

Javen Etienne

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Walk of faith

Christian. What is a Christian? A Christian is being related to or teaching Christianity. Although there are much more to following Christ than just going to Sunday mass and saying, "I believe". Being a Christian is a gift, it's a passion, something to be grateful of. Being a believer is freedom, knowing that I'm able to call the Lord my Father is something I desire most, it's something I look forward too. When night comes and I put my hands together I feel relief, I feel vulnerable. God is my savior and my strength when I am weak. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.

Throughout my past eighteen years of living my walk-through Christ has transformed me into the man I am today. I have my dad and Stepmother to thank for raising me in such a Christian environment and instilling the values of treating others how Jesus would want us to each other. My journey started thorough Baptism as a baby I was blessed by the Lord, then soon came my first communion, this past year I completed my final step of making my confirmation during such a tremulous time in our lives, living through a pandemic has taught me the value of fellowship and to never take it for granted. One day in mass my priest talked about coming to church in person as one body through Christ other than being isolated and separated by technology and not fully absorbing God's message. I didn't realize how much this impacted me especially going through a tragic loss due to this horrific virus, losing a close family member was hard and made me realize how much of a gift It was from God making life so precious. Through this tough time, he never left my side, he was there to listen and grieve with me. I used to blame the Lord for many deaths but then soon started to realize that he does it for good reason and for a purpose. "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

Change. Change is a good thing, sometimes change is needed, listening and believing in the lord is good it is healthy, it is indeed the best route. Growing up with divorced and toxic parents is hard and having a split family of boys and girls aren't normal. I had to grow up and leave my sister because my birth mother decided it was best, as a seven-year-old that's hard to take in and process. Watching my mom just give up on me and my older brother was heartbreaking, I felt abandoned, I felt worthless and unappreciated. I started to do bad things that weren't right and that I knew God would not approve of, although through my time of grieving I did not care, and I did whatever would take the pain away no matter how bad It was. I then came to my senses and had a reality check, I got caught up and had consequences at that moment I had no other option other than to get my life together, and that's when I chose to let God lead me, I

chose to change I chose to do the right thing, I started reading the bible I started to put my hands together and apologize and asking time and time and time again to “please Lord cleanse me Lord, lead me in the right direction Lord” I begged and begged for help, but then soon noticed that I can't just do wrong in the name of God and expect him to instantly forgive me, but that I had to forgive myself first and I had to WANT to change. So, I took it upon myself to finally forgive and I

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moved on. Then noticed that God was doing me good as everything started to fall into place. “and this too shall pass” Corinthians 4:17-18

I got the opportunity of a lifetime about a year ago, I was blessed to receive an offer from Louisiana College in Pineville after long days and hours of hard work my dream had finally come true, getting the call from coach Maddox was life changing and after viewing the campus and meeting my coaches and peers, I knew that God was leading me in the right direction. Playing football was always going to be a part of my journey in life, I'm just very thankful that God has chosen this path for me and has chosen it to be a part of my life as well. Football has also taught me a lot its humbled me so much and I have learned that God can show you many different things in many different ways, and he has showed me a lot through football even things that can help in the real-world situations. I thank God for almost everything that I'm doing and everything that lead to me to where I am today. God will forever have an impact on me, and he will forever be number one in my life and in my heart. “If we walk in the light, as He is in the light.... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7.

Thus comes the end of my chapter, I am now in college I am living my dream of playing football at the collegiate level I am in a healthy and happy relationship, I have a wonderful family and amazing friends surrounding me. They say college is hard and stressful and maybe it is, but I know I can get through it; I know I can accomplish anything I believe the impossible is very possible, however only through Christ, you shall believe and have a relationship with the lord than everything shall fall into place. My walk with God is something that is never ending and will never fade. Christianity is so much more than what it is made out to be, I hope everyone gets to experience there walk with Christ and builds a fond and extravagant relationship like I, because having Christ as your savior is something you will never regret. “for there is born to you this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11.