

# Cain and Abel: Portraits of Unbelief and Faith

Genesis 4:1-17 and Hebrews 11:4

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Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

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## Genesis 4:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." <sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> 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 contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground." <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." <sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. <sup>16</sup> Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. <sup>17</sup> When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.

## Hebrews 11:4

<sup>4</sup> 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.

## Table Discussion Questions:

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1. As we approach God in worship, what is the difference between faith and unbelief?
2. What are clues that our worship is mere lip service or going through the motions?
3. When have you been angry with God? Why were you angry? What did you do about it?
4. "When we fail at the altar, we fail in the field." Discuss how this dynamic works in your life.
5. How does the life of a believer "speak" after he or she dies? What do you want your life to speak after you're gone?
6. As we face God's judgment, what is the difference between faith and unbelief?
7. What does it mean that the blood of Jesus "speaks a better word than the blood of Abel" (Heb. 12:24)? How should that word encourage us?