

## Part 2 – By Faith Able...

**Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

- Knowing that nothing we do can produce anything worthwhile.
- Knowing that faith is the key to the supernatural power of the Almighty.
- Knowing that faith, real faith produces some action in the life of the believer for the glory of the Object of faith.
- As I go through the Hall of Faith and look at the images set before me...
  - I want to see truly what their faith produced
  - with the knowledge that the creation cannot create,
  - only the Creator is truly producing anything.
  - God is not giving them glory for anything other than trusting Him as **He produced unbelievable things.**
- Abel trusted that God's way was the only way.

- **Genesis 4:1** And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.  
**2** And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.  
**3** And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.  
**4** And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:  
**5** But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.  
**6** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?  
**7** If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall* be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.  
**8** And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

- **Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a **more excellent** sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.
- What I find really intriguing here is Cain's sacrifice was excellent.
  - That means Cain's work to produce the sacrifice was good.
  - He probably was an excellent keeper of the ground.
  - **What was his heart though?**
    - Maybe it was that he felt he was an excellent keeper of the ground, and he felt like he had produced something great
- I know, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins" (Hebrews 9:22)
  - Please know that I am not advocating that Cain's sacrifice would have been in any way acceptable.
  - I am only wondering why God called it excellent
    - Maybe it was because...
    - **Genesis 1:11** And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind,

whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

**12** And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and **God saw that *it* was good.**

- After all, God does excellent work
- Abel's sacrifice was "more excellent" than Cain's though
  - Why?
  - That's easy, Able's sacrifice was **BY FAITH.**
- Abel took God at His Word...Look at
  - **Genesis 3:22** "Unto Adam and his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins and clothed them."
    - Anytime there is a physical representation of God in the OT it is Christ, as He is the fulness of the Godhead, and is eternal.
    - "Coats of skins" had to have come from animals
    - and there had to be shed blood for these coats to cover the nakedness.
  - Whether or not the Lord spoke to Abel or not, this was God showing how shame (sin) was to be covered.

- Jesus being the Word, Abel trusted the Way of the Word.
- **Abel's faith was so resolute God has chosen to put him in the hall of faith.**
  - The first to live **BY FAITH**
  - Was the first to die **IN FAITH**.
  - Yet in his death, he found life eternal.
  - This Bible stuff is really cool!
- How Resolute is our Faith?
  - Isn't it interesting that the first account in the Hall of Faith of one living by Faith died in that Faith
  - Yet, Able is not to be praised
  - It is the Object of his Faith
  - **God's Word**
    - We don't know that Able ever walked with God in the physical way that his parents had
    - We only KNOW that God's Word for how sin was to be dealt with was given to Able
    - "In the **process** of time" – Genesis 4:3
      - Adam and Eve raised Cain & Able to know God's Word & Way
      - God reminded Cain...

- **Genesis 4:6** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

**7** If thou **doest** well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. **And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.**

- This wasn't informational
- It was confrontational
- God's Word is Informational once
  - God's Spirit will inform us to give us Faith
  - Faith given should produce a follow in the Way
- God's Word is Confrontational when "sin is at the door"
  - God's Spirit reminds us of the information given
  - God's Spirit reminds of the works produced by Faith required to have dominion over sin (Genesis 4:7)
- So, do we truly believe that God's Word gives **Faith**?
- Do we truly believe that **Faith** given by God's Word will produce **good works**?
- Do we truly believe God's Spirit gives us strength to follow **BY FAITH** so that sin won't be at our door?
- Or will we get upset with God and our friends that strive to live **BY FAITH**