



GOD OF  
*Genesis*  
WONDERS  
GENESIS CHAPTERS 1-11

Celebration - Sunday 8:45 am

July 12, 2009  
Pastor David Mitchell

**The Battle For Our Heart**  
Genesis 4

➤ **The Battle Begins. Genesis 3:15, 16; 4:7**

- Between Satan's seed and Eve's seed  
*Enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed...* Genesis 3:15
- Between Adam and Eve  
*...Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.* Genesis 3:16
- Between Sin and You  
*...sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.* Genesis 4:7

➤ **The Battle Zone: My Heart For God. Genesis 4:1-5; II Corinthians 11:2**  
*And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.*

*Offering =*

Two offerings and Two hearts and Two responses by God:

- Abel's Heart for God was of faith and righteousness. God was pleased.  
Hebrews 11:4
- Cain's Heart was evil toward God and hateful toward Abel. God was displeased.  
I John 3:11-15

Application for us: (see digging deeper for practical helps to be like Abel, not Cain, in your worship)

➤ **The Battle Results: If My Heart Is Not Right With God. Genesis 4:5-17**

- I experience rejection. *for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.* Genesis 4:5
- I struggle with anger. *So Cain became very angry* Genesis 4:5
- I battle depression, discouragement. *his countenance fell.* Genesis 4:5
- I have conflicts in my relationships. *Cain rose up against Abel his brother* Genesis 4:8
- I experience more loss: Genesis 4:14

--Loss of intimacy with God. *from Your face I will be hidden*

--Loss of intimacy with others. *I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.*

--Loss of significance and security in life. *whoever finds me will kill me*

➤ **But...Victory Can Be Yours From Our God Of Wonders.**

- God is loving; coming to meet with us, regardless of what we have done. Genesis 4:6-10
- God is gracious, seeking to heal our hearts and relationships. Genesis 4:15
- God is waiting; will your worship be like Abel or Cain?  
It all starts with your heart and relationship with God.

# DIGGING DEEPER IN GENESIS 4

The battle is under way between Satan and us. God selectively chose this story from the lives of Adam and Eve and their two children so we could learn about this battle strategy of the evil one to kill, steal, and destroy our families and our lives.

The battle zone is our heart. Genesis 4:1-5 is all about the hearts of Abel and Cain, reflected in their “offering” to the Lord. Obviously the Lord has given them a way to relate to Him after their sin. They are to bring an offering of worship to express their love, adoration, and submission to the Lord. The issue of the offering was not what each man brought, one an animal the other from the field. Rather, it was all about condition of their hearts in bringing that offering. Offerings in the Old Testament sometimes did include grain from the field. Read **Leviticus 2:1-16**.

What did God see in Abel’s heart according to **Hebrews 11:4**?

What did God see in Cain’s heart according to **I John 3:11-15**?

That is why God said what He did in **Genesis 4:4, 5**.

When you come to worship and bring your life as an offering to the Lord, what does God see in your heart? What does He see in your relationships with other people?

## Application: Does God view your worship as Abel or Cain? Remember...

1. God intently watches and evaluates your heart of worship. **Genesis 4:4, 5**
2. You can have the outward appearance of worship like Cain but not the inward heart of worship, like Abel.
3. God is more concerned with your heart in worship than the external elements of worship. Read **Psalms 51:16, 17**
4. The quality of your worship depends on your relationship with God and others. Read **Matthew 5:21-25**. Is there a relationship in need of healing that is obstructing your open heart to God. What should you do if you have hurt, offended, acted angrily or rudely to another?

## Here are some practical ways to assure that God is pleased with your worship on Sundays.

- Prepare your heart in advance through prayer. Ask God for a teachable spirit. Confess all sins and thank the Lord for His goodness to you. Write down the good things He has done for you.
- Read the Bible passages to be taught in church on Saturday and meditate on the message God has for you. While others you know may need this message, remember that it is for *you*.
- Arrive early at church to focus your mind and heart on the worship experience and remove distractions from that morning and prior week. Sit up close to remove distractions in the room.
- Remind yourself that God is concerned with your heart, not the dress, behavior or attitude of those around you.
- Reflect intently on the words of the songs, not the people on stage, the instruments, the volume, or temperature of the room.
- Come prepared to give an offering to the Lord. Do not wait until the last moment and scramble to find an offering in your wallet. Remember -- where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Matthew 6:21**

