

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

We will study about faith and works in these 4 lessons.

We will use 4 examples from the Bible and study one in each class.

- Cain and Abel on Thursday in class #1
- Noah on Friday in class #2
- Abraham on Saturday in class #3
- The Children of Israel on Saturday in class #4

Are we saved by FAITH; or by WORKS; or by BOTH?

What is the Bible answer?

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

The apostle Paul mentioned the “OBEDIENCE OF FAITH” two times as the goal of his preaching (**Romans 1:5** and **16:26**).

Let us ask: What is meant by the “**OBEDIENCE OF FAITH**”?

ANSWER:

- It is faith that ‘worketh by love’ ~ **Galatians 5:6b**
- Jesus said love is shown through obedience ~ **John 14:21a**

*“He that hath my commandments,
and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...”*

- It is faith that obeys God’s commands! *This is what the phrase “OBEDIENCE OF FAITH” means.*

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

Cain and Abel – Genesis 4

- We want to look at the faith of both.
- We want to look at the works of both.
- Which one had the obedience of faith?
(a faith that obeyed God's commands)

THOUGHT QUESTION:

Is OBEDIENCE a 'WORK'?

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Cain and Abel

– **Genesis 4:3-4 [NASV]**

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the **fruit of the ground**.

4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering...

OBSERVATIONS:

- Both Cain and Abel brought an offering to GOD.
- God ‘had regard for’ (approved of) Abel’s offering—WHY?

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Cain and Abel

WHY did God approve of Abel's offering?

Hebrews 11:4: “By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.”

OBSERVATIONS:

- God approved of Abel's offering because it was “**by faith**”!

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Cain and Abel

Hebrews 11:4 – “By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.”

OBSERVATIONS:

Because Abel offered “by faith”:

- 1] His sacrifice was a “better” (more excellent) sacrifice**
- 2] God testified that Abel was righteous**

THOUGHT QUESTION:

What is necessary before something can be offered to God ‘by faith’?

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Cain and Abel

ANSWER: In order for something to be offered to God 'by faith', God must first speak about the offering!

Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

THOUGHT QUESTION: Did God speak to Abel about his offering? (How can we know?)

ANSWER: Through his sacrifice, Abel obtained testimony that he was 'righteous'. **(Hebrews 11:4).** God testifying about his gifts...(Hebrews 11:4).

Let us notice some things about '**righteousness**' and the '**obedience of faith**'.

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Abel's RIGHTEOUSNESS

Deuteronomy 6:24-25: So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

- Did Abel have a command from God?
- Did Abel obey that command?
- Is this why God testified that Abel was righteous?
- IS RIGHTEOUSNESS CONNECTED WITH FAITH AND OBEDIENCE?

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Let us notice some passages on Zeal and Righteousness

God's righteousness is revealed in His words.

THOUGHT QUESTION:

- Is it possible to be ignorant of God's righteousness?

Romans 10:1-3 – Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

- Notice, these were ignorant of God's righteousness!

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Zeal and Righteousness

Romans 10:1-3:

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

We can have a zeal for God, but not be right with God!

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Zeal and Righteousness

Romans 10:1-3:

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

It is possible to establish our own righteousness rather than God's!

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Zeal and Righteousness

Romans 10:1-3:

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

When we establish our own righteousness, we are doing what is right in our own eyes; BUT NOT IN GOD'S EYES!

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Zeal and Righteousness

We need to remember that righteousness comes through our faith and obedience to God's commands (**Deuteronomy 6:24-25**).

24 So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today.

25 It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.

REMEMBER: God's commands are for our good!

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Abel's Righteousness

Did Abel obtained testimony that he was righteous by the 'OBEDIENCE OF FAITH'.

— **Hebrews 11:4:** *“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.”*

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Cain

There are two verses in the N. T. that tell us about Cain's faith and works:

1 John 3:12 – not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

Jude 1:11 – Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

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Cain's Worship

1 John 3:12 – not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

The “WORKS” of Cain and the “WORKS” of Abel were referring to their worship.

- Why was Cain's worship ‘EVIL’?
- Did God also speak to Cain about worship like He did to Abel?
- Did Cain offer ‘by faith’?
- Did Cain establish God's righteousness or his own righteousness?

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Cain's Worship

1 John 3:9-10 –

⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

¹⁰ By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God,

Remember, Deuteronomy 6:25 – “It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.”

To practice righteousness, means that we obey God's commands!

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

Cain's Worship

Jude 1:11 – Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

What is meant by “the way of Cain”?

ANSWER:

- It is the same as Balaam's error and Korah's rebellion!
- It is to disobey God's commands!
- Cain disobeyed what God commanded him about the sacrifice.
- Cain's 'works' were evil because he rejected God's command.
- Cain established his own righteousness; not God's.

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

Lessons from Cain & Abel's Worship

- What lessons are there for us from Gen. 4 and the related N. T. texts?
- Has God revealed HOW He is to be worshiped?
- What is necessary before something can be done by “faith”?
- Was there any obedience on the part of Abel? Of Cain?
- What “works” of Cain were evil?
- What was the “way of Cain”?
- Did God reveal to Cain and Abel HOW He was to be worshiped?
- What are two requisites of man, in order for his worship to be acceptable?

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

Lessons from Cain & Abel's Worship

- Who had faith that worked by love?
- Who had obedience of faith?
- Has God told us in the Bible how to worship?
- Can we believe God, yet do as Cain?
- What is necessary before we can worship God 'by faith'?