

Cain and Abel

Series: "Back to the Beginning!"

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Pastor Chuck Pruett

New Life Church

Genesis 4:1-7 (ESV) ¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

1. Offerings that PLEASE God.

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Different thoughts about the offering:

1) It needed to be a BLOOD SACRIFICE.

Heb 9:22 (ESV) ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

2) It needed to be a A MATTER OF THE HEART.

"Lord had regard for ABEL and his OFFERING, but for CAIN and his OFFERING he had no regard.

⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

1 Jn 3:12 (ESV) ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

Matt 5:23-24 (ESV) ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Gen 4:7 (ESV) ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?...

3) It needed to be a **FIRSTFRUIT OFFERING**.

Abel gave 1st born of his flock.

Heb 11:4 (ESV) ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

- Cain did not bring firstfruits from the ground.

³ *In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,*

Pr 3:9-10 (ESV) ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Laws of Firstfruits...

Early in Israel's history, God commanded them to bring Him the first of all their crops and their livestock and all else with which He had blessed them. They were instructed to dedicate their firstborn children to the Lord as well (Ex.13:11-16; 22:29-30; 23:19; Le.23:9-11; Nu.18:12-13; De. 26:1-10).

- **God sees the first part as the root which governs all the rest.**

Rom 11:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Mal 3:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.

2. Overcoming the **PULL** of temptation.

Gen 4:7 (ESV) ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

1 Pet 5:8 (ESV) ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Temptation's shaded PROCESS.

Jam 1:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Overcoming temptation – “You must rule over it” :

Submit & Resist...

Jam 4:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Take captive of thought life...

2 Cor 10:3-5 (ESV) ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Know that I can get through it with God's help...

1 Cor 10:13 (ESV) ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.