



JESSE JAMES

WELDER

"THE STRUGGLE I WENT THROUGH IS PROBABLY WHAT [BUILT MY] CHARACTER AND MAKES ME WHO I AM TODAY."

Jesse is a welder in Bend, Oregon who started his own welding company.

WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE GENIUS?

"In my mind, I can picture how things are going to go together backwards. I can visualize something put together."

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?

"That would be my grandpa. I used to see pictures of all the stuff he would build—I wanted to be able to do that. I was really blessed because it was just me and my grandpa out there most of the time.

He helped me do a couple of projects that would start with my idea and he would help me figure out how to put it together. Then he started teaching me how to weld."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR CAREER A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU?

"Sometimes people call me dyslexic, which means I have things backwards. But, it actually works out really well for me. I can actually see something put together and done."

"I can picture how things are going to go together backwards."

WHAT DOES A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE?

"Most of what I do now is [only] 30% welding. Majority of [what I do] is going through projects, meeting with clients and actually thinking through a project of how to tackle it and how to put together properly so you don't have to do twice."

WHAT SKILLS DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR JOB?

"People skills [and] learning how to talk to people. Learning how to become somebody's friend [because] that could lead to a project down the road—which happens a lot. Communication with your clients is huge, too. You don't want to leave people hanging or guessing or wondering what's going on."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

"I would have not even thought twice about a lot of things. I feel like I might be a little bit further ahead if I didn't have so much doubt with the people who are negative in my life. I was told maybe I couldn't do this, or I couldn't do that, or having a welding fabrication company wasn't what [I] should do if [I] want to be successful."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF ON YOUR JOURNEY ?

"I'm most proud of my family and doing what I love to do everyday."

"I'm doing what I know how to do because I want to be there because I enjoy doing it."

WHAT IS THE COOLEST PART OF YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

"[The coolest part of my job is that] I'm the boss. The feeling that comes with that is like just this feeling of freedom and not having to answer to somebody. I make my own decisions.

[The most challenging part of my job is] not knowing what's next. That's what probably scares off a lot of people is they want a nine to five job for the the comfort of knowing that they get a paycheck."



WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIELD/JOB?

"I know [welding] looks easy because I can do it pretty easily. But it took a long time for me to get there. There's a lot of practice, a lot of time I spent learning, a lot of questions I asked, and a lot of help I got from friends.

There's also a lot of costs like having the whole setup in a shop. Some people might complain [about cost], but it takes all this stuff to do that. If [people] understood everything it took just to get to that, maybe they wouldn't feel like that."

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

"I remember sitting on the couch with my wife and just appreciating all that we've been blessed with—our three boys, this business, and each other. You've got to have faith that it's going to work out."