

Hebrews 11:4, Bible Devotions

❑ Monday - Animal Sacrifices Before Moses?

Hebrews 11:4

God said to the man and the woman, "From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall *not* eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die" (Gen. 2:17). That day they did die, not physically but spiritually (Eph. 2:1). "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings (Gen. 3:7). But "the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21). Animals were killed, their blood shed, to provide those garments of skin. And so, animal sacrifices for sin began at the Fall, 2500 years before the Mosaic Law, and are the backdrop behind Cain and Abel's sacrifices in Genesis 4. There was no written word, but God spoke directly to the first family concerning such sacrifices. And Abel believed God and his sacrifice was accepted (Gen. 4:2-8).

Read Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:22

❑ Tuesday - True Worship.

Hebrews 11:4

"And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard" (Gen. 4:3-5). The offspring of Cain's religion has been a monotonous array of world religions; but God has "no regard" for all such man-made worship. "Yet an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers" (John 4:23). Friend, are you worshipping God on His terms or perhaps your own? Is your's a religion of convenience or commitment?

Read Proverbs 15:8; Matthew 15:8

❑ Wednesday - How About Monday?

Hebrews 11:4

"Cain brought an offering to the Lord ... And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him" (Gen. 4:3, 8). The real condition of Cain's heart was revealed after the worship which he pretended to offer. And so it is, we bring out our Sunday-best, but what is your Monday like? Is there a veneer of religion covering a heart that is dissatisfied or discontent? May God grant us repentance from Sunday-sometimes Christianity!

Read Deuteronomy 6:5

❑ Thursday - Therapy that Works.

Hebrews 11:4

"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do what is right, will not your countenance be lifted up?' (Gen. 4:6-7a). "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, for the help of His presence" (Psa. 42:5). Millennia before the advent of modern psychology, this was the cure for most of what is called "clinical depression" today.

Read Psalm 55:22

❑ Friday - The Beast-Master.

Hebrews 11:4

"And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you" (Gen. 4:7). O what a nasty little menagerie of sins some keep as house pets; they crouch at the door, ready to pounce. There is only one way to master these little beasts: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts" (Rom. 13:14). Christ is the Beast-Master.

Read Romans 6:14