

Hi! Join me mid-story...

Two odd events this week. First, I was sick (a reaction to a prescription it turns out). And you know how when you're sick, when I'm sick, I'm a bit more glass-is-half-empty than normal. I missed three days of work and it really bothered me that it didn't seem to matter that I wasn't there. Things go on without me. I'm not some super-critical piece. Not even mildly critical. (This isn't a depressing story, really). Then Saturday, having recovered, I take my car in for its required North Carolina annual inspection. I learn that the license plate light bulb on my car is burned out. The inspection place offers to replace this for me. The catch of course is they charge something ridiculous. If I do not agree to have them do it, I lose my place in line and have to come back and start all over again at the end. I realize in the grand scheme of things, it saves time to pay the ridiculous charge and not have to come back and wait again, but I just can't. I can't pay \$20 for a light bulb even if it saves me hours of waiting because it's just wrong to pay \$20 for a light bulb. So I leave, forfeiting my place in line to go to Auto Zone to buy the \$2 light bulb. And then, I can't

- Praise God for health --- it's so easy to forget how very, very nice it is to be healthy. A few days of being sick couldn't make me more appreciative of health and energy.
- I have the most fascinating conversations at work. Thank God for the people He put in my life. However, you could if you so desired, be praying that other women would join my group. The novelty of being the only girl wore off long ago. It's not the end of the world, but it would be nice to not be the only one.
- Pray for folks who need visas in order to come to a conference for technical people in October. There's still some funding needed for people too, but mostly visas.
- At work, we're getting a new president in October. The outgoing guy has been there many years. It's a big deal transition for us. Pray for the new president and the one who's leaving and for all of us to be good followers (minimal complaining, much enthusiasm).

immediately figure out how to change the light bulb. After having just recently come off of "I miss three days of work and it really doesn't matter". This "I can't even replace a light bulb" is a significant self-esteem blow. I did eventually figure it out, but the point is there are so many things I can't do. These are not necessarily things I'm physically incapable of doing. They're things I don't know how to do. At this point in the story, I'm trying to figure out what it is exactly I'm good at. Because surely there must be something.

Here's a problem. On any given day, I believe that people have value to God because we are made in His image. It has nothing to do with talent, skill, ability. People just have value, intrinsic value, by virtue of God's holding us up as valuable. Or at least, that's what I claim to believe. But if I actually believe this, and I'm a people, how is it that I'm bothered if I'm not missed at work or can't change a light bulb? If it were really my core belief that people in and of themselves have value, would I actually care about what I can or can't do? Obviously not. I only care because in actual fact, I question my own value if I can't do stuff. The truth is kind of this brick wall you can't get around, isn't it?

I like how (a) God points out stuff like how I'm inconsistent in how I act vs. how I say I believe (nicely, it wasn't a bad thing to find out), (b) God presents the same situation a couple times until I get it, and (c) whether or not I believe something, whether or not I act on what I believe, has no actual affect on the truth. People (including me) are valuable just like that. What they know or what they can do doesn't make them any more valuable.

If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is.

~John Louis von Neumann

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at ALL times and in EVERY way
— 2 Thess. 3:16

Sheryl Howe

✉ sahowe@wbt.org

📍 6114A Webster Way, Waxhaw, NC, 28173

☎ 704-243-0208

🏠 704-243-3562

Home Office/ Financial Contributions:
(Enclose a note stating: For Sheryl Howe)



**Make checks payable to:
Wycliffe Bible Translators**

www.wycliffe.org

PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862

1-800-WYCLIFFE (992-5433)