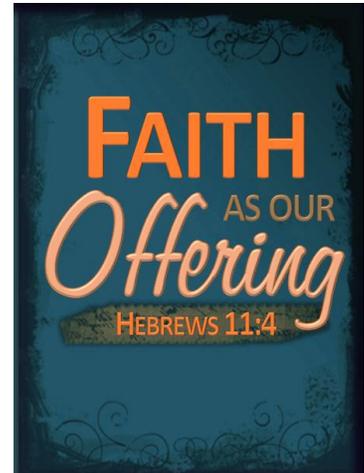


Big Idea

Walking by faith means worshipping God by God's design.

-- v. 4 – *“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain.”*



Genesis 4:1-7 – Acceptable Worship

1.) God has established a **TIME for worship.**

-- Genesis 4:3 – *“In the course of time...”*

- Specific times for worship are decreed throughout the Bible (Acts 20, 1 Cor. 16).
- Sunday morning worship is about giving our first and best to God and doing so together.
- Faithfulness on Sunday mornings is a matter of worshipping by faith.

2.) God has established a **PLACE for worship.**

-- Genesis 4:3-4 – *“...Cain brought... Abel brought...”*

- Although the text doesn't say where, there was a place where God was present in a special way to receive offerings as worship.
- This place of worship had surely been communicated to Cain and Abel.
- At least one important aspect of worshipping by **FAITH** then, involves worshipping in a specific place at a specific time.**
 - In the OT, it was in the temple on the Sabbath.
 - In the NT, corporate worship is established on the first day of the week with the assembled church (Hebrews 10:23)
 - Worshipping by faith means that God's plan for corporate worship trumps my personal preferences and feelings.

3.) God has established a **PATTERN for worship.**

-- Genesis 4:3-5 – *“...an offering...”*

- Walking by faith means worshipping at God's command, not at our convenience.**
 - Cain brought what was convenient (grain offering), not what was commanded (blood offering).

-- In our culture, corporate worship is often sacrificed at the altar of convenience.

3.) God has established a pattern for worship.

-- **Walking by faith means approaching God on the basis of a BLOOD sacrifice.**

-- Though we are not told when or how, it is clear that God had commanded a blood offering.

-- ***"...through which he was commended as righteous..."***

-- This is the very first instance in Scripture of a sinner being commended as righteous.

-- Salvation in the OT is the same as it is in the NT—faith in a God who reconciles people on the basis of a blood sacrifice.

-- Almost immediately after the fall, God is already pointing ahead to atonement through the cross of Christ.

-- ***"...God commending him by accepting his gifts."***

-- **Faith that is commended by God offers gifts that God ACCEPTS**

-- Offering gifts to God is the essence of worship.

-- We worship by faith when we do our utmost to offer gifts that God desires.

-- Walking by faith means worshipping by God's design, not human desires.

-- **Cain is the father of FALSE worship.**

-- Cain wanted to worship God his own way, not God's.

-- False religion is about coming to God in any way other than that which He has prescribed (Proverbs 14:12)

-- We come to God by faith when we worship according to His Word.

-- ***"And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks."***

-- **Abel's faith still speaks to us in at least two ways:**

1.) The message of his faith tells the most important message of any age: That we must approach God through a sacrifice of blood.

2.) An important aspect of walking by faith means worshipping God at the time, in the place, and by the pattern He has established.

-- *What does our worship say about our faith? Are we like Cain, who worshipped by God's design, or like Cain, who wanted to worship his own way?*