

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG171 – The Way of Cain

Hi, and thank you for joining me today on this podcast. I am going to try to tackle the Scriptures in Genesis about Cain and Abel in a way that I think applies for us today, in how the spirit of this age is really impacting us, and what is going on around us. I know there is a lot of talk about the spirit of the age and the things that are taking place in our societies, in all nations, really; and I think it is very important that we try to understand and address what is really happening. I know we can delve into the aspect of the spiritual impact that the world of spirit is having upon mankind, and that is very real. There is a lot of impact, I believe, in what is taking place. I think we see that in the Scriptures surrounding the crucifixion of Christ, that there was a lot going on spiritually that really controlled, or influenced, the actions of humans during that time; and I believe that same reality exists among us and surrounding us today. So we look at that, and we understand it. But on the other hand, what goes on in the spirit realm does not necessarily remove from us as humans the responsibility that we have for our actions. Therefore, I think we need to recognize how our human actions – our thinking, our mind, our mouth, our behaviors – really are something that we need to take responsibility for, and we need to deal with these things and control what goes on from us.

The reason I am saying that is because when we look around, whether it is reading in the newspaper or reading what we see on the internet; in the news, in many aspects of our society, whether it is what we hear on the radio or we watch on TV; I think we see a tremendous amount of anger. I think we see a tremendous amount of judgmental discussion going on, and a divisive kind of conversation. It just seems like no matter what goes on, somebody is out to talk it down, or to judge that person, or to somehow demean their actions or their personality, or who they are or what they are doing. I feel very concerned about this, because I think that we are fooling ourselves if we try to pretend there are no ramifications, or that which comes back upon us, born out of our feelings, our emotions, our words, and our actions. So, as I said, I want to get into the story in Genesis about Cain and Abel and read these verses, because I think they not only apply, but I think they show us specific aspects of really what transpired between Cain and Abel; and I think that in looking at these things, we can see some of what is transpiring in people's lives today.

I will begin in Genesis the fourth chapter, starting at verses 3-4. "So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering." It is interesting that right here in these verses, starting from the beginning where it says, "So it came about in the course of time..." – in the Hebrew it really says, "in the end of time." I do not know if that is actually speaking to the fact that these things are going to re-emerge in the end of time, and therefore this really becomes a parable almost for us to go back and look at; but it is true that we see this spirit of Cain coming back at the end of time. So he goes on to talk about these offerings, and the fact that Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's offering was not.

Verses 5-6, "But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry?'" That is a great question: "Why are

you angry?" When it talks about the fact that his countenance fell, in the Hebrew it means that "his face fell," his face changed. We have all seen this; when somebody gets really mad, all you have to do is look at them and you can see on their face that they are mad. So God is addressing Cain, He is looking at Cain, not only in his heart, but He is also looking at his physical appearance; and it is very obvious that Cain is mad, he is angry. And the Lord says to him, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" In other words, you are so angry that it is affecting you physically. Your physical appearance is impacted by your emotions, your feelings, and what is going on in your mind; and so, He asked him the question. Of course, there was no answer; but it goes on in verse 7 to say, "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Now, I think this is so heavy here, because I feel like in the simplicity of this story, which really is a parable for us today, we see God saying, "Why are you angry? What is the root of your emotion that you are having? What is going on, Cain, in your thinking, in your mind? Your brain is producing these emotions, these thoughts which are affecting your emotions, which are releasing chemicals into your body to the point where it is literally affecting you physically. And I can see on you the physical change that is taking place." We can go deeper into this, because I think all of these things are the reality of our human state and how it really moves. Things happen in our mind, thoughts happen in our mind; those thoughts trigger emotions, feelings in us. Emotions that are in us release chemicals into our body. Those chemicals in our body, those hormones, proteins, whatever they are, are going to physically affect us and our actions. And this progression is really, when you stop to think about it, and you take this parable on a very simple level, how sin then transpires.

