

“Weighing Evidences”

John 9:24-34

Hello friend, I'm J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, we're an international Gospel media ministry. Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

The Bible is the only source of lasting hope. It is God's Holy Word. You know as well as I do that we can't rely on the words of men because men change. Think of all the unkept promises people make, maybe even specific promises to you personally. But God is unchanging, He keeps His promises. His Word is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Psalmist, David, said in Psalm 119:89, “*Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in Heaven.*” You and I can depend on God's Word.

Because God's Word is unchanging and reliable, we share this teaching with many people around the world in different languages in both audio and print. And we receive many testimonies of lives that have been transformed by the power of the Gospel.

Here's a testimony from a listener to our Spanish language broadcasts in Venezuela. Thank you and may God bless you and take care of you. Each program you air is a blessing. It brings guidance, reflection and in this difficulty that we are facing in our country you are very helpful for all of us. I listen your program on Shine 800 AM from Bonaire.

And here's another response; this one is from Peru. I am thankful for your program because listening to you I've been getting closer to Jesus Christ. Praise God! That is our goal in all our programming - to help people grow closer to Jesus.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you that you care about every living person. Thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus, your only Son, to die in our place, taking the punishment for our sins.

And now Father I pray for my friend who is listening, that you will bless him or her with a deeper understanding of your Word. Help them to find joy and peace with you and with those around them. And bless too, our study in your Word together. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, here's Dr. Yoder with today's teaching, "Weighing Evidences." When I was in high school our teacher in physics quoted a law of life: "For every action there is opposite and equal reaction." For that reason I can walk because I have the strength to react against the pull of the earth's gravity. That's the reason you can walk. Such physical evidences are easily seen once we understand them and accept them.

In other areas of life we are often very slow in admitting or accepting the evidences which are available to us. Often we are stubborn, reluctant, sometimes rebellious about WEIGHING EVIDENCES that may be right before us. So it was in Jesus' days in the text in John 9:24-34.

24 *Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.*

25 *He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.*

26 *Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?*

27 *He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?*

28 *Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.*

29 *We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.*

30 *The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.*

31 *Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

32 *Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.*

33 *If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.*

34 *They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.*

That's what they did. This formerly blind man's experience furnishes us with certain REALITIES with which we must deal to be able to weigh the evidences.

Let me bring them to you: Assurance Comes by Experience.

Empty arguments can never satisfy. What has happened is far more basic. So this man said, "I know one thing; I was blind but now I see." Do you understand that an improper affirmation can only lead to a false conclusion? You can't start wrong and come out right. You must start right if you expect to come out right.

And this man said, "I know one thing; I know that I was blind and now I see." He could have said, "When you ask me to enter into the theological discussion of the background, I am not equipped for that. But I can tell you that I was once a blind man and now I can see.

I am telling you, my friend, that assurance comes by experience. What you have experienced cannot be denied.

But there is a second reality: Ignorance May Come by Evasion.

We may plead ignorance by avoiding what has been old. They asked the healed man to please report and please repeat. Perhaps there was a flaw in the first-report. But then the man came through and said exactly what had happened; in fact, he would not even tell them. He said he had told them once before and they did not hear. Why did they want him to repeat it?

You see, he had told the truth. He had said exactly what had happened. Jesus took clay and anointed his eyes and sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash. He went and washed and came seeing. But they were trying to cross examine him, you see, and put him into a position where he would say something other than what he had said before.

I was really interested in how he responded. He said, "Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also desire to be his disciple?" So he gave himself away and they caught him immediately and began to revile him, to humiliate him.

Now ignorance sometimes does that: humiliates the opponent, reviles the opposition and asserts a superiority. But they were not open to the truth. They would not open their minds to

what the man said. They closed their minds. You see? Willful ignorance is never the mark of intelligence. I must run that past again: Willful ignorance is never the mark of intelligence.

But there is a third reality: Certainty Comes by Admitting the Effects.

What is done bears its own testimony. The opening of blind eyes is not a sinner's work. That everybody certainly ought to be able to acknowledge. This was a bonafide miracle performed by Jesus of Nazareth. These men who were accusing the man of being a disciple of Jesus would not admit what had happened. They kept insisting that whoever performed that miracle, because it was done on the Sabbath day, must of necessity be a sinner.

But the man began to lecture to these who were supposed to know. He said, "This is a marvelous thing that you do not know where he is from and yet he has opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners. But this man has opened my eyes."

Surely the effect must be convincing. Certainty comes by admitting the effects, what can be seen. The effects must be accepted if truth is to be obtained. You can't simply close your mind to what is clearly evident.

I urge you to be sure to weigh the evidence. Here are the realities that will help you to do this: assurance comes by experience; ignorance may come by evasion, not being willing to face up to it; certainty comes by admitting God of effects. So I urge you, do not close your mind. Keep your mind open to the truth.

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for reminding us that when we see things happening around us, we must ask questions and weigh the evidence carefully. Things are not always what they seem to be at first glance. But when the information is confirmed, and the facts are established we must be willing to accept the conclusions.

My friend, was this teaching helpful to you? If so, you can request a copy of it either on an audio CD or in a printed script. Just ask for it by the title, "Weighing Evidences."

You can send your request to us by e-mail using this address, mail@heraldsofhope.org. That email address again is, m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "Weighing Evidences." We'd be happy to send it to you.

Once again, the quickest way for you to make your request is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Ask for your free copy of this teaching, "Weighing Evidences." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue study in the Gospel of John. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.