**Speaker:** Cherian Thomas

**Speech Type:** Toastmaster Speech

**Speech Preface:**

The speech below is written with the same style as the videos that you sent me. You can tweak this into more your style of speaking, but this should be a great baseline to what you are looking for. There is some humor in it, like the videos, if you want to change the humor please go ahead. I also added PARENTHESIS into certain areas where the speaking style should change, feel free to modify as you please.

**Speech:**

**Not so Comfortable Zone**

(Say with sarcasm) It was a Friday; I was sitting at my very own cubicle. My cubicle was easily the same size as a parking space, which means it is pretty big. Big enough to have my own mini fridge. I know a lot of you are jealous and are thinking, “what, he had his very own cubicle? How was he so successful at such a young age?”

(Say with seriousness and conviction) Now, before I go any further, (Insert MC name here) and fellow Toast Masters I had a friend that once told me something, his name was Chris Leger (that’s me, feel free to take this out) and this is what he said to me, “You should stand up to be seen,” He said that Cherian every time you do that you should “speak out to be heard” and most importantly “you should sit down to be appreciated.”

Now my promise to you today is that I will be brief, but in this moment that I am sharing with you, I plan to inspire, motivate and empower you to take control of everything that you do and everything that you are.

(Back to sarcasm) Now, back to my sweet office job you all wanted to know more about. I know several of you think you probably had it pretty well in your 9-5 job, but not so fast there… at my sweet set up I was living the life. I had 45 minute lunch breaks………….. on Fridays, that’s when bossman wasn’t there. Oh, and did I mention we had the best set up for coffee, we had that real creamer, you know that kind that comes in different flavors that you need to keep in the refrigerator, not that powdery kind that no one likes. Yeah, I guess you could say I was living the American dream.

Then one day while I was “working” all the staff was called into the conference room, for … well… I guess a conference. There at the front of the room, kind of where I am standing today was this woman. She looked normal (whatever that means) and I had never seen her at our office before. The meeting started, and the second she opened her mouth it was like the angels were singing from above, or if you’re not into that kind of stuff, it was like out of her mouth came words, phrases, metaphors that were so fluent, flawless, facile and other “f-words” that simply state she spoke well… I had never heard someone speak this way. If you were to ask me today what she was talking about I couldn’t tell you. I was so enthralled with how she could draw all of us in with just her tone and flowing speech. Imagine this woman as a modern day version of Shakespeare. Only instead of literally speaking in rhymes and quips, she spoke with her hands and hips, gesturing more than a mime, yet using words, unlike a mime. William Shakespeare was a verbal contortionist, this lady, well she was also a verbal contortionist, but I bet she was a lot better to look at than Bill was. I guess the main difference between the two is that she had something William never had…….. penicillin, back then he only had “quill-icillin.”

Who knows what she talked about that day, all I know is from that moment forward I wanted to be like her, to captivate anyone within ear shot of my voice, to be able to tell them a story about anything and for them to just be in awe. But wait, what was I thinking I was living the life at my 9 to 5? How could I just give that up? Was I going to have to venture outside of my comfort zone? I doubt outside in the “not so comfortable zone” there was going to be free coffee with that good creamer.

You see, what I had realized is that I hadn’t been living my life with purpose, passion or conviction. I was so afraid though, how could I give something up; give my career up for something I knew nothing about? Speaking in front of thousands of people? Is that even a real job, how will I make money? These were all questions flying through my head at a million miles an hour. Then I was remembered, sometimes what looks like the end is really the beginning. The decision is yours. You can step outside into that “not so comfortable zone” or you can stay at your 9 to 5.

I can tell you which path I took.

Thanks.