



11/10/25

As we looked at Genesis 4 for the message, I thought God's patience and mercy were amazing. Tim said at the end of the message, "We always want God's mercy for ourselves, but His punishment for others." I'm so thankful that God doesn't decide His actions based on my actions OR my opinions!!! May you and I be Abels and not Cains. 🙏

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Hebrews 11:4, Psalm 37:1-11

Why was God pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but not with Cain's? Abel gave from a heart of worship and surrender because he believed in God. It was his genuine faith that made his offering so pleasing to God. Even if he had given of the firstfruits, but not from a heart of faith, his offering would not have been pleasing to God.

I do what I do... because I think what I think... because I want what I want... because I worship who I worship.

From Hebrews 11:4, I see that Abel did what he did... offer God his sacrifice in faith... because he thought what he thought... God is worthy... because he wanted what he wanted... to please the Lord... because he worshiped who he worshiped... God.

And God was pleased with his offering... so pleased that, even though Abel was killed by Cain, he left a legacy that speaks of a heart of worship. It's interesting... Abel died and Cain lived in Genesis 4, but Cain left no lasting or pleasing legacy, and Abel is known for his faith even today, thousands of years later. This tells me that pleasing God is more important than pleasing anyone else... including myself. In fact, I will be most pleased when I am NOT trying to please myself or other people, but when I AM seeking to please God.

Psalm 37:1-11 ~ So then, how do I handle someone like a Cain, assuming that I am more like an Abel? (O Lord, please make that so!) This passage will tell me what God wants me to do when

I'm dealing with someone who is evils, and what He will do for me.

What TO do:

- *Don't get consumed with anger because of evildoers (vs. 1)*
- *Don't be envious of wrongdoers! (Vs. 1)*
- *Trust in the Lord (vs. 3)*
- *Do good (vs. 3)*
- *Dwell in the Land (vs. 3)*
- *Feed on God's faithfulness (vs. 3)*
- *Delight, take pleasure, in Yahweh (vs. 4)*
- *Commit your way to the Lord (vs. 5)*
- *Trust in God (vs. 5)*
- *Be still before the Lord (vs. 7)*
- *Wait patiently for the Lord (vs. 7)*
- *Don't fret or be angry because of the one who seems successful in carrying out evil schemes (vs. 7)*
- *Stop being angry (vs. 8)*
- *Abandon rage (vs. 8)*

- *Wait for the Lord (vs. 9)*

I notice a few things about this list... My first job is to take my focus off the one who is evil, and put my focus on the one who is faithful.

I'm NOT supposed to focus on the evil or wicked because it will consume me and even make me envy them... and probably blame God. "Why should I listen to YOU, Lord? You're not even stopping that person! In fact, it seems like that person is better off than I am!"

I AM supposed to keep my focus on the Lord. Trust Him. Commit to Him. Wait for Him. Even delight in Him! Why? He will be pleased with my offering, and those who stand against Him will fade like grass and wither like the green herb. He will put an end to their wickedness... in His timing. He will cut them off. They will come to a complete end.

He says when I delight in Him because I trust Him, He gives me the desires of my heart. Why does He wait until I'm delighting in Him? Because when I'm not delighting in Him, the things I desire are not good. He WANTS to bless me... with what is good. If He gave me my desires when I wasn't delighting in Him, He would be helping me to destroy myself. That's not love. He loves me too much to give me what I want when what I want isn't good. And if what I want isn't good, I won't even see the good in delighting in Him.

He says when I commit my way to Him, He acts on my behalf. He brings forth my righteousness as the light, and my justice as the noonday. He WILL bring righteousness and justice to my

situation when wickedness is being done. My job is to keep my eyes on Him and trust Him to do what He says He's going to do... in His timing. Trusting Him means that I trust that He has the big picture even when I don't... and He knows exactly what He's doing... and even when I don't see that He's working, it doesn't mean that He's not working.

When I wait for the Lord, He will not cut me off, but I will inherit the land. What land? Heaven! I will someday live in the new heaven and new earth... my inheritance that's waiting for me when God takes me home.

When I forsake wrath and fury and anger and choose meekness and humility because I trust the Lord, I will spend eternity with Him and I will delight myself in abundant peace. It's really important that I always view His word through the eternal perspective... From an earthly perspective, I could look at this psalm to see how it applies to Cain and Abel and conclude that Psalm 37 isn't true. Abel died and Cain lived. But from an eternal perspective I can see that Psalm 37 is absolutely true. In a little while, Cain was no more... but the meek Abel inherited eternal life. Abel trusted the Lord, committed himself to the Lord, waited on the Lord, and delighted in the Lord... and the Lord brought him home to be with Him. God is faithful to EVERYTHING He says. O Lord, I pray that I will worship You wholeheartedly as Abel did.

The link to me experiencing delight and peace is FAITH. By faith, I trust the Lord. By faith, I can do what's good. By faith, I can trust God's faithfulness even when I can't see it with my eyes. By faith, I can delight in the Lord. By faith, I will commit to Him and wait patiently for Him... I will be faithful to do what I know He wants me to do... and wait patiently for Him without moving in the things where He hasn't made His will clear. I will be still before Him and keep my eyes on Him. My eyes cannot be on the Lord AND on the wicked at the same time. O Lord, please help me to keep my eyes on You... and experience Your peace. Eyes on You, not on the problem... leave it all in Your hands. You have all authority, all power, and all wisdom. I want to please You.