

“This I Believe”

I believe that no matter the cards you are dealt in life, you can accomplish great things. It all depends on if you are willing to put in the sweat, blood, and countless tears to reach them. However, nowadays people are more focused on all the glitters being gold. I feel as if they expect every little thing to fall into place, and experience no hardships. It is as if people expect things to be handed to them. While it is good to strive to be better off for yourself and family. The wanting of materialistic objects has cloaked the importance of family. Materials can be recreated over and over again, but another living being is a onetime offer.

Handed down like a family heirloom hard work has always played a factor in my life. In my twenty three years, my life has fallen well short of a Disney movie happy ending. A roller coaster to say the least, it more resembles the task of trying to staple water to a wall. If there is one thing that I have learned growing up, it is that hard work will pay off. Whether you are doing something you love or because you have to in order to get by; give it your all.

I could always recall those stories that my grandma would tell me about my grandpa. I forget the year but it was way back when. At the age of twelve his father abandoned him and his family. Being the oldest of three siblings it was up to him to step up and become the man of the house. He quit school in order to get a job. My grandpa came across countless hardships but always kept in his heart the importance of family.

I can recall my sister and me accompanying my mom to her jobs because she could not afford to hire a babysitter. She would go day in and day out with little to no sleep. When she would drive us to school early in the morning she would tell us to yell and slap her so she would not crash the car. I applaud my mother for making sacrifices to make sure we had food in our mouths and a roof over our heads.

I have known the realization of hard work ever since I was little. Things did not come full circle

until I graduated high school and found myself all alone. I could not turn to my sister because she had left to New Mexico for college years prior. My mom was no longer in my life and my grandmother had sadly passed away. My town was always a do it yourself town so finding a job was impossible. It was not until I was offered my first job of detailing cars for my ex-girlfriends father that I had one. I often found myself day in and out detailing cars. I was excited because it was my first job but I was only getting five dollars an hour. The cleaning supplies I was buying cost more than I was getting paid. I often had to dip into my own piggy bank to get some. It was not a win win situation. I was giving it my all cleaning these cars with little in return. My realization of needing to do something with my life came full force when my ex's dad said that, "You are so good at this, you may have found a job for life."

I had scholarships to play baseball at a variety of different colleges, but there was a problem. I loved playing baseball but did not love the school part. Plus some of the scholarships were not full rides and I did not find the idea of being in debt very entertaining. For many reasons, I joined the United States Marine Corps. I had friends and family telling me not to go. But I did not heed the warning. I wanted the adventure. Upon leaving for boot camp the only words of wisdom my grandpa had for me was that, I would not make it. Not exactly what I wanted to hear but I used that negativity to fuel my will to accomplish my goal.

Whether it is positive or negative, I believe it is important to put your family first no matter what the case. But also remember to work hard at whatever you are doing.