

Pressure?

It's more than just a song by Billy Joel. For some people, it's the worst thing they can imagine – a faceless monster waiting to crush them under its weight. For others, like me, it's a motivator.

I'm generally lazy, or at least a little bit of a procrastinator. The strictures of having a job to do, a boss to report to, or a deadline for completion ensures that no matter how vile a given task might be, it will get done.

*No amount of shoveling, itchy old barley dust, hot weather, or tears is worse than facing failure. I'll be damned if I'm going to say I had to stop working – stop trying – because I was too tired. Somehow, stopping because I've finished – or at least done enough – sounds a lot better.*

I'm actually far more concerned about having too little to do than too much to do. After all, don't they say idle hands are the devil's playground? I think too much spare time gives me the chance to think too much, quite honestly.

I get up in the morning, spend some time with my wife, eat breakfast, and go to work most days. Most weekends I do the same thing, only the work is done on the house. I know what you're thinking – if I didn't have these things to do, I could go fishing, or work on my novel, or...

But it doesn't work that way. If I didn't have tasks to do, I'd sit on the couch playing video games, because I love video games. I might write a bit, but I'd be willing to bet it would actually be a fraction of what I do now, because when I sit down at the computer, I know I have to be productive because I don't have a lot of time.

What does all of this come down to?

Your life can either be minimized by pressure, or it can be optimized by it. Pressure is always there – it's all in how you use it.

The fact that it exists and helps me to improve, to accomplish and achieve puts it on the plus side of reasons to be happier about life.

*Yeah, I'll be honest – I didn't see that one coming either.*