

LIVING FAITH
A Holy Attitude
Hebrews 11:4

INTRODUCTION

- A. Hebrews 11:1-3
- B. Holiness, a separation from impurity and moral evil.
 - 1. In its broader sense, holiness is obedience to the will of God.
 - 2. It is saying with Jesus – Heb. 10:7, “*Behold I have come to do Thy will, O God.*”
- C. Holiness and obedience are inseparable.
 - 1. The holiness described in the bible is more than just a call to separate ourselves from the world and its wickedness.
 - 2. It calls us to obey God, even when it is inconvenient.

I. A BETTER SACRIFICE.

- A. Genesis 4:3-5.
 - 1. Cain’s sacrifice.
 - a. It was of the fruit of the ground. (He was a farmer.)
 - b. It was bloodless.
 - 2. Abel’s Sacrifice.
 - a. The firstling of his flock and their fat portions.
 - b. Lit., the fatness of them, or the fattest of the firstlings.
 - c. In other words, the best he had, and the best of the best.
- B. By Faith.
 - 1. Both must have known God’s will. Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17
 - 2. Abel took God at His word, even though he may not have known the reason for the sacrifice of a lamb.
 - 3. Cain didn’t believe God’s revelation.
 - a. Obedience and faith [belief] interchangeable.
 - b. Hebrews 3:18, could not enter rest because of disobedience.
 - c. Hebrews 3:19, could not enter because of unbelief.
 - d. Again in Heb. 4:2, 6. Faith = Obedience.

II. A RIGHTEOUS MAN.

- A. Righteousness and Holiness.
 - 1. Abraham was called to “Walk before God, and be blameless”. Gen. 17:1
 - a. “Blameless” is to be “wholesome, innocent, having integrity.”
 - 2. The Israelites were called to be holy, Leviticus 20:26.
 - 3. God explains how to be holy to Him, Deuteronomy 28:9.
 - 4. Abel offered a sacrifice acceptable [*holy?*] to God, Gen. 4:4.
 - a. His “holiness” was testified to by God.
 - b. God accepted Abel’s, had no regard for Cain’s. Gen. 4:4-5
- B. Called to Be Holy.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:14, pursue sanctification [holiness].
 - 2. 1 Peter 2:9, a holy nation for God.
 - 3. 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8. Perhaps Cain showed his “rejection” of God?

III. A CONSTANT WITNESS.

A. Abel Speaks in Death.

1. Gen. 4:10, "*The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.*".
 - a. Ancient people believed that blood of the innocent cried out for vengeance against the murderer [Cain].
 - b. Some would suggest the message is a cry for faithfulness to God, seen in Abel's obedience and holiness.
2. The blood of Christ.
 - a. Hebrews 12:24, the blood of Jesus, "*...speaks better than the blood of Abel.*"
 - b. A message, not of vengeance, but of atonement and forgiveness, 1 Pet. 1:18-19
 - c. But it, too, is a message of obedience, Philippians 2:8.

B. Holiness by Faith.

1. 1 Peter 1:14-16, to be holy
2. 1 Peter 5:6, "*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God,...*"
3. 2 Corinthians 5:7, "*...for we walk by faith, not by sight ...*"
4. Romans 14:23, "*...and whatever is not from faith is sin.*"

CLOSING

A. Hebrews 11:6

1. "*Without faith it is impossible to please Him...*"
2. But, "*... He is a rewarder of those who [earnestly, NIV] seek Him.*"

B. Romans 6:22-23, "*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"