JAMES RIVER COLLEGE

CAPSTONE RESPONSE PAPER

SUBMITTED TO:

JEREMY BLACK

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF LEADERSHIP PRACTICUM

LEAD 194

BY

Koleman Parsley

Class Sec #3

11/20/2019

Here I am, 18 years old, first year as a residence at college, about to graduate in the spring and move on with my life, currently have a job that has been a dream of mine for a long time. I am not typing this as a boast, rather as a terrifying thought of where I am. I am such a broken person, struggled with so many different things in my life, yet I am allowed all these amazing things. This thought hits me everyday and inspires me. This semester I have seen so much growth in both my spiritual life, my faith, my career, but also my leadership abilities!

These past months from May till now I have seen exponential amount of spiritual growth in my life and through my life. Before coming into this semester, I was very hesitant, I was content where I was at in my relationship with Christ. Reflecting this was a very dangerous point in my life, and I am beyond grateful of grace the Lord had for me this summer to re-ignite my relationship with Him. I have referenced this in a couple different journals, but it wasn’t until I got thrown out of my routine getting an “outside” view of my life when I realized the path of destruction I was on. Since May my pursuit has been on fire for the Lord. Coming here was more kindling added, pushing me into many different scenarios forcing me to grow. Being here has also encouraged me to pursue education on my own via podcasts and different books. Even in the midst of typing this, I have the urge to just listen and study which is a new thing and I absolutely love!

Being at James River College has enhanced my faith in ways that I never even thought possible. Growing up, I never had those thoughts that God was real or not, I always knew that He was real and evident in my life, I still had faith issues on Him in my life. I knew that He could work and does work in people’s life, I just never thought He would ever work in mine. Another big faith issue in my life was my future, I was so set on a career and a certain path, a certain college, and a certain job. I still struggle with allowing Him to work in my career, but now I have complete faith in Him and my career. As soon as I gave Him my career and what I thought I wanted my job to be, I was given an opportunity for the job I have right now. I have continually seen His faith through this job in ways that I could never imagine.

My career plans in the past 6 years have changed drastically, but also not much. Around 6th grade is when I started computer programming and learning different computer languages. Ever since that moment I knew I wanted to work with computers, whether that be designing new software, building new programs, game making or testing, etc. It just had to incorporate computers! This passion has stayed with me and driven me to many different achievements, this passion continues to drive me today, except now I know that whatever I end up doing with computers, it will be to glorify and build the Kingdom!

Yet again, my career plans dramatically changed this semester, that internship I was planning on doing this semester was the job that was offered. When I finally was convinced to join the college, it was because I was promised an internship under the programmer for the church, Jonathan Chestnut. About a week before school actually started I got a call, after the interview I found out the job I was offered was the same job Jonathan Chestnut had! This job has helped me improve in ways I could never comprehend, I hit these points on some of my journals, but starting out I felt incompetent, I did not feel like I was suited for this position and had that burning fear I would be fired. But as I progressed in the job, I saw my abilities change drastically. From the grace, strength, and wisdom from God, I was able to not only fill my role, but greatly exceed expectations.

As I look into the future, I become very excited, I know that I will continue to grow spiritually in my walk with Christ. My fire and passion continue to burn to learn more, I continue to strive to develop and advance my relationship with Him, and I surround myself with people that are on fire in hopes of kindling my flame! As I continue into this new decade, a new season of my life, most likely my final semester at James River College before I graduate, and opportunities keep coming up to grow in my career. I am constantly reminded by how good God is, how much mercy He had on that broken kid with no intent on attending this college, and how that kid is now loving every moment and growing in ways he never thought he would!

As my spiritual growth continues, so does my faith. Faith in not only God, but restored faith in leadership and friends. Having trust in people is something that has never really come easy to me, but I have learned that as I have more and more trust in God and what He is doing I am having more and more trust in the godly relationships around me. Having trust to share my testimony, trust to share my struggles, and having trust that God is going to use and honor that! My trust/faith in God is also growing exponentially, going from being that super paranoid and anxious person, to being fully reliant on what God is going to do in and through my life. Not only that faith, but also taking that initiative and allowing God to move me, faith and works is something that has not always been apart of my life at the same time. Often I either have faith, or I have works, but this semester I have learned to have both and have seen so much growth through that, and I am expectant to see more in the future!