

Hebrews 11 *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses*

THE FAITH OF ABEL AND HIS OFFERING – HEBREWS 11:4

Today we begin our character studies in Hebrews 11 with Abel and the value of his sacrifice (aka _____, gifts – vs. 4). The text will ultimately reveal Abel chose *God's way* by _____ while his brother Cain chose *his own way* by sight. Both brothers heard the report from God as to the type of offering required, yet Cain did not believe God and invented what he believed to be a better, more excellent sacrifice—the fruit of the ground which God had cursed (Gen. 3:17; 4:3). Abel, on the contrary, offered a sacrificial blood substitute which God required—the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof (Gen. 4:4). This historic event marks the only _____ paths mankind can choose to travel: believing by _____ God's way or trusting in human reasoning man's way. The issue is really very simple: one way leads to separation and death, the other to a personal relationship with God through Christ and eternal life.

1. The historical event – Genesis 4:1-8

a. Adam and Eve reproduce – verses 1-2

- Brothers – Cain and Abel

b. Fellowship with God is possible – verses 3-4a

- It comes through a _____
Cain and Abel _____ of the need for a sacrifice – “in process of time”

c. The two offerings – Genesis 4:4b-5

- Abel's acceptable offering – verse 4b

Abel offered a _____ sacrifice

Abel's sacrifice was a gift from God – it was firstlings of his flock

Abel's sacrifice was by _____ – Heb. 11:4; Ro. 10:17

Abel's sacrifice was *received*

- Cain's unacceptable offering – verse 5

Cain offered a bloodless sacrifice – Heb. 9:22

Cain's sacrifice was the result of his own _____ – Titus 3:5

Cain's sacrifice was the fruit of the ground – Gen. 3:17-19

Cain's actions revealed his sacrifice was offered by _____

Cain's sacrifice was *rejected*

- d. _____ is consuming – verses 6-8

- God gives Cain an opportunity to repent – verse 6-7

God warns Cain of the consequences – verse 7

Anger and hatred fill Cain's _____ – verse 5

Cain does not want to submit to Abel

Cain slays Abel – the _____ death in human history is a murder

2. Important issues of faith, or the lack thereof

a. Religion

- The way of Cain – Jude 11a

He was not an infidel or atheist

He acknowledged God's existence

He recognized his _____ to give an offering

He knew where to go to meet with God

He _____ prepared himself to go and meet with God

He brought a sacrifice that he believed would please God

He offered his personal best to the Lord

He knowingly violated the pattern that God himself established

He did _____ obey God's word

Although he was a sinner and disobedient, the problem was with his *offering*
He was offered a chance to get right with God after his offering was rejected
He deliberately refused God's reconciliatory offer; he disregarded God's warning
He was so prideful over his religion that he killed his righteous brother

b. Relationship

- Abel's offering, a more excellent sacrifice – Hebrews 11:4

He was not an infidel or an atheist

He acknowledged God's existence

He knew that at the place where he was to meet God there was an altar

He came prepared to offer a _____ sacrifice as his substitute

He sacrificed the firstlings of his flock (a spotless lamb)

He believed God's word by _____ and followed God's pattern

He was not excellent, his _____ was more excellent

His *offering* was acceptable to God

God had respect unto him and his *offering*

He was persecuted for his faith and obedience to God – Rev. 20:4

His righteousness and gifts still speak today – Hebrews 11:4

Note:

It all started over an _____

NEXT WEEK: THE FAITH OF ENOCH AND HIS PLEASING TESTIMONY – HEBREWS 11:5-6