

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

I thank and praise God who has blessed my four years of college. What started out with a decision of faith to go to COD turned into unexpected adventures of learning and countless blessings.

First, God blessed me tremendously while attending COD, I found my love for Biology through a professor and also began to realize the importance of one-to-one bible studies. Through his grace, I was able to go fishing and have three one-to-one bible studies a week. One-to-one bible studies really trained me to have a broken shepherd heart for his lost sheep. But through one sheep, Richelle, I especially learned that only God can save her and only God can heal her of her past pains.

However, struggling with my mom about a certain issue, I was filled with anger and rebelliousness that I questioned God's love for me. I felt God had abandoned me and left me alone to fight this battle. I slowly dropped my one-to-one bible studies and didn't want to do anything that made me seem like a good child to my parents. However, I was empty and lost, I was filled with despair and I knew that God was calling me again.

As I was getting ready to transfer my sophomore year, my dad encouraged me to apply to Wheaton College. Once again I wanted to run away from my parents but God knew what was better for me. Although I was accepted to my dream schools, I knew at that moment I was in need of spiritual revival and in need of true Christian fellowship.

By God's grace, I went to Wheaton College in hopes to learn how to integrate God in every aspect of my life. I was blessed with wonderful spiritually founded professors and friends who encouraged my walk with Christ and I was finally able to start forgiving my parents. I began to learn about different ways of worship and through “the church of Acts” women's bible study with some friends, God opened my eyes to world mission vision through reading the New Testament. But God blessed me the most as he started to reveal to me his faithfulness and love through Justine. She has taught me and challenged me with her questions of what it means to be a real Christian and has blessed me through our bible studies together.

My time at Wheaton was also marked by a period of time when I dated a guy who seemed like the answer to my troubles. He was studying to become a pastor and was very personable. I had put much hope in this guy to take away my pains of the past. But the relationship wasn't what I imagined it to be. When he realized how the relationship wasn't working out, I agreed to break up with him mutually, however, the thought of rejection broke my heart. I was heartbroken because I had hope for freedom and redemption in a guy instead of God.

It was through the 2008 Purdue Summer Bible Conference, Jesus called my name to come down from my pride and selfishness to fully surrender my life to him. Through this conference, Jesus took away my bitterness and my unbelief as he died on the cross. What I came to understand through Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, the Samaritan woman, the robber next to him on the cross, and the story of the prodigal son was his amazing love for sinners. The words seemed cliché but for the first time I realized within

my soul that Jesus loves me so much. He came to me when I was not worthy. He came to forgive me and love me even though I was not ready to be clean. But he came because he truly loves me and wants more than a vending machine relationship.

All my life I thought I knew Jesus and I had a relationship with him but I realized how little I really understood about the depth of his love for a sinner like me. I do not love God because he gives me blessings but I love God because of his love and grace for me. He chose to love me and took my place in judgment before the holy God. I saw myself behind Jesus in God's throne in rags and filthy from the life of sin I have lived yet Jesus stood firm, pure and blameless, saying, "She's with me and I love her. I will take all the blame and I will pay the price of her sins." Only Jesus could pay the ransom for my sins and he did to the full because of his unconditional love. Thank God.

I also learned how much I needed to grow in my relationship with God. Holding onto Jesus as my true love I promised God my future. I didn't want to live for myself any longer and I saw how joyful life can be when I surrendered my life to him. I held onto Psalm 146: 1-6, "I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground, on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-- he remains faithful forever." Through this verse I realized that I hoped for a man to save me in my hard situation with my parents but God was my true source of hope and strength.

When God gave me this word through the conference, I was also able to see that my mom truly loved me. I didn't understand till then her loving intentions and how much she had truly loved me. I thank my mom who has loved me and cared about every single aspect of my life. She works so hard to provide everything I need, prays for me everyday, and cares for me so much. I thank God who has blessed me with a fearless bible teacher, and mostly importantly as my unconditional loving mom.

In the past few months after my renewed relationship with Christ, I had experienced the joy of living in God's presence and in his words. Through the YDC "One Love" conference I was encouraged by Psalm 119:9-16, to live according to God's word to live a life of purity and life of joy. Studying the bible and having fellowship was no longer a chore, but it became one of my favorite times of the week. Through God's words, we have life and it is only through God's word and his spirit I am satisfied.

My life verse is Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." God truly blesses those who have faith and believe in his goodness and blessings. Living by faith is hard, but I truly believe that God rewards us when we trust in him and give him our life. This is not our life to live, but God's. We must live by faith to please him. This year I have experienced the most amount of blessings, when I was able to decide by faith and trust in God and in God's family.

I thank and praise God who has blessed me so much this year. I thank God for his amazing love for a sinner like me that he would send his son to die on the cross and forgive me. I thank God for my parent's who have loved me and prayed for me so much. They constantly encourage me and serve me like a princess, even though I used to think they didn't love me. I also thank God for my sister, Esther, and cousin, James, and Phil who have been supportative and have brought much joy to our family. I thank God for

my wonderful friends from Wheaton College, Janet, Sandra, and Gloria, who have prayed with me and been best of friends and sisters who held me accountable. They are a few of the best gifts I received from attending Wheaton College. I also thank God for my Dupage ministry. Msn. Gideon and Msn. Mary Bahn's family are truly like my uncle and aunt who care for me, love me, and feed me. Shepherd Jeremy and Susanna Hajek's family have become such a source of encouragement to me and I respect them so much. I love every single person in our ministry, Shp. Matthew, Shp. Alan, Andre, Steve, Isaac, Sarah, Ashely, Michael, and all those who have shared life with me here at church. I am so thankful for our community and I cannot thank God enough for all of you. .

I thank God who has redeemed me and gave me new life through the past four years of college. All the experiences and decisions have shaped who I am today. Good or bad, they have all helped me to see that life is only worth living with Christ and that God truly blesses those who trust in him.

I pray that I may continue to surrender my life to Jesus each and everyday, so that I may grow as a disciple of Christ instead of following the things of the world. I pray that I may live to please God in action, thought, and word, and love others more than myself. I hope that God will use me for his world mission purpose continuously through podiatry medical school and that even in the midst of a busy schedule, I may never forget the reason for studying, which is to reflect God's awesomeness and glory.

My prayer topics for the next four years:

1. To study hard and pursue excellence for God's glory and honor.
2. To live by faith, trusting in God's unfailing love.
3. To be faithful to one to one bible study with my mom and Sunday service at Dupage ministry.
4. To grow as a shepherd, disciple, and missionary for world mission.

One Word: Believe and trust in God's unfailing love and you will be blessed.