE

The Rhythm God Revealed

Genesis 1:4

God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

King James Version

Before Mission Mall could become a place, it first had to become ordered vision.

Genesis 1 does not begin with frantic motion. It begins with God speaking light into what was without form.

Good Before Go means naming what is still dark, unclear, or disordered before pretending it is ready.

The first lesson for any builder is this: do not despise beginnings because they look unfinished.

God did not wait until the end of creation to call anything good. He called the light good while much remained unmade.

That comforts every person developing a God-given project. A stage can be good without being complete.

Mission Mall has been built through ordered pieces: a storefront here, a resource there, a safety rule, a ministry wall, a giving path, a way for churches to claim their place.

Each piece had to be examined before the next piece made sense. Order protected the mission from becoming noise.

This book is not saying Genesis is a business manual. Genesis is first the revelation of God as Creator.

But the Creator shows a rhythm: speak, form, separate, fill, behold, and only then proceed.

A project that skips beholding often mistakes activity for obedience.

If the light is not good yet, more motion will not make the darkness safe.

The question is not only, Can we go? The better question is, Has God given enough light for this step to be called good?

Good Before Go Practice

- Write down one area of your work that is still “without form.”
- Name the light God has already given you in that area.
- Do not move to the next decision until you can honestly say what has become good so far.

Good Before Go principle: The Rhythm God Revealed must be received as a formation rhythm, not merely a productivity tactic.



CHAPTER TWO

Good Is Not the Same as Finished

Genesis 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

King James Version

The word good appears before very good. That order matters.

A builder can become discouraged because a project is not finished, or reckless because one part is working.

Good Before Go stands between those two errors. It teaches gratitude without presumption.

The Mission Mall journey has included many “good so far” moments: a working bookstore, a Hope Wing shop, a Cornerstone church page, a Resource Center listing, a family-safe community feature, a way to give.

None of those meant the whole work was finished. Each one meant the next step had a stronger foundation.

God did not call the day bad because tomorrow still had work in it.

A stage can be worthy of thanksgiving and still require more formation.

This protects the soul of a founder. You can celebrate honestly without exaggerating.

You can also correct honestly without condemning the whole assignment.

Many projects fail because leaders cannot tell the difference between incomplete and wrong.

Incomplete asks for patience. Wrong asks for repentance or redesign. Both require humility.

When God saw that it was good, He saw it for Himself. He did not need a crowd to approve the work before He recognized its fitness.

Leaders must learn that discipline too: not arrogance, but holy examination before God.

Good Before Go Practice

- List three parts of your project that are good but not finished.
- For each one, write the next action that would make it more faithful, not merely faster.
- Pray before you announce. Ask God to help you see the stage truthfully.

Good Before Go principle: Good Is Not the Same as Finished must be received as a formation rhythm, not merely a productivity tactic.



CHAPTER THREE

To Rush Is Not a Characteristic of Christ

James 1:4-8

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

King James Version

Rushing can look like faith to people who only measure speed. But the fruit of the Spirit includes patience.

To rush is not a characteristic of Christ. Christ moved with urgency when love required it, but He never moved from panic.

Rushing takes us out of the rhythm of the Kingdom. It makes the clock louder than the Spirit.

James tells us to let patience have her perfect work. Patience is not laziness. Patience is a worker.

Patience completes what hurry leaves underdeveloped.

When a founder hurries past wisdom, the project may move forward while the person behind it becomes empty.

James says patience leads to being perfect and entire, wanting nothing. The danger of impatience is that it puts us in a position to lack what patience was assigned to produce.

If wisdom is lacking, the answer is not more pressure. The answer is to ask God.

In developing Mission Mall, the next feature was not always the deepest need. Sometimes the deeper need was wisdom: how to protect children, how to make giving clear, how to honor vendors, how to avoid confusing money with mission.

A double mind is unstable because it is pulled by two masters: fear and faith, appearance and obedience, deadline and discernment.

Good Before Go asks the builder to become single-hearted again.

Ask God, then give patience room to finish her work.

Good Before Go Practice

- Where are you being pressured to rush?
- What might patience be trying to complete in you before the project proceeds?
- Write one specific wisdom request and pray it in faith today.

Good Before Go principle: To Rush Is Not a Characteristic of Christ must be received as a formation rhythm, not merely a productivity tactic.



CHAPTER FOUR

Prayer Guards the Pace

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

New King James Version

A project with holy purpose can still produce human anxiety.

