

**“The Faith of Abel”**  
**Scripture Lesson – Genesis 4:1-15**  
**Text – Hebrews 11:4**

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Introduction:

1. We have been studying at prayer service the epistle to the Hebrews.
  - a. Have come to the place where are thinking of “supreme manner of life”
    1. This life is lived by faith
  - b. We have a in 11:1 a definition of faith and then in remainder of the chapter have faith illustrated from lives of some of early patriarchs
  - c. Decided I would look at life of faith of some of these for our Sunday night sermons
2. Look for a moment at a review of the definition.
  - a. Evidence of things not seen
    1. Conviction of truth of spiritual things
    2. Faith affirms God, power, wisdom, and love
  - b. Substance of things hoped for
    1. Title deed to these things
  - c. Accepting revelation of God
3. Remainder of Hebrews 11 is an illustration of faith
4. Chosen tonight to think of Abel’s faith

I. Background

1. Man had fallen
  - a. Had broken fellowship
2. 3:24 – Jamieson Faucet and Brown translation – “And He (God) dwelt at the East of the Garden of Eden between the cherubim and the shekinah glory to keep open the way to the tree of life.”
  - a. Here have possibility of approach to God
3. See how could approach God
  - a. Genesis 3:21 – made coats of skin
    1. Refused fig leaves
  - b. Genesis 4:3 – time
    1. At end of days – probably Sabbath Day
    2. Seems to have been a set time
  - c. Genesis 4:3
    1. Must have been a place
4. These two men, Cain and Abel, are types of fallen mankind
  - a. Were born out of paradise
  - b. Both were sinners
    1. No distinction in their natures
    2. No distinction in their circumstances
  - c. Yet offering of one was received and offering of other was rejected.
    1. One offered in faith

2. Other seemingly did not have faith

II. Cain's Offering

1. Brought of fruit of the ground
  - a. Here was toil of his hands, sweat of his brow
2. God rejected this offering
  - a. Genesis 4:7 – “If thou doest well thou shalt be accepted.”
  - b. If not, a sin offering lieth at their door and thou canst do with him as thou pleaseth.
3. God told Cain why his offering was rejected.
  - a. But Cain made no effort to correct it.

III. Abel's Offering

1. Genesis 4:4 – “He brought of firstlings of the flock.”
2. He brought a blood sacrifice
3. This offering was acceptable to God

IV. Was offered in faith

1. Believed in God
  - a. Took God at His word
  - b. Accepted His revelation
  - c. What was it he believed
2. That he was a sinful man
  - a. Knew he was separated from God
    1. Genesis 3:22, 23 – drove man out of garden
  - b. Here he recognized the holiness of God
    1. God could not simply overlook sin
3. He recognized the mercy of God
  - a. God had come seeking his parents
  - b. He was indifferent to this separation
  - c. He would be merciful to man
4. Recognized penalty must be paid
  - a. Wages of sin is death
  - b. Must be death
  - c. He brought a sacrifice with death standing between him and God
  - d. There was bloodshed
5. He came expecting to be accepted of God
  - a. Not because he was perfect
  - b. But because he had met the requirements

V. Contrast two offerings

1. One came through sinful reasoning
  - a. Reason would say Cain's offering should be accepted
    1. Offering of toil of man, the sweat of his brow
  - b. But this would make God the recipient and man the giver
    1. God refuses to be placed in this position

- 2. He will be the giver and man must be the recipient
- c. God's mercy must be given, not bought
  - 1. Acts 17:25
- d. Attitude of so many today toward God's command about how to be saved
  - 1. They will not receive mercy from God
  - 2. They would purchase their forgiveness with good deeds in gifts of money, labor and sacrifice
- e. In other words, will not receive it by faith
- 2. One came in faith
  - a. Knew were condemned
  - b. Knew could not buy forgiveness from God
  - c. Accept as gift from Him
  - d. So offer sacrifice of blood of Christ
- 3. Notice different results
  - a. Genesis 4:13, 14, 16
    - 1. This is hell – final separation from God
  - b. Genesis 4:4 – Abel was accepted
    - 1. Hebrews 11:4 – God testified he was righteous

Conclusion:

- 1. Listen to God
  - a. John 3:16, 18, 36
  - b. Ephesians 2:8 – by grace are ye saved through faith
- 2. Will you accept the grace of God
  - a. Through faith
- 3. Cain and Abel represent two types of mankind today
  - a. Both fallen
  - b. One man of world
    - 1. Would refuse to accept God's salvation by faith
  - c. One man of faith
    - 1. Trusts God
  - d. One saved
  - e. One lost