

January 2017



2016 was the seed-plant before the blessing.
2017 will be the best year you have ever experienced.

Pay careful attention to what Genesis 4 teaches us for 2017.

Genesis 4:3-7

v:3 "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. v:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, v:5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. v:6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? v:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

God never holds us accountable for information He has not given us.

Cain was aware of how to approach God. Cain's sacrifice was an outward indication of an inward problem, a rebellious heart.

Cain's anger caught God's attention. Cain didn't tell God he was angry. (v:6) God saw that Cain was angry. How great is that? The God who watches over us is even concerned with our mood from one moment to the next.

And why would Cain be angry? God wasn't angry with Cain. God was the one disrespected.

God told Cain, "I will grant you a do-over;" but come right next time. **v:7** "If you do well, will you not be accepted?"

You see beloved, Cain didn't have a problem sacrificing to God, but Cain wanted to give God what he thought God should have, not what God told Cain to bring.

Before you judge Cain, isn't that the way some of us are today?

We give God what we think He should have. We come to church when we want. We give what we want. We arrive whatever time we want.

We criticize others who serve in our houses of worship. Why do I have to sit here? Why do we sing these songs?

Concerning my tithe, give it a rest -- won't you? I give what I want, when I want; and be thankful for that.

Truth is, I like my friend's Church service, congregation, Pastor, much more.

Cain doubled down, when all he had to do was submit to **God's authority**.

Cain further exposed his hardness of heart by taking his brother Abel's life.

Maybe he thought if he removed Abel, who he determined to be his problem, God would accept whatever he brought. Think about it, I'm all He's got left.

Cain's problem was a heart of rebellion. As it was in Cain's day, it remains today. It is always about the heart.

If we do well, won't it be accepted? But if we refuse to do well, look no further than sin crouching at your door. Cain committed murder, and sin wasn't even in his house, it was only at his door.

God goes further; "baby boy, **sin should never rule over you**, you were created **to rule over sin.**"

You can do better Cain, the question is; do you really want to? Know that you can improve! Know that you can heal. Know that you can change.

God is still willing to work with hard hearts.

The reason is not that we don't love God, the reason is that we don't obey God, we still want God to accept whatever we give Him.

If that is your case, look no further than the front door, sin is parked at the door.

Cain was in rebellion before God, and sin didn't even enter his house, God said sin was at his door.

Pray this prayer with me

Psalms 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Beloved, God will survey each heart, and continue to work with it until He sees His image.

A very Happy New Year, make 2017 the best year of your life!

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