

### **104 3. SACRIFICES IN & OF LIFE. CAIN'S CHOICES.**

After Adam & Eve sinned & were kicked out of the Garden, two of their sons, Cain & Abel, extended the battle of good & evil, as once they were grown, jealousy & hatred entered into Cain, when his insufficient, sacrificial non blood, offering to God, was not accepted, while Abel's heartfelt love & blood offering was, Hebrews 11:4. God knows our hearts, which is why Cain's sacrifice was not accepted, 1 John 3:11-12, Cain's offering was not the best first fruits from his crop, given out of thanks & joy for what God had blessed him with, but was just an offering out of obligation & with a what will God do for me, for doing this, mentality, we are to give back, our best, with gratitude & appreciation, not attitude & obligation.

This rejection caused Cain's jealousy to boil over & where redeeming repentance should have followed, anger took hold, as an evil man's ego cannot stand the sight of goodness in another.

God still showed His goodness & gave counsel to Cain & an opportunity for him to repent, as God warned him, master your sinful nature, or it will master you, Genesis 4:6-7. But Cain, the 1st born man, ignored God & murdered his brother, out of jealousy, hatred & envy, Genesis 4:8.

I have heard it said that the hardest person to forgive, is the one that you yourself have wronged?

Cain couldn't forgive his brother, or God, for what he himself had done, to himself? God gave Cain a chance to confess, by asking him; where is your brother & Cain lied & asked; Am I my brother's keeper? Genesis 4:9, to which the true Godly answer is Yes, as in Christ, we truly are our brother's keeper's & when we do what is right, through righteousness & accountability, we will be accepted, but if not, sin is crouching at the door

& will destroy us, as we must rule over all animosity, Gen. 4:7, or risk separation from God.

Cain & Abel, both brought sacrifices to God, but with different motives & different results, which shows us that there are different kinds of worship & sacrifices for God; those that are acceptable per God's standards & those that are not & we must always approach God & worship Him on His terms, for if we act, or worship, in ways that God does not like, He may answer us, in ways that we may not like.

It's not hard to be right with God, if we take our ego & pride out of the way, as they both lead to death & separation, for no reason other than "I did it my way", whereas learning to love & fear the One who holds the keys to life, leads to a life of obedience & love, through "I do it His way", as God is love, yet He is a chastening & jealous God, with demands to be obeyed & punishments to be dished out, for those who are disobedient. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things, 1 Corinth. 13:11. You see when we put away childish thoughts, we are able to experience a mature understandable fear of God, A Godly fear, as He is the one who can condemn, not just our physical existence, but our eternal soul, as well.

The thing here is that this fear is a respect, a love & reverence for His power & love towards us, as we are to fear & revere His power, but not to be afraid of Him, as if He wasn't worth fearing, how much truly righteous power would we believe Him to have. God wants us to be able to come to Him, with everything that we have & everything that we have done, including all that we have done wrong, as He is waiting to forgive & redeem us, as He is a righteous judge & will be judging all, but He is also waiting to forgive & redeem all, who will call on, trust in & believe

all that He tells us. God knows that we are human & that we are in a constant battle against principalities & powers of sin, as we live under a presence of evil on this planet. He also knows our hurts, pains, thoughts & sins & is ready to comfort & forgive all, just for calling on & accepting Him, but if we want Him to have time for us, then we have to make time for Him & to do it daily, or even hourly.

When you think that your sin is too big for God, remember Cain, as even in the beginning we see God working, doing all He could do to get Cain to repent for murdering, not just his brother, but one of Gods children, to which God was more than ready to forgive, as that is who He is, as our loving Father. God is not slow in keeping His promises, what He is, is patient, not wanting any to perish, but for all to come to repentance, 2 Peter 3:9 & So He will spend time on us, to give us the chance to see the goodness & blessings of His ways, but time will run out & then it will be too late, so don't wait to reach out to Him.

Father God, we know that we are only human & that there is no way we could please you on our own merits, but we also know that you instilled your perfect spirit within us, so that it is no longer just our spirit that lives, but the spirit of Christ i.e., Your spirit, that lives within us & guides us & though we will still stumble & fall, we know that we can turn right back to you, to be openly & fully accepted into the eternal kingdom of God, simply for accepting what your Son did for us & our repenting of the sins that creep into our lives. We thank you Father & ask that you help us to keep our pride & egos out of the equation, when it comes to learning about the burden of sacrifice & love that we are to have for all our brothers & sisters on earth.