

GOD IS MY COACH



A BUSINESS LEADER'S
GUIDE TO FINDING CLARITY
IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

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Pace – The Gift of Grace to Run Your Race



What does it mean to do our best?

There are days where I really struggle with that question. Am I being the best husband I can be? The best parent? Am I doing my best at work? Am I honoring God with my best? What's the scorecard that measures and affirms whether I'm doing my best? I must admit that since such a scorecard doesn't exist, some nights my head hits the pillow, I reflect on the day and wonder, *"I worked hard but did I really accomplish anything?"*

I imagine I'm not alone – most of us are looking for some reward or affirmation for our efforts. Those around us may seek that reward from pleasure, winning, status, possessions, financial security, or praise. The concept of running our race with perseverance, then, is counter-intuitive. In essence, it means doing your best without immediate affirmation or reward. It means waiting when you feel pressured to act. Being patient when you have no patience. Taking a leap of faith when it doesn't make earthly sense.

Taking control by surrendering control – The art of giving yourself a break

Schindler's List tells the story of Oskar Schindler, the German businessman who was instrumental in saving the lives of Polish Jews who were otherwise doomed to die in Nazi concentration camps. Schindler's List refers to the list of 1,100 Jews whom, by hiring them to work in his factory and persuading and bribing Nazi officers, were kept from death at the hands of Nazis.

In the closing scenes, the German army surrenders and Schindler, now broke from paying to save the Jews, must flee the oncoming Soviet Red Army. His car is packed and he says goodbye to the Jewish workers he saved from death. To thank him, the workers give him a ring engraved with the Talmudic quotation, "He who saves the life of one man, saves the world entire." Seeing his luxury car, Schindler is consumed with guilt, realizing he could have

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used it to save 10 more people. Panged with regret for not having done more, he breaks down in tears.

Did Schindler feel he had done his best? Did he feel like a success? No. Schindler cried because he felt could have done more. Today, the descendants of the Schindler Jews now number over 7,000! Over seven thousand people and counting are making an impact on the world because Oskar Schindler did his best under agonizing circumstances.

Many of us have felt like Schindler. We think that our best can be better. In truth, however, God joyfully embraces our best. He asks for nothing more. If you're the type of leader who's willing to invest time in a book like this, you're likely a hard working leader who seeks to do all you can for God's glory. Sometimes we just need to give ourselves a break. Hard-working people often find it difficult to rest; they feel rest keeps them from doing their best. Rest means trusting in God's strength so you can be your best. Paul provides great insight when he says; *I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:12-13)* If you've sought God's wisdom and given your best toward your noble pursuit in partnership with God, then you can rest knowing you're running your race at your God-given pace.

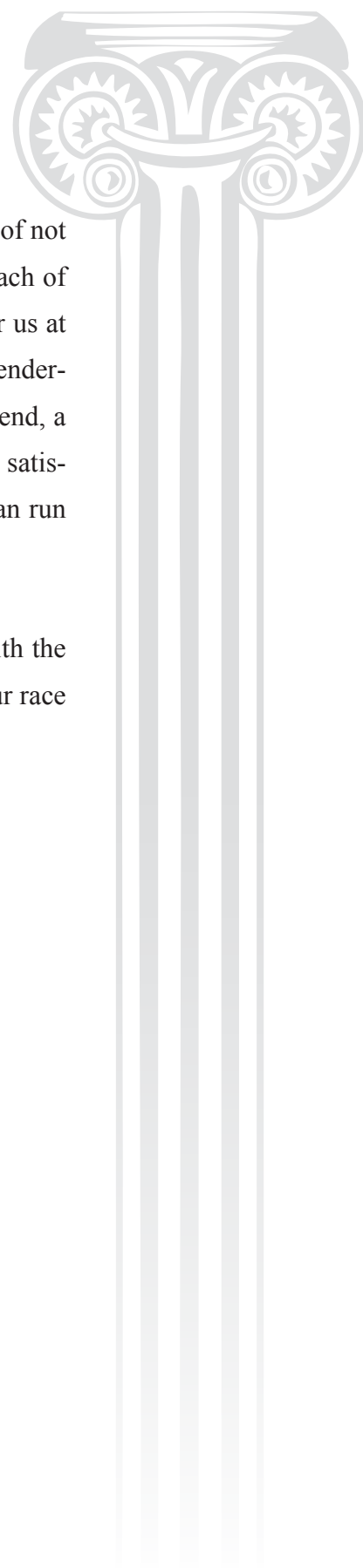
A good friend of mine once confessed, *"Sometimes my life feels like I have one foot on the gas and one foot on the brake."* The balance between control and surrender, ambition and contentment and work and rest challenges the best of us. I encourage you to think of these not as conflicting ideals but as complementary attributes. Each attribute is a gift of God. Without its complementary attribute, however, any one of them will lead us off our God-given race and pace. Work without rest, for example, is burnout. Rest without work is laziness.

