

## Hebrews 11:4-6

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Also read:

Genesis 4:1-16

Genesis 5:6-24

Jude 14-15

Romans 14:23

## Community Group Study 10 Jan 2010

### Introduction

The first two names in the Hebrews 11 list of those who were faithful are Abel and Enoch.

Abel is the first martyr for the faith. His life-changing faith stands out against his brother Cain's lack of faith. Even though Cain knew God as personally as Abel did, he never let that intimate knowledge change his life.

Enoch was recorded as having "walked with God" when others did not. Because of his faith, he did not see death but was taken to be with God.

It is in this light that we see in verse 6 that without faith it is impossible to please God. Not only is God not pleased when we do anything without a life that is reoriented in faith to Him, but it is sin when we act and live without faith (Rom 14:23). Ultimately we must not only believe that God exists, as Cain did, but allow that knowledge to lead us to the ultimate reward – a true relationship with God himself.

### Discussion

- >>How does Abel speak even though he is dead?
- >>How could Cain know God so personally, desire his approval so deeply and yet have no faith?
- >>How do we "walk with God"?
- >>Why does faith please God and not mere obedience?

### Explanation

- >>Why did Abel and Cain have to make sacrifices even before it became part of the law (of Moses)?
- >>How does God see acts that are "good" and "right" yet done without faith?
- >>Why is the "reward" God and not something else?

### Application

- >>If "good" and "right" actions can be done without faith, how can we be careful to avoid such mere religiosity?
- >>Identify the area of your life that you do not live by faith, and thank God that He has given you faith enough to live by faith if you so choose.