What is sin? It is the actions that come out of this process that begins with our brain, our mind not taking control over these thoughts, to the point where they become feelings and emotions; and those emotions have literal physical effects and change us physically. So God says, "Look, why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, your countenance will be lifted up." In other words, if you control right now, Cain, what is going on in your brain, these thoughts that are taking place in your brain – which you can do, because your brain is not your mind. Your mind is your awareness, and you have the ability to control the thoughts that are transpiring in your brain, and firing in your brain; and therefore, what those thoughts are will also evoke these emotions. We see these things on a very simple level, and I could go into it more and may go into it more in another podcast. But what I want to recognize here is that God is telling Cain, "Look, you can control these thoughts, which then will cut off the emotions, which then will stop what will happen to you physically born out of that emotional release of hormones and chemicals into your system. So, if you do well, your countenance will be lifted up. You can stop this process right here and right now."

I think it is important for us to recognize this, because in what is happening in the world around us today, in people's speech and people's actions and people's ways of judgment, it is almost like the world wants you to feel like, "Oh, this is unstoppable. This is uncontrollable. I cannot control my emotions. I am sorry, I have to respond with road rage; I just have to. I have to respond with violence. I have to respond with this anger – and I am right in doing so, and there is absolutely no expectation that I need to control these thoughts in my mind, which take me into these emotions, that then are going to evoke reactions out of me." Therefore, at the end of the chain here where Cain kills Abel his brother, it is like, "Well, it's okay, because, you know, I was angry. I do not need to control that, or I cannot control that; and therefore, this anger evoked these physical responses within me – and how can you be responsible to control that? Therefore, I ended up killing Abel. But there is nothing that should be seen as wrong

about it.” Honestly, when we look around us in this world today, what we see happening through violence – and I mean, violence at amazing ages, where we see elementary school children engaging in violent activities. We see all types of violence throughout every age group in our society today that is ending in death, just as it did here with Cain and Abel. It is something that we need to back up and recognize, this can be controlled right at the outset. This almost excusing of behavior that goes on in the world today is absolutely not within a biblical context; and we need to grab ahold of ourselves and recognize, no, there is an ability. God told him right at the outset, when He said, “Why are you angry? If you do well, your countenance will be lifted up. You can break this chain of thoughts, emotions, actions, right here, right now. You have the ability. You, in your mind, in your free will which I have created you with, have the ability to stop and cut off this feeling of anger and reverse it into something else.” Maybe you change anger into a broken spirit, which reaches to the Lord.

Remember, Cain is mad because God did not regard his offering. It does not say that God did not regard Cain or love Cain, or want Cain to walk in His ways. It does not say that He did not want to relate to Cain. I mean, obviously He is engaging in this conversation with him because He does not want him to go in a wrong direction. So, it does not say that He hated Cain. It does not say that He hated his offering. It just says He did not receive it. Why He did not receive it we are not really sure. Maybe it was because Cain was already struggling with thoughts like anger, or emotions like anger, or hatred, or aggression, or judgment, or competition, or whatever was going on. We do not know. But we do know that God was still engaging with Cain, and telling him, “Look, change this in you right now. If you do, your countenance will be lifted up. You can change all of this and go in another direction, and your next offering may be something that is really pleasing to Me.” Because ultimately, that is what God is looking for, us to be pleasing in His sight. He is looking for our thoughts to be pleasing, looking for our emotions to be pleasing, looking certainly for our actions to be pleasing. So, God is engaging with Cain. And I think God, in a sense, is engaging with this world right now, saying, “Look, why are you so angry? Why are you not only having these thoughts that are evoking these emotions of anger and divisiveness and hatred, they are ending in acts of violence. You are following through with physical expressions of anger out of these emotions that you are allowing to run wild; and it is you who are allowing these emotions to be there.”

We are not to be moving in judgment. Maybe that is part of what Cain was doing, that he was judging his brother’s actions, up to this point, and therefore his offering was not accepted. Again, we do not know the details of it, but we know that God was still working with Cain. And I believe there is a way that God is trying to work with this age to say, “Hey guys, if you do well, you can break this cycle of thoughts that are evoking these emotions that are negative, and you can go another way. But if you don’t, then sin is crouching at the door, and it’s desire is for you.” The desired result that Satan is looking for and evil is looking for is that you follow through with physical results and actions; that is really where sin comes from. The sin is, we know, an action of something; but we have to recognize that sin is almost the last thing that happens. It is not where the story begins; it does not begin with sin, it begins with the thoughts that he had in his mind, which brought about the anger that he was feeling, and then the actions which he took of killing his brother. That was the sin, killing his brother. But sin was almost the last thing that transpired.

