

HOWe THINGS ARE...

August 2005

Hi! How are things with you?

In my family one oft-repeated story is the time my sisters and I were hiking at Seven Falls, near Tucson, AZ. There's a part of the trail that goes across a shallow, but wide stream and the rocks are all moss-covered and slippery. I fell when I was crossing. So pretty much once you fall,

Stuff you could pray about:

- **Praise God** for people I work with who have skills, abilities, and knowledge and thus, make fabulous resources for me to sponge off of.
- **Pray** for patience at work (I'm a teeny bit fed up with having mastered nothing – because of course there's not time to master the thing before the ground shifts) and wisdom too. Perhaps violence (against machines I'm frustrated with) might be helpful ...it's a comforting thought anyway...
- You could pray for a roommate for me. My roommate is moving back to Orlando in September and I've kind of liked the roommate situation --- the finance thing is very nice, but all around, having a roommate is a good thing at this particular point in time.

you're sunk. You can try to get back up again, but it's pretty near impossible to get your balance on the slippery rocks again. So I'd fallen a bunch of times attempting to get back up again and my older sister, attempting to be helpful, said, "Sheryl, you can't stand there". She meant, "you have to start moving right away once you're up". The story gets repeated because it was also a glaring statement of the obvious. I'd only fallen six times in the same place --- quite obviously, you can't stand there, you'll fall.

I'm noticing the "you can't stand, you have to move" principle (Sheila's original intention not the statement of the obvious) applies to my life --- especially at work, but other parts of my life too. Not so much because the ground/circumstances are slippery, more because the ground/circumstances are constantly moving. If I were so inclined, I could stubbornly attempt to stand/resist change. I'm not so much forced to move/change as I am motivated to move to avoid the pain involved (falling down) with standing/inaction. It's quite counter-intuitive to my normal mode of operation: the risk/change=bad; familiar/ tried and true=good mode. You might still fall if you move, but you're guaranteed to fall if you don't move.

nothing (not never, but less often than God calls people to action). So it occurs to me that being still is less about inactivity as it is about in-anxiety (see how I just invent words to annoy the poor person who has to check this letter for grammar). Being still is sometimes literally stopping activity and sometimes being still is not panicking when the situation appears to call for panic. The ground is moving; standing is not an option; but being still while you're moving, there's a good plan.

So here's a question, where does "Be still and know that I am God" fit in my lovely stand-falldown, move-maybe don't falldown picture? I associate being still with the standing option. Be still = don't move. However, God appears to very infrequently actually call people to do



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