

## Walter Jr. Cooks Up Some Spiritual Gumbo for the Lord

As publisher of LIVING Christian magazine, it's not unusual for me to receive books, articles, poetry or CD's from individuals for consideration. While many of them are well done, rarely does one reach out and grab my attention the way Walter Jr.'s latest CD, "Standing On The Word" did. From the first note, on the first cut, I knew God had just blessed me with a whole new genre of Christian Music.

You see, I've been privileged to lead people in praise and worship for several years now. A core group of us carry our ministry to many different venues, denominations, cultures and styles. We often mix traditional hymns and top-twenty contemporary Christian hits, along with a bit of Gospel. So imagine my surprise and delight when I heard true Louisiana, blues-gumbo, Christian music. I was so impressed and delighted I had to call him on the phone and personally thank him.

The soft-spoken, Louisiana native grew up in a Roman Catholic home, true to the French influence of that area. Walter Jr. becoming an altar boy in the second grade. And his faith continued to grow over the years. So did his talent and love of music. After attending high school at Immaculata Seminary for four years, he went on to the University of Louisiana where he earned his liberal arts degree in Philosophy. Walter Jr. is currently enrolled at the Loyola Institute's Ministry Graduate Program seeking his Master of Pastoral Studies.

If you're like me, you're happy if you can enjoy one or two cuts from a CD. If that's the case, you'll be thrilled when you pop this CD into your player. "Standing On The Word" is a rewarding collection of fifteen cuts, all of which are guaranteed to get the Spirit moving inside you. From true Louisiana blues, Cajun, soulfully touching ballads, to the downright funky title tune, Walter Jr. cooks up a deliciously spicy serving of praise and worship.

"I Heard a Story", the first cut, instantly connects you to Walter Jr.'s clean, natural approach. Playing without a pick, using just his fingers, the intro provides a smooth, rounded tone that hints at the quality of his musicianship. One of my favorites is the second cut, "Christ is Calling" which combines a traditional blues progression with lyrics that simply, but powerfully, remind you of God's unceasing desire to be at the center of your life. The title track, "Standing On The Word," a delightfully funky song combining a great sax riff and soulful Hammond B3 bed, is not for the faint of heart but is one that will have you instantly smiling and involuntarily moving to the rhythm and beat.

Just when you think you have his music figured out Walter Jr. serves up another tasty dish and touches your heart with the next three songs, "His Outstretched Arms," "Weight of the Cross," and "Day of Our Victory." Of course great music without a message is just, well, entertainment. Walter Jr.'s lyrics always remind you of the power, joy, love, and comfort that comes from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They also teach about important characters of the Bible and the amazing power of Jesus has to transform lives.

I invite you to check out "Standing On The Word" for yourself by visiting Walter jr.'s website at [www.walterjr.com](http://www.walterjr.com). You can hear all the selections on this album as well as selections from his other CDs.