

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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Growing up, I thoroughly enjoyed watching the TV show "Ripley's Believe It or Not!". In every episode, I always looked forward to answering the trivia questions during breaks, which most of the time I failed to get right. Having the mind of a nine-year old kid, my mind was blown away with the truths they revealed. I found most of the things I saw hard to believe, and now that I am older, I still catch myself having a hard time believing. It's not that I do not believe at all, but considering the many factors in life, I tend to re-think and ponder on the other possibilities.

I will never forget a moment when believing in the Lord fully, amidst thoughts that crept into my mind, turned my life around. Years ago, after graduating from college and trying a couple of jobs that didn't really work out, I found myself lost, uncertain about what to do next. Then, during one of my devotions, the Lord revealed and affirmed that I pursue my love for the next generation through teaching and mentoring them in the ways of the Lord. Then, He rekindled my dream of being a teacher. So, with the savings that I had, I enrolled in a university that offered a program to college graduates who want to pursue a profession in teaching and be

certified to take the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET).

The journey wasn't easy. I needed to talk to my parents about it and I also needed to explain my decision to my friends. I felt like having a thesis defense every time I shared it to my pre-believing friends since they had not yet grasped the idea that "God told me so". I needed to go back to the rhythm of studying. And lastly, I needed to spend my savings cautiously due to school expenses as I was unemployed and I was the one who sent myself to school.

But the Lord has been good. He was with me all throughout the journey. I trusted and believed Him in the process because I knew that it was what He wanted me to do. I finished my Certificate in Teaching Program, and while waiting for the scheduled LET, I was invited to apply in a private school to teach. I saw the hand of the Lord and got the job.

After the LET examinations, I still remember how my friends and I shared our frustrations. It just dawned on us that we only had one year to study what normally needed to be studied for four years! I thought that after taking the exam, everything would be fine. But thoughts of negativity crept into my mind: "Will I

really pass?", "If I failed, will I be terminated from my work?", "What will my co-teachers think of me?", "What will my parents say?"... But every single time these thoughts entered my mind, I always reminded myself of God's calling and promises and realigned my thoughts and focus on Him and His plans. I held on to King Jehoshaphat's prayer from 2 Chronicles 20, "We do not know what to do but our eyes are on you"

There will be times wherein our trust and belief in God will be challenged. I think that is the reality of life. But that should remind us to be ready and choose to believe God always. No matter what the world tells us, choose to listen to the voice of God instead.

I passed the LET, by the way! And every time I share this specific journey of mine with others, I always say, "Believe it or not, I passed the exam even though I did not have a BS Education degree, and was not able to take review classes". But this is not because of me, it's solely because of the work of the Lord. I can say that it was a success not because I passed, but because I chose to trust God in the process.✱