

Where The Goals, Where The Goals, Where The Goals At?

I'd say this post was inspired by a DMX song but I don't want to scare anyone off before they even start reading. The only thing inspired by DMX is the title of this post.

I figured that since we are eight months into the years as I peck at the keyboard today it would be a good time to see how much progress has been made towards [the goals I set for 2018](#). This isn't the first time I have reviewed the goals since setting them, it's just time I've provided an update on the blog.

It's important to remember that setting a goal is only step zero. You then have to take daily action to achieve your goals. This requires constant review. As a reminder, here is [what I had to say on goal setting late last year](#):

*Writing (or typing) out your goals and then reviewing them on a regular basis, keeps them top of mind. It is not just the mere act of writing them down that makes setting goals so powerful. It's the daily review that keeps you in achievement mode. This daily practice is the first step in success. You start to visualize yourself accomplishing your goals, and your subconscious continues to work around the clock to find a way to ensure success with enough repetitions. Some people call this "the law of attraction," but if that is a little too hokey for you, I tell people that **your focus goes where your energy flows**.*

I've been working diligently in turning my goals into reality these past eight months. I hope you have, too! I hope you didn't just set the goals and then forget about them. I really hope you didn't give up on your goals either.

By the time this post goes to press you will have three months left to get your goals over the finish line.

My 2018 Goals in Review

(1) Strengthen my relationship with Mrs. GYFG [\[Grade: A\]](#)

a. I'm going to schedule two date nights per month. We are both very busy working professionals and have a very active social life with friends and family. It has gotten to the point that we need to make sure we carve out time for just the two of us.

[\[I actually ended up blocking out Fridays every week for "our time." This has ensured that we get at least two date nights per month and many times three to four.\]](#)

b. Convert our bonus room into a movie room. Our bonus room has been empty for nearly four years. Mrs. GYFG has wanted to set this room up for a while, but she wants to do it together. I usually pass on home projects, but I know it's important to her, so I am going to be actively involved. We have already ordered the 75" TV and wrap-around couch that will be the foundation of the room.

[\[We finished getting this set up in later January. The TV is massive and great for watching movies. We also put in a huge wraparound coach with an oversized ottoman. The one thing that is still missing is a little concession stand with drinks, popcorn machine, and candy bar \(maybe next year\).\]](#)

c. Tackle a home office project. One of the rooms in our house is dedicated as an office, library, and craft room. We want to convert the closet into floor to ceiling bookshelves to organize and display our growing collection of books (around 300 volumes currently). We also want to build in a custom u-shaped desk so that we both have our own work areas. Again, I have never been big on DIY projects, but this will be a way for me to spend some quality time with Mrs. GYFG doing things she enjoys.

[\[I recently shared some progress photos of this project on my July 2019 financial report. We expect to get this installed before this post is published. We are so excited!\]](#)

d. Plan an international vacation together. We have several locations in mind for 2018, and we would like to take two weeks, which will be our longest vacation

yet.

[We had to make a pivot on this goal due to Baby GYFG. We had planned to do a Europe trip this summer but changed it to a babymoon trip to ~~Maui~~ Lake Austin instead (Category 5 Hurricane Lane forced us to cancel Maui last minute and find a new destination). We ended up staying ten great days at the [Lake Austin Spa and Resort](#).]

(2) Dress the part. Since getting promoted to the C-Suite earlier this year, I have been slowly making a transition to level up with my professional appearance. [Grade: C]

a. Continue getting a haircut bi-weekly. I spend about double what I used to on haircuts, but my hair always looks on point these days.

[I have definitely kept up with my bi-weekly haircuts, at least when travel doesn't get in the way. As my brother likes to say, it keeps me looking "fresh as a peppermint."]

b. Order custom fit clothes through the M-Tailor app. I just ordered my first custom shirt and jeans last week to give this service a try. My goal is to slowly build up my wardrobe with enough custom shirts and pants for two weeks without doing laundry (or dry-cleaning).

[I've ordered a few custom shirts and one pair of custom pants. I like the shirts, but the pants are not what I expected. However, I can't really use this as my excuse. Summer came and with it triple digit heat on a daily basis. This had me dragging back out my walking shorts and t-shirts (with the occasional short sleeve button up or polo). It is miserable dressing the part in the middle of summer - at least where I live.]

c. I am slowly working my way to a nicer more professional wardrobe.

[This is true. I have done about three purges over the last twelve months.]

(3) Increase net worth to \$825,000. [Grade: A+]

[Our [net worth finished 2017 at \\$664,391](#) and this goal was to increase our net worth by \$160,609. As of July 2018, our net worth surpassed our goal and [finished the month at \\$850,450](#). That is a gain of \$186,059 so far and there are still five months to go. I'm currently projecting our net worth to finish around \$908,000 by the end of the year, with a possibility to surpass \$1,000,000 if some things go our way.]

(4) Weigh 203 pounds (I currently weigh 233 pounds and need to lose 30 pounds). [Grade: C+]

[I actually ended up gaining a few more pounds after setting this goal. My back ended up getting worse (I found out I had two bulging discs) and kept me from doing much activity during the first three months of the year. I eventually got help from a chiropractor who put me through an eight-week non-surgical decompression program. At the halfway point he suggested that I start supplementing the treatment with swimming and the combination has been amazing. I peaked out at 238 pounds in March but am currently at 225. The good news is that I still have some year left to continue making progress towards this goal.]

(5) Negotiate \$25,000 to \$75,000 pay raise. [Grade: A+]

[It is absolutely incredible that I have been able to achieve such large pay increases in such a short period of time. In July 2015, I negotiated a \$60,000 increase in compensation. In December 2016, I negotiated a \$50,000 increase in compensation. And in December of 2017, I successfully negotiated a \$75,000 pay increase, so I reached the high end of my range.]

So, that's where I am so far. It's September 3rd as I type this, which means I still have four months to achieve, or at least improve, my current results. My weight loss goal has now moved to the top of the list. I will feel like this year was a major success if I can get down to at least 215 pounds before the end of the year. And this accountability check-in brings a little extra motivation for me.

How are you doing with your own goals? Which have you accomplished so far? Struggling with any? Did you set-and-forget any???

- Gen Y Finance Guy



Gen Y Finance Guy

Hey, I'm Dom - the man behind the cartoon. You'll notice that I sign off as "Gen Y Finance Guy" on all my posts, due to the fact that I write this blog anonymously (at least for now). I like to think of myself as the *Chief Freedom Officer* here of my little corner of the internet. In the real world, I'm a 30-something former C-Suite executive turned entrepreneur turned capital allocator. I am trying to humanize finance by sharing my own journey to Financial Freedom. I believe in total *honesty* and *transparency*. That is why before I ever started blogging, I decided that I would share all of my own [financial stats](#). I do this not to brag, but instead to inspire motivate, and also to hold myself accountable. My goal is to be a beacon of hope, motivation, and inspiration for *you*, the reader, by living life by example and sharing it **all** here on the blog. My sincere hope is that you will be able to learn from me - both from my successes and my failures! [Read More](#)