

HOWe THINGS ARE... July 2018

Scene: Mid-90s (1996?), a hotel room, remote northwest Arizona, 11pm, I'm traveling for work

After working a long day, I may or may not have grabbed an actual dinner and I'm furiously starting another round of work to prepare for the next day because I need to keep all the plates spinning. The room's dimmish lighting is set up for sleep not so much for a late night marathon work-fest. At some stage I will "finish", fall into bed, possibly in the clothes I'm currently wearing, keenly satisfied by what I've accomplished, staving off disaster for now.

A couple questions for my mid-90s self: did you know then that you had reserved prayer about your work to situations involving disaster... like it's a weapon you must wield judiciously and not until you've literally exhausted all other options? Did you know it was pride? You were telling God I really have this handled and don't need you on this one? (as in, God, I'll just take your glory on this one).

And for my 2018 self, as grateful as you are that there's a marked difference in your approach to work, and prayer, and the necessity of daily communion with God.... how much different from your 90s self are you? Pride is a curious thing. It's crouching at the door, and, oddly, even though I know where it leads: joylessness in work, and anxiety and pressure, it still tempts.

I do love work and the people I get to work with: *people I work with everyday* and *colleagues around the world I interact with occasionally*. One day, not because of any of us, but solely because of Him, every person will have access to His Word in their own language!

Transplant Clinic: Only once a month now. Plus I learned various interesting things listening to podcasts on my many four hour commutes to Winston-Salem and back.

Running: I can "run"* two miles. *running for 30 seconds and walking for a minute and a half. Progress: I can recover without taking a rest break when I get home.

Work projects: Most people are trusting and make really good targets for social engineering (tricking people into revealing something they shouldn't: passwords, confidential information). Missionaries: even more so trusting and great targets. I've lobbied (cajoled, pushed) for staff-wide awareness training. It's either a good idea or maybe I annoyed people long enough: staff-wide training coming soon --- yay! I am having a ridiculous amount of fun creating security awareness training videos using animation software. There are six 3-5 min videos. Perhaps you are currently thinking security awareness is not fun. Maybe you think it is boring and tech people like you, Sheryl, do not understand that the rest of us are not excited by the things you care about. This is because you have yet to see cartoons. Cartoons change everything.

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