

C. Cain's failure of faith made his _____ impossible.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

GENESIS 4:6-7

D. Cain's failure of faith _____ him to sin's temptations.

Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

GENESIS 4:8-9

1. Cain rejected God's warning.
2. Cain killed his brother.
3. Cain lied to God.
4. Cain complained about his punishments.

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear!"

GENESIS 4:13

SUMMARY: Cain and Abel model two kinds of relationships with God. Abel modeled the life of faith resulting in God's blessing. Cain modeled the faithless life leading to sin, suffering and eternal punishment. Which path will you choose?

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Sermon Notes

January 29, 2011
The Chapel in the Oaks

SERIES: THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Lessons on Faith and Failure From Our Spiritual Forefathers

By Faith Abel

GENESIS 4:1-16

MAIN IDEA: ABEL EXPERIENCED THE FRUIT OF FAITH
WHILE CAIN EXPERIENCED THE FAILURE OF
FAITH

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and though he is dead he still speaks.

HEBREWS 11:4

I. ABEL EXPERIENCED THE _____ OF FAITH

GENESIS 4:1-5

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD." Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

GENESIS 4:1-5

Hebrews 11:4 says Abel offered a “better” sacrifice than Cain.
What made it better?

Possible answers:

1. Abel’s was better because it was a blood sacrifice.
2. Abel’s was better because it was from a right heart attitude.
3. Abel’s was better because it was a more quality sacrifice (firstling/fattest).
4. Abel’s was better because it was done by faith.

Biblical Faith Defined : “Faith consisted simply of taking God at His word and directing one’s life accordingly.”

A. Faith was the guiding principle of Abel’s _____.

“The Lord had regard for Abel.” GENESIS 4:4

“...through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous...” HEBREWS 11:4

B. Faith was the guiding principle of Abel’s _____.

“God had regard for Abel and for his offering.” GENESIS 4:4

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.
By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*
HEBREWS 11:1-3

C. Faith was the lasting legacy of Abel’s life.

...and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks
HEBREWS 11:4

...so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.
MATTHEW 23:35

II. CAIN EXPERIENCED THE _____ OF FAITH
GENESIS 4:5-15

A. Cain’s failure of faith made him displeasing to God.

“But for Cain ... He had no regard.”

For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous.
1 JOHN 3:11-12

B. Cain’s failure of faith made his _____ unacceptable to God.

But for Cain and his offering He had no regard. GENESIS 4:5

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
JUDE 4

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, JUDE 11