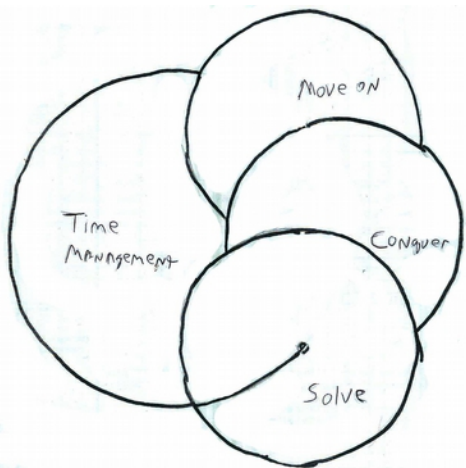


Solve. Conquer. Move on.

by Malcolm McElvaney

I was pondering the details of what it would take to emulate taking photos from a child's point of view and while discussing it with someone they mentioned a simple summation that I really liked. "Solve. Conquer. Move on" is applicable to many things but would also fit into that original line of inquiry I will be working on but it is in terms of photography overall I want to cover here. The model I see includes time management to tie these three elements together and could be an useful evaluation tool to help answer the question of what is your process when dealing with photography. Based on my experiences I consider time a critical factor as there were times if I had the patience I could have gotten some better pictures if only I waited or stopped one more time along the path. I have come to realize the moments I capture present themselves in a limited time frame yet a missed opportunity elsewhere isn't a reason to go faster but get the best results where I am at instead.



Solve – There are usually multiple ways to achieve a similar results yet if in a hurry we tend to pick one solution and follow that through exclusively. Similar results are not identical results so trying more than one solution would also be a worthy time investment. Every picture we take can benefit from looking for multiple solutions (i.e. point of view shift or composition changes) and perhaps just be more patient as time helps improve the conditions of the scene.

Conquer – To master something is to conquer it and it is practice over time that helps achieve this mastery. Every new attempt to take that next picture introduces new challenges as solutions applied to previous pictures may not work exactly the same. This has been what I have found to be true especially as it seems each picture has its own unique set of condition to over come as I make it match my vision for it. There is also an aspect of challenging yourself to push beyond what you have achieved and in the process discover you can do more than you thought.

Move on – The passion for what you do and where you choose to apply that effort will be diverse since we are all unique individuals, but interest do shift over time and new interest captivate us. What I have found is while I may not be focusing on past exploits that the current endeavor can be helpful in looking at them in new ways. Inspiration

comes from many places. Conquering one topic of interest leads to skills sets useful over all as you explore other aspects to build more skills sets from.

I would consider myself an amateur photographer with a definite lack of profit motivation but I feel free to just experiment and be inspired by random tidbits found while exploring drawing, painting, video game, and comic book related material to name a few sources. I need to work on my patience and be willing to conquer more of the odd processes I try along the way. Hopefully you found this new tool of some use and it helps out. If you consider yourself a beginner and are new to photography remember that each success leads one step closer to a plateau and a good vantage point to spot your next challenge to perhaps climb even higher for better vantage points. Other photographers can be inspirational but you will develop your unique style over time just give it a chance to happen.