



Follow up conference in Estes Park, CO. I went on a hike with some friends and we saw the start of a forest fire. This was the closest I've ever been to a forest fire.

Hard to Breathe

Okay I might be out of shape, but walking up a hill while talking to friends shouldn't make it hard to breathe. It sounds pretty pathetic, but then again I was at an elevation of 8000 feet. Early this month AIA sent me to Estes Park, CO for a follow up conference to our New Staff Training this past summer. It was a 3½ day conference, but it was exactly what I needed.

First, I was able to see some of my friends I met this summer at NST. Three of the same conferences were going on in different locations at different times, so I wasn't able to see everyone I met from NST. Still, it was great seeing a handful of my friends. We were able to reconnect and share stories of how God is working in the midst of our support raising.

Second, it was a great time of encouragement and re-motivation. I had a bad attitude going into the conference, thinking I didn't really need to attend. But it does something good to your soul when you're able to share with people who are in the same boat as you are. On top of inspiration from friends, we had many speakers giving us messages of encouragement and hope.

Third and last, I learned a lot from the conference. Part of the conference focused on stewardship and finances from a godly perspective. We covered many areas from saving to spending, debt to emergency fund. It reminded me that I am just a steward of what God has entrusted to me.

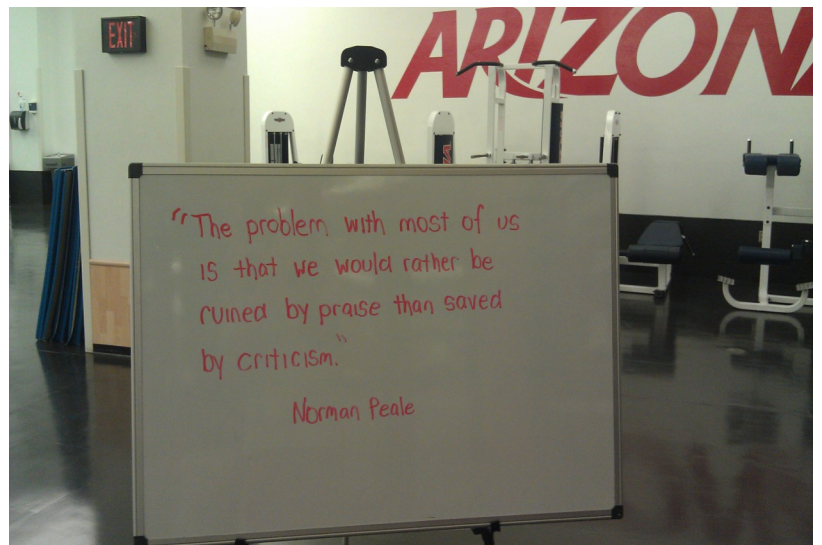
Pursuing the goal,
Jeremy

My Soapbox

(This is just a short sharing I wanted to add as something God has really been hitting me with, something that I am excited and passionate about.)

Faith based vs. Works based

If you are a Christian and I asked you if you are saved by grace through faith or by works what would you say? I think any Bible believing Christian would say the former. But here's my follow up question. Do your actions, thoughts, decisions, etc. prove you believe what you say? This is what happens to a lot of us as Christians... All our lives we've been conditioned to be works and performance based. Get good grades, do a good job, make the starting spot, get first chair, etc. and you'll receive praise and worth. While it's good to perform well, so often we bring that into salvation. Day 1 we become Christians by faith and trust in Jesus Christ and His work. Day 2 we revert right back to our old habits of performance. If I just stop and think for a little while, I realize this happens to me all the time. My actions reflect that I don't really believe Christ's work on the cross is enough to consider me righteous and redeemed. The scary thing is when I do this, essentially what I'm saying is, "Jesus, *You* didn't do enough. *I* need to do more to be saved." When you really think about this, isn't it a crazy proposition?! Do I really think my works are better than Jesus'? It's like telling Michelangelo he didn't paint the Sistine Chapel good enough so let me add to it. It really is ludicrous. If you relate to this at all, stop performing and accept the grace of Jesus' work.



For more information, you can check out my website at www.wongside.com/jeremy

Also, many times I like to send links and emails to my ministry partners showing more of my ministry with AIA. If you have an email address and would like to receive these notifications, please email me at jmwong@wongside.com