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Clarifying Faith

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Purpose of Christ's coming: Save sinful man. Devil doesn't want this accomplished. 1 Pet. 5:8. One way to prevent it is: Confuse the WAY, PLAN. Succeeding: Today even item of FAITH is confused.

I. MAN OPERATES IN THREE BASIC REALMS OF INFORMATION.
   A. Knowledge: familiarity gained by sensory experience.
   B. Opinions: thought based on some kind of info.
   C. Faith: Acceptance of evidence & testimony as proof of the veracity of a thought or idea.
      1. Romans 10:17. Chr. faith only from Word.
      4. Seeing is NOT BELIEVING for others. 11:46-51.
      5. Believing does not guarantee obedience!!
         a. John 12:42. James 2:19. devils know!

II. PROBLEM: People today confuse Faith, Opinion and private judgment. Costing many souls.
   A. Many "Faiths." Paul: One. Eph. 4:5.
      Millions of people CANNOT PROVE their religion from the Word—call it their Faith! 1 Th. 5:21.
   B. Redefine terms of Faith—Opinion—Knowledge:
      1. Faith is that which God inspired in Bible.
      2. Opinion is a guess at best. No proof involved.
      3. Knowledge is what we perceive with senses.

III. SOME ILLUSTRATIONS OF THESE THREE AREAS IN LIFE.
   A. NAAMAN THE LEPER. II KINGS 5. Tell story.
      1. AREAS OF FAITH:
         Believed in the little Israelite maid.
         Believed help was with someone in Samaria.
         Believed the prophet, not the king could heal.
         Believed the Jordan river was the place, not Abana and Pharpar.
         Believed had to dip 7 times in Jordan.
         Believed God would heal his leprosy. Obeyed.
         Succeeded only by faith. v. 14.
      2. AREAS OF OPINION:
         Thought King was the one to see! Wrong.
         Thought rivers of Syria should be as good!! Where to enter the river. Not spec. Anywhere!
         Should be a grand show! None suggested.
3. AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE.
Knew he had leprosy—deadly! Dying.
Knew anything better than this!
Knew no worse off if prophet did not help.
Knew skin returned to that of a child.

CONCLUSION: Could not PROVE that God healed Him,
but believed as strongly as a man could.
FAITH AS STRONG AS KNOWLEDGE! II T. 1:12

B. SAUL OF TARSUS. Acts 9, 22. Tell the story.

1. AREAS OF FAITH.
Believed it was Jesus on the road. v. 5.
Believed he must go into Damascus for info.
Believed Ananias was that info. with message.
Believed he was lost in sin—needed Savior.
Believed he could be saved only if he was
baptized. v. 16:22. Wash sins away.
Believed he was saved when obeyed gospel.

2. AREAS OF OPINION.
Thought should pulverize the church.
Acts 26:9. thought. 23:1 have lived
Opinion as to how long have to wait. 3 days.
Opinion about how he would be saved. waiting
Opinion about where baptized (water-under)...

3. AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE.
Knew he had done all told to do.
Knew the preacher taught & baptized him.
Knew salvation was by faith—he believed.
Knew he was going to preach Jesus. Vs. 20.

CONCLUSION: Could not PROVE that God had saved him,
but believed it with a FAITH equal in
intensity to knowledge. Rom. 5:1.

INV: every person saved today is saved by FAITH & OBEI!
John 3:16. Mk. 16:15-16. Believe or...