

HEBREWS 11—BY FAITH

Week TWO: Cain and Able. Faith lives by _____ not _____. 11:4-5

Those whose FAITH in the Word of God results in a _____ faith:

- Find out what God's Word says about their _____ and then they trust God to make His promises a reality in their life!
- Are _____ people who are enabled to do _____ things by God's grace thru faith alone! (Vs 2)

I. A more excellent sacrifice!

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (vs 4a)

Background: Gen 4:1-12

- Able: A shepherd. Cain: A farmer.
- These brothers represent two different approaches to God!

Cain: Founder of the world's first _____ religion. (Gen 4:3)

A religion of works. Self-effort. Pride.

The false belief: Grace with God is earned by man (self) paying the cost.
This blueprint Cain developed has been at the **core** of all false religions ever since.

Able: Found the only _____ to God. Through the _____ of the lamb. (Gen 4:4)

Able's offering was a blood atonement!

His offering was accepted as "a more excellent sacrifice" (He 11:4a)

- because it represented the obedience of faith.
- because it pictured Calvary. **Heb 9:22b**... "and without shedding of blood is no remission."
 - What was offered was the first and best. (Jesus)
 - Abel's lamb—one lamb for one person.
 - The Passover lamb—one lamb for each family in Israel.
 - Calvary—THE Lamb of God sacrificed for the whole world.
- Cain had the same knowledge of God's requirements, but decided to worship in his own way.
Cain could obey the Lord... he just didn't want to. He wanted to please himself. **Rom 10:3**

Point 1: False religion is man trying to come to God through any way that is _____ the way God has required.

Point 2: We want to _____ our WORKS for _____. And then we expect God to accept it.

We think God should be happy with us based upon what we DO. Nope. **Eph 2:8-9**

Problem: Prov 14:12

Result of Cain's man made religion:

- God does not accept our sinful works as atonement for our sin.
- Cain was angry and depressed. Sound like any religious people you know?
- Cain murdered in pursuit of his religion. Sound like any religious movements you know?
- Cain was lost. Cain "went out from the presence of the Lord" (**Gen 4:16**)
- God is not willing that any perish, but that all should come to salvation by the grace of God through FAITH in the Gospel of God! **Eph 2:8-9**