

# SPIRITUAL GIVING SERIES

## OFFERINGS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD – Lesson 1

**Genesis 4:1-7 KJV** 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.

**THIS SERIES IS NOT ABOUT HOW MUCH IS THE OFFERING, BUT HOW THE OFFERING IS GIVEN**

What does it mean to deserve?

- to have earned or to be given something because of the way you have behaved or the qualities you have.
- THINGS THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO.

I. After Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden:

- This is the first reference to men approaching the LORD.
- This is the first reference of the LORD interacting with anyone outside the Garden of Eden.
- This is the first reference to men presenting an offering unto the LORD.
- This is the first reference of the LORD accepting an offering.
- This is the first reference to the LORD rejecting an offering.

II. Things we can assume about the Cain and Abel's presenting an offering:

- Cain and Abel watched, their father, Adam presenting offerings unto the LORD.
- Adam taught Cain and Abel how to present an offering unto the LORD.
- Cain and Abel is at an age to understand the principles and importance of offering to the LORD.
- Cain and Abel presented offerings to the LORD before this occasion.

### **CAIN'S OFFERING REFLECTED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD**

#### **THE DANGER OF CAIN'S OFFERING:**

- He was rejected by GOD.
- He became filled with rage against GOD.
- His looks became sour, dejected, and angry.
- He refused to accept GOD's remedy for the rejection.
- He failed to listen to GOD's warning.
  - (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.
- He allowed sin to increase in his heart.

## **\*\* MY STORY OF WRONG ATTITUDE**

**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE AN ACCEPTABLE OFFERING UNTO GOD WITH A WRONG ATTITUDE.**

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**Luke 18:9-14 KJV** And he spake this parable unto certain which **trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others**: (10) Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

☆ The flaw in the Pharisee's offering is:

- He believed his offering made him righteous.
- He believed GOD should value him more than the publican because of his offering.

**The offering do not make anyone righteous; it reveals if there is righteousness towards GOD in your heart.**

III. The offering:

- It is personal.
- It communicates a message to the LORD.
- It acknowledges a relationship with the LORD.
  - Enhances relationship with the LORD.
  - Expands relationship with the LORD.
  - Embraces relationship with the LORD.
  - Energizes relationship with the LORD.
- It reveals an attitude towards the LORD.
- It expresses a level of respect towards the LORD.

IV. How the LORD assesses the value of an offering:

- (Verse 4) "And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering."
- (verse 5) "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect."

❖ **RESPECT**: To view or consider with some degree of reverence; to esteem as possessed of real worth.

**LORD had respect;**" i.e. to Abel first, and then to his offering—the offering was accepted because Abel was, not Abel on account of his kind of offering.

- 1) The LORD looks at the person presenting the offering first.
- 2) The LORD looks at the offering being presented second.

**“And the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering;”** that is, he regarded it as the offering of a righteous man.

**Hebrews 11:4 KJV** 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.

- In the estimate of its value, the FAITH of him who offered it would be more to be regarded than the nature of the offering itself.
- Abel offered a sacrifice in connection with his faith and under the influence of his faith.
- Abel offered a sacrifice by faith, therefore the sacrifice gives witness unto GOD of his righteousness, and GOD declares Abel was a righteous man.

**To make an offering by faith means:**

1. Believing GOD is sovereign over your life.
2. Believing GOD is worthy of your best.
3. Believing GOD provides and sustains your life.
4. Believing GOD deserves genuine respect and honor.

**✚ THERE IS MORE FOCUS ON HOW MUCH TO GIVE RATHER THAN HOW TO GIVE!**

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