



# First Fruits

**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 4:4-5**

I want God's blessing in every aspect of my life.

To have God celebrate in me the work He has done, is doing, and will do. To be completely free of the burden of failure toward God. To know that whatever happens to me today, God and I can face it with joy and peace (James 1).

Isn't that what we all want? A life free of worry; not petty worry but deep, true worry. Don't we want to just live in the "holy sunshine" that God gives to those that are obedient and close. To actually see God working through me in the "real" world. Genesis 4 shows us two young men who wanted the same thing.

Genesis 3 tells us of how sin entered the world and our consequences from it. Adam and Eve are evicted from Eden and God's presence to work the soil and labor while raising the family. They eventually have two boys; Cain and Abel.

The Bible tells us that Cain worked the soil. He was a farmer working the land to bring in a crop. To feed his family (Please don't ask me where his wife came from. I really don't know.). He wanted God to look on him and his family with favor. He wanted what we all want. God's grace. God's peace. God's joy. But he didn't have it.

Abel "kept the flocks" so to speak. More of a rancher. He also wanted to provide the best for his family. He also wanted God's favor. His grace, peace and joy. And he did get it.

What was the difference? Their first fruits. That's all. That was what separated Cain and Abel's reward from God. Both wanted the same thing. Only one got it. Why? Because Abel's first fruits were on the altar and Cain's was on his table. Because Cain was his own master and Abel recognized Who brought the blessings. Because Abel gave back to God the best and his return kept getting better. Cain kept his best and gave God his rejects and Cain's got worse.

Who are you in this story? What do you want? And more important, what do you give God? That's what makes ALL the difference.

From My Heart,

*Billy*