



# ***Jachin Boaz Ministries***

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*Dear Friends,*

*Greetings! - In Jesus precious name! I approach His throne of grace and the pages of this letter to you, with deep appreciation for the **authority** my Lord has given to me to – **“come boldly before Him”** – and you, my fellow believer. I have read a very familiar story this week, that I am sure you all are equally familiar with. It is about the brothers Cain and Able; Adam and Eve’s offspring. We all know that - all did not go to plan with them, but, like me, you may never have stopped to study out, just what really did go wrong, and why; and what the end result, or what the consequence of that behaviour, turned out to be. I personally had never paid all that much attention to the detail of such an event. I had barely believed the story from a superficial, surface glance.*

*Let’s take a closer look. We read from the Amplified Bible:-*

*Gen 4:4 And Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of the fat portions. And the **Lord had respect and regard for Abel and for his offering, [Heb. 11:4.]***

*Gen 4:5 **But for Cain and his offering He had no respect or regard. So Cain was exceedingly angry and indignant, and he looked sad and depressed.***

*We see that both brothers brought their offerings to present before the Lord, as we (mostly) all do in some manner or form on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis; sometimes on an irregular basis; and for some of us, not at all. However, these brothers had been nurtured in the ways of the Lord, and **knew** what they must do in order to **be found well-pleasing before a Holy God!** Verse four says - **“the Lord had respect and regard for Abel and his offering”**, but, verse five goes on to say, **“But for Cain and his offering He had no respect or regard”!***

Why? How did Cain react to hearing this from God? How would you, (do you), react when confronted with the same reaction from God? Do you even know? Do you even know what it is that God requires of you; and **how you should present both** - "it" (your offering), and you, before a Holy God?

I now know how Cain reacted, because I can see in verse five that he wasn't very happy. In fact it says - **"he was exceedingly angry and indignant, and he looked sad and depressed"**. Does that sound familiar to you? I am sure we can all relate to Cain's negative, reactive response. At some point in our history, we too, will have experienced all, or some of those emotions; some of them more often than we would perhaps care to confess. However, if we look further into this scripture we will uncover more interesting dialogue, between God and man.

*Gen 4:6 And the Lord said to Cain, **Why are you angry? And why do you look sad and depressed and dejected?***

*Gen 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, **but you must master it.***

*Gen 4:8 And Cain said to his brother, Let us go out to the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and **killed him.** [I John 3:12.]*

Cain was so angry, his entire countenance changed, which was very obvious to whoever was within view of his physical self. Not a pretty sight; and equally disgusting was his physical response to the angry emotions raging within him. **Murder!** And the victim was his own flesh and blood; his brother, Abel, whom we read about in verse eight. However, in verses six and seven, the **Lord questions Cain, and gives him opportunity to think right, act right and receive right rewards, IF** he will only **master his own behaviour (mind)**. Let's go over to Romans and have a look at what the Lord says - (Amplified version).

**Rom 12:2** *Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] **renewal of your mind** [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you **may prove** [for yourselves] what is the **good and acceptable** and perfect will of God, **even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].***

That is ideally what the Lord wanted for Cain to do; and is what He requires of us to do, in order that we be found righteous before Him, on a daily basis. **Not having to deal with the aftermath of devastation and destruction, brought on by our angry outbursts.** But, I want us to go back to the question of **WHY** Cain's offering was not acceptable to the Lord in the first place.

There was a huge difference in the **characters of the persons making the offering. Cain – was a wicked man, who led a bad life, under the reigning power of the world and the flesh; and therefore his sacrifice was an abomination to the Lord,** as Proverbs says (Amp).

**Pro 15:8** *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, hateful and exceedingly offensive to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight!*

God had no respect for Cain himself, and therefore no respect for his offering.

**But Abel was a righteous man (Matthew 23:35). God had great respect for him as a righteous, (holy) man, and consequently viewed his offering as holy.**

**Mat 23:35** *So that upon your heads may come all the blood of **the righteous (those who correspond to the divine standard of right)** shed on earth, from the blood of the **righteous Abel** to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar [of burnt offering].*

There was a difference in the principles they took with them to the altar. **Abel offered his offering by faith.** Cain did not. **Abel saw himself as a sinner; in need of the blood bought redemption, his perfect offering represented; and his obedience guaranteed his approval from a heart-searching God. Amen!** However, **Cain was neither repentant nor humble; his confidence was within himself; self glorifying, and consequently rejected by the same heart-searching God.** His actions very much became **SIN**; to him who could not obey the instructions of a Holy God; who **requires obedience, by faith!** Abel took his offering from the best of his first fruits; his livestock. Cain took his from the works of his hand, and the ground which God had cursed. In other words; his **pride** wouldn't allow him to act in the same spirit of obedience, by faith; which his brother Abel, had done. **He insisted on having his own way, and so he approached God on the grounds of his own personal worthiness! Wow!**

Does that resonate with you at all? Are we not like Cain so many times in our lives? Aren't we still trying so often to still work our way into heaven; or God's good books; and perhaps, just maybe - He will look favorably upon us and give us His wink of approval; and maybe, just maybe - that is enough to get us into heaven! **Cain presented the product of his own labour; the work of his own hands, and God refused to receive it!!!** There is a **serious lesson to be learnt here.** **The just shall live by faith, and without faith... it is impossible to please Him;** as we read in Hebrews chapter 11, (Amplified version).

**Heb 11:6** *But **without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him.** For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].*

Cain should have been **angry at himself, for his own infidelity and hypocrisy, by which he had forfeited God's acceptance; and his countenance should have fallen in repentance and holy shame;** (as the tax collector, who would not lift up so much as his eyes to heaven; as found in Luke 18:13 Amp.)

*Luk 18:13 But the tax collector, [merely] standing at a distance, **would not even lift up his eyes to heaven**, but kept striking his breast, saying, O God, be favorable (be gracious, be merciful) to me, the **especially wicked sinner that I am!***

*It is common for those who have rendered themselves unworthy of God's favour, by their own presumptuous sins, to have indignation against those who - are dignified and distinguished by their subsequent **worth, honour and favour**; from a **God who rewards** the earnest and diligent **seeker of Himself**.*

*As we near the end of another letter of sharing from the pages of God's Holy Word, I pray a blessing over your life, and **especially your mind**; that you may be encouraged to put into relevant practice each day, moment by moment, hour by hour, **the discipline of renewing your mind, to the mind of Christ**. **How do we do this?** Take hold of the scripture from Philippians chapter 4 verses 8 and 9, ( Amplified Bible).*

*Php 4:8 For the rest, brethren, whatever is **true**, whatever is **worthy of reverence** and is **honorable** and **seemly**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely** and **lovable**, whatever is **kind** and **winsome** and **gracious**, if there is any **virtue** and **excellence**, if there is anything **worthy of praise**, **think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]**.*

*Php 4:9 **Practice what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and model your way of living on it, and the God of peace (of untroubled, undisturbed well-being) will be with you.***

*If Cain had only renewed his mind...! **We have opportunity to get it right, before it is too late**. Thank you for sharing with me this month. Take hold of the truths of the scripture and apply them to your life - daily. Not just on Sunday! That way you will know how to present **"IT"** - your offering, and **"YOU"** - yourself, to a Holy God, for His purposes to fulfil. Remember, it was for **YOU** He died, and it is for **YOU** He is coming back. In the meantime we all have a job to do. Know what that plan and purpose for your life is, and **let it be an offering found well pleasing in His sight**. Amen and Amen!*

*Till next month*

*From my house to yours*

*Blessings of the abundant kind!*

*Leila Nord.*

