

Be Like Abel

I am always pleasantly surprised WHEN
God does something IMMEASURABLY
MORE in my life, but it doesn't surprise
me THAT God does IMMEASURABLY
MORE in my life.

Can you live your life in such a way that you can be assured that you will experience God's favor?

**3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.**

**4 Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.**

**5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

(Proverbs 3)

Quick Review:

- To whom do I belong?
- Who owns all of my stuff?
- God placed me on this earth to be a good manager of His resources.
- Steward - Someone who manages someone else's resources
- Jesus followers leverage temporary resources for eternal impact.
- Loving people is God's top priority.

Jude

3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Jude

4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude

11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Genesis 4

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Genesis 4

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

Abel's Gift made a statement to God:

- 1) You are most important to me!
- 2) I trust You.

Cain's gift made a statement:

God, you can have my leftovers.

Genesis 4

The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

The Principle of Firstfruits

When you bring to God the best part of the first part, God blesses all the parts.

If you give Him the best, God blesses the rest.

Proverbs 3: 9-10

**“Honor the Lord with your possessions,
and with the firstfruits of all your
increase; so your barns will be filled with
plenty, and your vats will overflow with
new wine.”**

Hebrews 11

4 By *faith* Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By *faith* he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by *faith* Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

Genesis 4

“Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

What is “right?”

To whom do I belong?

Who owns all of my stuff?

God is the owner, so what am I?

What should I do with the stuff I
manage?

What is “right?”

How do I make sure that I am putting
God first?

I give Him the best part of the first part of
my: Time, Energy, Talents, Passions,
Thoughts, Money—All of my (HIS) resources.

The Principle of Firstfruits

When you bring to God the best part of the first part, God blesses all the parts.

If you give Him the best, God blesses the rest.

How can we be confident that we will
receive God's favor?

Live the Principle of FirstFruits.

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)