

# MY FAITH JOURNEY

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A journey of life centered with faith in God is indeed a life to be lived and loved. For years in my life, I always thought that faith is enough to answer everything, but I have come to realize that it is more on how we trust, most importantly in moments of uncertainty. I grew up in a family whose God is the center of our relationship with one another. A family where Sunday morning will never pass without attending the Holy Eucharist, a meal will never begin without prayer, and a day will not be complete without praying the Holy Rosary. With those events in my life, I thought that my faith would grow just because of my family's presence and devotion, and I would not have a hard time creating a deep connection with God. However, as I grew older, things happened unexpectedly and doubts started to grow and foster, which truly tested and shook the foundation of faith I always stood on.

As I grew up, there were days where there were some things that I needed to figure out on my own, this is where doubts tested my whole personality. I can't deny that my life was once covered with chaos and challenges, and I thought that I would not be strong and confident enough to overcome those. During those moments of my life, I couldn't help but to doubt myself and God's presence in my life. I doubted his love for me, because of the pain and sufferings I experienced during those moments. It feels like I am in a battlefield and what I only have is myself and everyone is against me. Every single night, I didn't do anything but to question God about His plans for me, because I felt like everything at those times was just a mess and failure. The worst thing that happened during those moments was the feeling that I became disconnected to Him.

Through these challenges, I was able to prove by myself that healing is a progress that takes so much time and effort. It is still crystal clear in my mind on how a homily of a priest during a Sunday Mass has changed everything. I was at the lowest point of my life, where the priest mentioned the words "even if you are in the most difficult days of your life, God is still with you". It is a very short yet deep word that I believe I needed the most. I was blinded by my negative thoughts that God allowed me to be drowned with chaos and failure and I was deaf in His voice of guidance and encouragement. But, with those words I came to realize that every single suffering has always its own purpose. I prayed for something to happen, but God denied it because He prepares something that is better than what I want. Sometimes, what we need is to trust God's time and put our full faith and hope in His will.

And today, as we celebrate the Jubilee 2025 with the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope" I can still remember how my faith and hope was once shaken and how it bounced back as something that is more pure and stronger. I can say that, there will be really a time where your faith and hope will be put to test, but it happens so that we can know more God and love Him more. His endless and undying love for us, is a testament that no matter how many trials we will encounter He will always be there to accompany us no matter what. May we always remember that are and will never be denied and rejected, you are just being redirected into something that is better and something that God has planned for you.

To whoever reads this story of mine, I hope that you always feel that you are loved by God, by your family, and friends. You might be in a doubt as of the moment, but one thing for sure is that, those doubts of yours will be a triumph in your own perfect time.