

I'm Hongyu. I was born in Japan in 2001. I then lived in China for 2 years and moved to Louisiana at the age of 3. I am now 17 years old and days away from graduating high school.

I've called myself a Christian for as long as I can remember. Growing up, Christian was just another title that I could attach to myself. Waking up Sunday morning just to go to church was like waking up on Monday to go to school. It was just something I had to do. It was routine to me. I would sit through Sunday school daydreaming, waiting until it was time to go outside and play. I would go through worship with my mouth glued shut, not wanting to sing. The rare times when I would sing, I didn't know the words' true meaning. I was just reading off the PowerPoint. I would play games on my phone while the pastor was giving his message. I would just sit there. The words would come in one ear and go out the other. When I was at church, the only thing I could think about was what I was going to do after church. Jesus was never on my mind. Every single night before I went to sleep I would pray. But none of my prayers were sincere. I treated God like a vending machine. If I do this, then you must give me that.

But No. It doesn't work like that. I am getting baptized today because I have decided to receive Jesus and accept him as my Lord and Savior. I want to show my friends and family that I am ready to live a life like Jesus. I've learned that Christian isn't just another name that you can call yourself. It's a lifestyle. As a Christian, you are a member of the family of God forever. You have brothers and sisters who will always be there for you. Being Christian isn't just a Sunday thing. Every day is a day to live for God and to share the Gospel with others.