

Introduction:

The person Abel is mentioned about six times in the Bible, yet when a person speaks about "Abel," we know who they are talking about. Abel was a man of deep conviction (*Genesis 4.1-8; Hebrews 11.4*). Conviction is a) the act or process of convincing, b) the state of being convinced, c) a fixed or strong belief. So what made Abel worthy of our study. Because of his faith.

I) He Had Saving Faith

A) What is "saving faith" this is often misunderstood today?

B) Abel was told by God what to do and then did it, *Romans 10.17*.

1. He is called righteous Abel in *Matthew 23.33-35*.
2. God said Abel was righteous, *Hebrews 11.4*.

C) A lot of time has been devoted to understanding why Abel's sacrifice was accepted and Cain's was not.

1. We see their sacrifices were different and so was their attitude.
2. Cain was warned by God in *Genesis 4.7*.
3. Later on we read of Cain's deeds being evil, *1*

John 3.11-13.

D) In contrast to Abel, Cain refused to exercise "saving faith".

1. His works were evil, *1 John 3.11-13*
2. He was rejected by God, *Genesis 4.4-5*
3. His religion was false, *Jude 1.8-11*
4. He had "will worship".

II) Abel's Faith Led Him to Sacrifice

A) He brought the very best he had to the altar, *Genesis 4.4.*

1. A sacrifice by definition means there is a real cost in what we are doing.
 - a. Think of the example of David, *2 Samuel 24.24.*
 - b. As opposed to the sacrifice of King Saul in *1 Samuel 15.19-23.*
2. God told the children of Israel which sacrifices would be accepted and which would be rejected. *Lev. 22.17-22; Mal. 1.6-8*
3. Today Christians are priest and we offer sacrifices to God.
 - a. "Spiritual sacrifices" *1 Peter 2.5.*

- b. "Living sacrifice" *Romans 12.1-2.*
- c. The fruit of our lips, *Hebrews 13.15.*

III) **Abel's Faith Caused Him to Suffer**

A) In Abel was have the first recorded worship and murder.

- 1. Would Abel had offered such a sacrifice is he knew it would cost him, his life?
- 2. It takes a person of integrity to believe God and knowing his faith may cause him to suffer, *Luke 8.15.*

B) It cost something to live by faith- Abel paid the price.

- 1. Such has always been the case, *Luke 11.47- 49*
- 2. Christ left us an example to follow, *1 Peter 2.21-24.*
- 3. Those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution, *2 Timothy 3.12.*
- 4. We will be in good company, *Matthew 5.10-12.*
- 5. Be faithful until death is no just a slogan, *Revelation 2.10*

IV) **His Faith still Speaks**

A) He being dead still speaks, *Hebrews 11.4*

1. Not one word from Abel is in the Bible. Yet we talk about his great sacrifice and faith.
2. The deeds of the righteous will follow them, *Rev. 14.13*.

B) When we trust God and do what He says we leave a lasting impression on those around us.

1. As parents we leave our mark on our children, for better or worse. *2 Timothy 1.5*.
2. As a neighbor we leave some type of influence on them (The World's Only Bible).
3. To other Christians we leave some kind of example on them.

Conclusion:

For this reason, we are told about the faith of Abel.