

**Message.**

We began a new study in Hebrews 11, focusing on what it means to live by faith. We looked at the story of Cain and Abel, learning that faith isn't just about what you offer, but how you offer it, and who you trust. Abel's sacrifice was accepted because it came from a heart of surrendered trust, giving God his first and best, while Cain's offering revealed a heart of faithlessness that quickly led to resentment. The big takeaway is that faith doesn't just give, it surrenders, trusting God's character, goodness, and faithfulness even when it costs us, and choosing obedience over convenience or comparison.

**Prayer.**

Father,  
I believe. You are my Creator and Lord. I put my faith in You.  
Amen.

**Scripture.**

Hebrews 11:1-4

*See Genesis 4:1-10 for the full Cain and Abel account referenced in Hebrews.*

**Engage.**

When you hear the word "faith," what's the first image or thought that comes to mind?

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." How does this definition resonate with your personal understanding of faith?

Verse 3 states that "by faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God." What does it mean to "understand by faith" something we weren't present to witness?

Looking at verse 4, what do you think made Abel's offering "a more excellent sacrifice" than Cain's? What was the qualitative difference beyond just the offering itself?

Based on these verses, what seems to be the core characteristic of the kind of faith that pleases God?

How does the idea of "pleasing God" (implied in Abel's acceptance) connect with the definition of faith given in verse 1?

The passage states that through faith, Abel, "though he died, still speaks." What do you think his life and accepted sacrifice are still communicating to us about faith?

Considering the definition of faith in verse 1, in what area of your life right now do you need more "assurance of things hoped for" or "conviction of things not seen"?

In what ways does this passage challenge or affirm your current understanding of what it means to truly "walk by faith" in your daily life?

How might the example of Abel encourage or challenge you to offer your "first and best" to God, not just in tangible things, but in your time, energy, or trust?