



***In Good Time: 8 Habits for
Reimagining Productivity,
Resisting Hurry, and Practicing
Peace***

by Jen Pollock Michel

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-1-5409-0054-8

\$16.99; 256 pp

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4934-3773-3

Release date: December 2022

*To schedule an interview or request
a copy of the book, please contact:*

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**The Answer to Time-Scarcity Isn't Productivity—It's
Shifting Our Perspective to God's Timing**

Time management is an industry that capitalizes on time anxiety. We are told that we must be more productive, and we buy countless books and listen to innumerable podcasts—all telling us how to do just that. But time anxiety is not solved by doing more and doing it faster. We must recover a Christian vision of time and take up habits that allow us to inhabit the time given to us by God.

In her new book, *In Good Time: 8 Habits for Reimagining Productivity, Resisting Hurry, and Practicing Peace* (Baker Books, December 2022), award-winning author **Jen Pollock Michel** teaches readers that time is not something to manage, save, spend, or waste. Our primary call, as Christians, is not to practice habits of productivity but to practice habits of fruitfulness that lead us into faithfulness to God and our neighbor

With compelling personal narrative, wise Scripture reflections, and teachings from her own hard-won lessons, Michel's *In Good Time*

- examines the often-unchallenged assumptions of the time management conversation
- seeks to solve more than the problem of “busyness”
- explores a variety of research angles, including a historical perspective of our changing perceptions of time
- invites readers into a “time-counterformation” with sympathy for the demands of a fast-paced lifestyle
- makes biblical reflections accessible and interesting to people across the spectrum of faith

“If God only cares for our punctual arrival at the place of his choosing, he could electrify our path like an airport runway,” writes Michel. “But efficiency doesn’t seem to be God’s project...He longs to see us submit to his instruction, his teaching, his counsel—these levers of wisdom. He longs to form in human beings greater and greater capacity for trust.”



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About the Author

Jen Pollock Michel is the author of *Teach Us to Want* (winner of Christianity Today's 2015 Book of the Year), *Keeping Place*, *Surprised by Paradox* (winner of Christianity Today's 2020 Award of Merit for Beautiful Orthodoxy), and *A Habit Called Faith*. She holds a BA in French from Wheaton College and an MA in Literature from Northwestern University, and she is also a student in Seattle Pacific's MFA program. Jen is a wife and mother of five and hosts the *Englewood Review of Books* podcast.

PRAISE for *In Good Time*

"We are living in an abundance of undercooked advice, which is why we so desperately need voices who have done the work, plumbed the depths, and harvested true wisdom to guide us. I can think of no better way to describe the writings of Jen Pollock Michel, and *In Good Time* is no exception. If you feel overwhelmed by your pace of life or your schedule feels like a bucking bronco, you will find more than simple, helpful steps in these pages, though they are many! You will also discover tender, theological riches."

Sharon Hodde Miller, author of *The Cost of Control*

"*In Good Time* is for all of us who imagine that the solution to our anxiety lies between the covers of the next great time management book. Jen Pollock Michel's wise and gentle reflections on learning new habits of being and receiving the lives we have been given is a balm for every soul weary from the relentless pursuit of productivity."

Amy Julia Becker, award-winning author of *To Be Made Well* and *White Picket Fences*

"This book resonated deeply. Too many of us see time as a problem to be solved and a puzzle to be managed. But Jen Pollock Michel invites us to see time as a gift to be received and a mystery to be embraced. The best wisdom is haunted by death and yet buoyed by the horizon of Christian hope. It is wisdom saturated in the residue of eternity, accumulated from decades of quotidian observations and "thin space" encounters. This book is replete with that sort of wisdom. It's rich, immersive, beautifully written, and casually profound. Get yourself a copy and read it in an unrushed way."

Brett McCracken, senior editor at The Gospel Coalition and author of *The Wisdom Pyramid*



Sample Interview Questions for Jen Pollock Michel

In Good Time

- Thanks for joining us, Jen. We are so excited about your new book *In Good Time*. Will you tell us a bit about this message and why you chose to write on the topic?
 - The pandemic flipped our routines upside-down for about two years. How did it change the way you thought about productivity?
 - “Time anxiety” is a term that speaks to a lot of people! Will you describe what exactly “time anxiety” is? For those of us who experience this regularly, where can we find comfort and peace?
 - You describe yourself as an avid reader of productivity and time-management books. What is the common thread between those books? How is the message of *In Good Time* different (or even counterintuitive)?
 - *In Good Time* gets into eight habits for reimagining productivity. The first is quite simple, “begin.” Talk to us about the importance of beginning.
 - What is your response to people looking for *more* time?
 - The seventh habit you talk about in the book is “Enjoy.” Where do we see this habit in the Bible? Why is it important for us today?
 - Productivity, efficiency, and time management get a lot of things right. But they fail to recognize our humanness—grief, illness, death, etc. How should Christians view productivity in light of life’s trials?
 - Where can our audience go to connect with you and purchase a copy of *In Good Time*?
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