

## **Two Ways to Approach God (Genesis 4)**

*True worship flows from faith in God's Word, not from self-made religion.*

### **God receives worship that is offered in faith**

(Genesis 4:1-4)

Abel approaches God trusting what He has revealed and offers the first and best of his flock.

**Cross References:** Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6; 1 Samuel 15:22

**For Us Today:** Worship that pleases God begins with trusting His Word. Religious activity without faith does not honor Him.

### **God rejects worship that is shaped by self rather than submission.** (Genesis 4:3-7)

Cain brings an offering but refuses correction when his heart is exposed. Instead of humbling himself, he hardens himself.

**Cross References:** 1 Samuel 16:7; James 1:14-15; James 4:6

**For Us Today:** Our response to God's Word reveals our heart. Faith bows in repentance; pride resists correction.

### **Worship rooted in self eventually produces destruction instead of life.** (Genesis 4:8-24)

Cain ignores God's warning, and sin spreads from anger to murder to hardened rebellion. His descendants build culture, but drift from God.

**Cross References:** 1 John 3:12; 2 Timothy 3:5; Proverbs 14:12

**For Us Today:** Self-centered religion may look impressive, but it does not produce righteousness. When worship becomes about self, it eventually leads away from God.

### **God preserves true worship through those who call upon His name in faith.** (Genesis 4:25-26)

After Cain's rebellion, God raises up Seth. A faithful line continues.

**Cross References:** Genesis 4:26; Hebrews 12:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:29

**For Us Today:** We approach God not through our own offering, but through the finished work of Christ – the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

***The only acceptable way to approach God is by faith in the sacrifice He has provided.***

### **For Reflection This Week**

- Am I approaching God in humble faith or quiet self-reliance?
- How do I respond when God corrects me through His Word?
- Is my worship centered on pleasing God – or preserving self?

### **Looking Ahead – Walking With God in a Dying World (Genesis 5)**

*Theme: Faithfulness, obedience, and hope in the midst of death.*