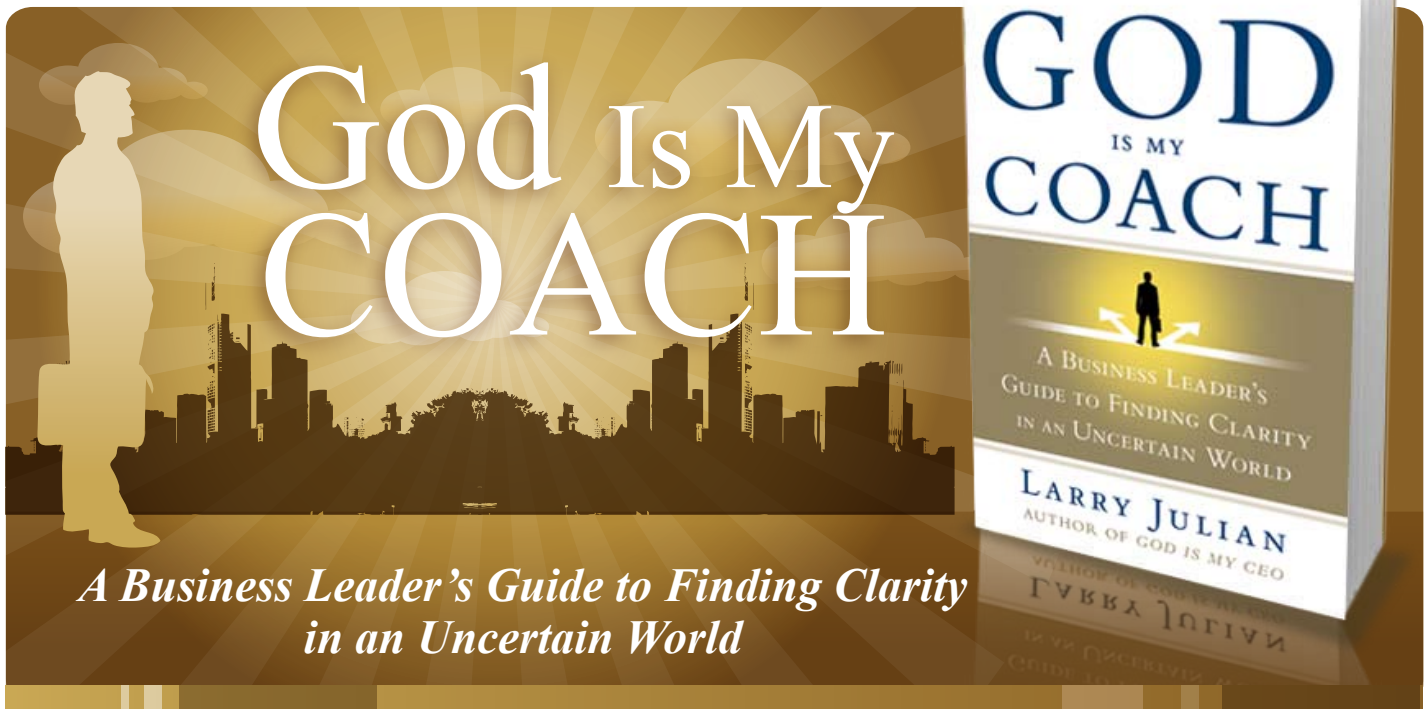


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In His grace, God has designed into the depths of our being an amazing system of not just checks and balances, but synergy. Our internal gas pedal and brake is unique to each of us. Together, they work in harmony so we can follow the race God has marked out for us at our God-given pace. Paul's counsel in Philippians reveals our internal synergy. By surrendering our present tempo we gain control of our God-given pace. By recognizing a dead end, a new beginning is revealed. By breaking the bondage of short-term rewards we gain the satisfaction of a long-term purpose. Ultimately, by surrendering control of our lives, we can run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Focus your eyes on your purpose and, finally, give your best and trust God with the rest. By discovering your God-given pace, may you receive the gift of grace to run your race and the blessing of clarity in an uncertain world.





A Business Leader's Guide to Finding Clarity in an Uncertain World

What People Are Saying

*In leadership and in daily life, we often have to make decisions where there is no perfect solution... **God is My Coach** explains how to develop our God-given gifts so that we can achieve 'clarity in the chaos,' do the right thing, and find true significance in our lives. Another great book from Larry Julian.*

-Ken Blanchard

Co-author of *Lead Like Jesus* and *The One Minute Entrepreneur*™

*Life is full of choices that are difficult to make. How do you know you're making the right decisions for you, your family and your business? Be prepared to be encouraged and energized by **God Is My Coach**. Through this book, Larry ... offers clarity in the midst of confusion.*

-Bob Buford

Founder, Leadership Network; Author, *Halftime* and *Finishing Well*

*Larry Julian has done it again by bringing us an inspiring book of gifts in **God Is My Coach**. ... he shows us how we can use God's gifts to discover our authentic calling and share our gifts with others. His examples will help all of us lead fuller, more spirit-filled lives.*

-Bill George

Author of *True North*; Former CEO, Medtronic

***God Is My Coach** is a great resource for anyone heading into unknown territory. Whether you're seeking a new career, embarking on a new business venture or feeling stuck in your present job and desiring a change, Larry Julian's coaching process will help you to face the unknown and move forward with renewed clarity, confidence and conviction.*

-Ken Melrose

Former Chairman and CEO, The Toro Company

***God Is My Coach** is a marvelous filter for the mentally fatigued. It provides a practical plan to help you cut through the clutter and chaos and allow you to focus on the meaningful.*

-Brad Anderson

Chairman and CEO, Best Buy Co. Inc.