The answer is not to pretend the needs are small. Paul says in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Prayer does not make planning unnecessary. Prayer puts planning back under peace.

When anxiety leads, decisions become defensive. When peace guards, decisions become clearer.

The peace of God is described like a guard over the heart and mind. That means the inner life of the builder matters to the outer shape of the

work.

Mission Mall touches children, parents, churches, shoppers, donors, vendors, volunteers, and people asking for help. That kind of responsibility cannot be carried by adrenaline alone.

The builder must learn to pray specific prayers and offer specific thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving keeps the soul from believing nothing is happening until everything is done.

Supplication keeps the soul honest about what still needs God's hand.

Peace does not always remove the obstacle. Sometimes peace keeps the obstacle from becoming the ruler.

Good Before Go means refusing to let anxiety choose the next step.

If peace is not guarding the decision, pause long enough to pray until the project is no longer being driven by fear.

Good Before Go Practice

- Convert your top three project worries into three written prayer requests.
- Beside each request, write one thanksgiving for what God has already done.
- Delay one decision that is being driven mainly by anxiety.

Good Before Go principle: Prayer Guards the Pace must be received as a formation rhythm, not merely a productivity tactic.



CHAPTER FIVE

Waiting Renews Strength

Isaiah 40:31

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.

King James Version

Waiting is not wasted when the waiting is upon the Lord.

Isaiah says those who wait shall renew their strength. That means there is a kind of strength that comes only through waiting.

Proceeding ahead without patience can deplete the very strength needed for the assignment.

You do not put yourself in a position to lack and want when you wait patiently on the Lord.

The promise is not that waiting removes all effort. The promise is renewed strength for the pace God appoints: mounting up, running, and

walking.

Some seasons of Mission Mall require eagle vision: seeing the whole ecosystem and not merely one urgent need.

Some seasons require running: making a focused push to finish what is ready.

Many seasons require walking: steady faithfulness when no one is applauding the next quiet improvement.

The builder must discern which pace belongs to the moment.

Rushing tries to fly without renewal. Fear tries to sit when God says walk. Pride tries to run when God says wait.

Good Before Go is not a refusal to move. It is a refusal to move ahead of grace.

When the Lord renews strength, the next step can be taken without losing the person God is forming in the process.

Good Before Go Practice

- Mark your current season: fly, run, walk, or wait.
- Ask what strength has been depleted by moving too fast.
- Choose one practice this week that renews strength instead of spending it.

Good Before Go principle: Waiting Renews Strength must be received as a formation rhythm, not merely a productivity tactic.

The Good Before Go Checklist

Use this before a major launch, public announcement, purchase, partnership, or new feature. The question is not whether everything is finished. The question is whether this step is faithful, formed, and good enough to carry the next step.

Order

Have we named what is still formless, confusing, or unstable?

Purpose

Can we explain who this step serves and how it protects the mission?

Fruit

Is the decision being carried in love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance?

Patience

Have we let patience finish the work that hurry wanted to skip?

Wisdom

Have we asked God for wisdom specifically, not generally?

Peace

Is peace guarding the heart and mind, or is anxiety driving the timeline?

Strength

Are we moving with renewed strength, or spending what waiting was meant to restore?

Truth

Can we honestly say this stage is good without pretending the whole assignment is complete?

A Closing Word to the Builder

Builder, do not confuse delay with defeat. Do not confuse speed with obedience. Do not confuse pressure with the voice of God.

If the Lord has called you to build, He is also committed to forming you while you build. The work in your hands and the work in your heart are not separate assignments. The app, the ministry, the store, the resource, the wall, the book, the campaign—each one can become a place where patience has her perfect work.

May you learn the courage to begin, the humility to examine, the patience to wait, and the faith to go when the Lord has made the step good. May your work bless people without breaking you. May your pace carry the character of Christ. And may the peace of God guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.

Good before go. Good in the sight of God. Good enough to carry the next faithful step.

GOOD BEFORE GO

God did not rush creation. He made, He saw, He called it good, and then He continued.

In this practical devotional for builders and believers, Pastor Byron Artis reflects on the Mission Mall development journey through the rhythm of Genesis 1, the patience of James 1, the peace of Philippians 4, and the renewed strength of Isaiah 40.

This is a book about building without panic, waiting without quitting, and moving forward only after the step in front of you can be called good.

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