

APPENDIX

GENESIS 4:3-4

Abel offered “the firstlings of his flock”, that is an animal sacrifice.

Cain offered “the fruit of the ground”, that is a cereal offering.

God had respect unto Abel’s offering and not Cain’s.

Should Cain offer an animal sacrifice too?

ANSWER:

1. Hebrew 11:4 - *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*
 - a. The phrase “by faith” presupposes that Adam had instructed Abel and Cain that they should offer an animal sacrifice.
 - b. So Abel obeyed by believing his father’s instruction.
 - c. Cain, on the other hand, did not obey, believing that the fruit of his labour was good enough for God.
 - d. Abel’s heart condition was right; whereas Cain’s was not right.

2. Having mentioned the above, even animal sacrifices if they are not offered with the right heart attitude will be rejected too.
 - a. **1 Samuel 15:22** *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and*

sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

- b. Samuel declared that external acts if they were not accompanied with the right heart attitude would not be accepted.

3. Conclusion: Cain should have accepted by faith what Adam had instructed him, that is, to offer an animal sacrifice. His sacrifice was rejected because his heart attitude – what was good for Cain was good for God – was not right. Therefore, Cain should have believed his father, and offered an animal sacrifice.