It does say, in verse 8, that “Cain told Abel his brother.” Interesting, because it is just like a little statement there, that Cain told Abel. We are not sure what all he told him; whether he just told him that God did not accept or have regard for his offering, or if Cain told him the thoughts that were going on, or the emotions that he was having, the anger that he had towards him. We do not know what Cain told him, but we see that this is also a part of it; that as all this is playing itself out in our human reality, just

before the sin happens, usually there is something that comes out of our mouth that is kind of the last straw. By the time it comes out of our mouth, we know that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks; so when we hear these things coming out, we know that this process is way down the road. That is why I am so concerned, because every time you turn around to listen to what is going on or to read what is being said – and to write these things is just as bad as speaking them; you are speaking them in a written form – out of the mouth is coming the fomenting of these things. We hear so much anger; we hear so much hatred; we hear so much division coming out of the mouths of individuals in this age that we are in. That to me is the part that is so scary, because what came out of Cain's mouth was the last thing of the steps of progression that took place just before he killed his brother, Abel. It makes you feel like this whole age is right on the edge of actions that you cannot take back. Once the violence transpires, once you have killed your brother, you cannot bring him back.

I think that we are teetering on the edge in this society today of actions that are not going to be retrievable. You cannot turn it around. And so, we need to watch the words. When you hear the words coming out of your mouth, when you hear the words coming out of somebody else's mouth, that are being the expression of judgments, of anger, of hatred, of division, somehow it is the last hope to catch it and say, "I've got to stop. I've got to stop this."

I want to read out of Romans 8, starting with verse 5. We are almost finished here, because I mainly want this podcast to be about these progressive steps that we take that lead us into actions which are unrecoverable, unretrievable, and our sins that are going to have an impact on us individually and as a society which are not reversible. Romans 8, verses 5-6, says, "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death." See, the mind – that is what God was addressing, Cain's mind. He says, "Look, if you do well, you can stop this. Your mind has the ability to stop the thoughts, your mind can control the actions. Your mind can control what comes out of your mouth, and it can ultimately control the physical actions that are about to take place." So the mind set on the flesh is very scary. It is death. And I feel like the mind of this age is being set on death.

So, let's look at it. In Galatians 5:19-21, it says, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident...." What is this mind of the flesh? What is he talking about? Well, let's look at this, and let's look at how these things are emotions that we see so much in the world around us. "The deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality" – but see, those things are not just actions; they are emotions, they are feelings – "idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." These emotions are what we are seeing fomented through our society.

One last thing I want to read is out of Jude. It is just to reinforce to us the fact that it was prophesied that the progression and the spirit of what Cain moved in would be that which reappeared and re-manifested in the end time. Jude is talking about what takes place; he is talking about Sodom and Gomorrah; he is talking about the lack of control, of reviling angelic majesties. In verses 8-9, it says, "Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" See, there was a control that Michael exercised, which he had the ability to exercise; and so does mankind have the ability to exercise through our mind the authority over the thoughts and over the

emotions that we excuse for controlling us. Verse 10, "But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed." See, it's like, "Okay, well, we are just unreasonable, we are just animals. We are just moved by these things and there is no way we should be expected to control them."

Verse 11, "Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah." The way of Cain is something that comes back around in the days of the last time to bring judgment. It is one of the reasons that judgment comes; that is what Jude is talking about in this chapter, this singular chapter in the book of Jude. He is talking about the judgment that comes on the earth. One of the triggers of that judgment is the way of Cain, and that is what we are talking about here. What is the way of Cain? For some reason, he is upset; and due to whatever is going on in his mind, his thinking, the Lord does not take note of his offering. Then we see that his thoughts turn into emotions of anger. He refuses to have his mind reel in those thoughts and change those emotions; and finally, he voices out of his mouth to his brother, and ends up releasing the physical actions that kill Abel. This progression concerns me, because it is what we see so blatantly transpiring in the days around us.

Let us pray over these things. Let us believe and see a reversal and an end to the way of Cain in our generation.

Amen.