

# E VERYTHING IS NOT AS IT SEEMS...

BY NELLIE FELIPE

*Not everything is, as it seems...* To look at things merely from our own perspective is a costly endeavor in many ways. We do not always have the proper diagnostics tools or range of experience to realize it is not what we believe it to be.

We need to go deeper than scratching the surface including, seeking the advice of wise counsels/professionals... those who have been there, done that, and treaded through successfully.

Recently, my mother-in-law became suddenly ill. It was Christmas Eve; she had just traveled from Virginia to North Carolina, a 6-hour drive, the night before. So “naturally”, we, her adult children and I, assumed she was simply tired. Though my mother-in-law is very active at her age, most of us would feel exhausted and achy after a prolonged amount of time in a car.

On the evening of Christmas Eve, she complained about sporadic, sharp back pains and feeling fatigued. We all responded similarly, “You must be so exhausted Ma, after dinner just go lay down.” She agreed, popped an Advil for the pain, and went home for some rest immediately after dinner. That evening at home, she opened a brand new heating pad, plugged it up and sought back relief. She fell asleep while the heating pad was still on.

I called the next day to find out how she was feeling. She reported that the pain had gotten better during the day but she had burned herself *slightly* with the heating pad, nothing too bad. I made her some soup and was on my way with my husband and kids. On our way there, we stopped and picked up some items from the pharmacy for relief of minor burns.

What we found was shocking. She had a burn that was deep red and full of blisters. “My God, that must be so painful,” my mind screamed. My eyes filled with tears; my heart felt heavy. Yet all she complained about was the internal back pain.

We immediately rushed her to the urgent care and after 3 hours, filling out paper work, waiting, and the examination, we received the diagnosis. She has Shingles! Not one of us was familiar with Shingles. The horrific and painful looking rash was not a burn at all, it was a direct result from the Shingles. Here’s the kicker... the rash was **not** painful. Medication was in order... nothing serious. Thank God!

How many times do we diagnose a situation, idea, or result based on our experience without seeking the advice or input of others with expertise in the area? How many times have we said, “I’ve got this” or told ourselves that we could work through this on our own. “If they can do it, I can too.” So many of us believe this statement to be true, and for the most part, it is. The Scriptures in Romans 2:11, of the New International Version, states, “For God does not show favoritism.” This is true, but the main point, which I have missed many times, is that we are all interdependent.

To each of us He gives different gifts, strengths, and weaknesses. Did I say God gives us weaknesses? It’s inherent; every strength has an associated weakness. Hence, we all fall short. Not one of us is perfect. The good news is that God uses others to help us reach our destinations/purpose. We cannot achieve our dreams on our own, in a vacuum. We, **all people**, are blessed with strengths in different areas.

We made it to the urgent care just in time for my mother-in-law to make the window for the only medication that could directly treat the disease. She will need to take it for seven straight days. The disease is expected to be completely gone and rash healed within 14 days. Had we missed the window, it could have taken up to 2 months for the pain and rash to work itself out of her body.

This was a great illustration, to me, of how often we, without the proper experience, background, training or knowledge try to forego expert advice. We do this for many reasons, primarily time and cost. In the long run, we end up paying a higher price than was necessary. I call this paying tuition to the “School of Hard Knocks”. In most cases, this tuition could have been avoided.

Don’t get me wrong, experience is the best teacher. I promise you, it is so much better to gain experience with the guidance, input, and wisdom of an expert/professional that has already figured that part out. As an added bonus, we get to save time, money, and frustration upfront.



Nellie Felipe is the founder of [ARIZE Coaching and Consulting](#). As a certified personal growth and leadership coach, she aspires to provoke people to rise in excellence. She believes everyone is born with a purpose that is not just their own; that every person's success impacts and facilitates the success of others. No vision is too small or too large to achieve. If you are truly ready to do what it takes to get to your mountaintop, she will be there to evoke the leader in you. She will come along side you as an accountability partner, a godly counsel, a seasoned professional, a caring friend.

As a consultant, Nellie will equip you with repeatable processes and systems. The consulting services offerings consists of process improvement, project management and change management utilizing proven Six Sigma, Lean Six Sigma and PMI PM methodologies.

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