

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."
Hebrews 11:4 KJV



The curse of conflict began with Cain. He wanted to do it his own way instead of God's way. God rejected his sacrifice, but Cain's mind twisted by Satan, blamed Abel. Satan can't get his own way and he can't fight God, so he kills those who love and serve God. He uses rebellious minds of men and twists them into killers of the faithful in the name of God. You may know a rebel instantly by putting forth praise and honor to God openly. They will make excuse after excuse or attack outright, either verbally or physically anyone trying to do the right thing. They will have deceived themselves into believing the faithful are weird, strange, or just plain psychotic. Blind to the unseen presence of a Holy God, they will avoid, persecute, or murder those who live by faith. A rebellious mind, contorted by satanic influence, may be deceptively nice and a quiet individual, but will deceitfully manipulate others into different sides of a conflict and gloat with satisfaction and while sowing discord, always appear as the injured party. *"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD."* When you find yourself at odds with Truth, whatever the reason, you have just become a rebel. God's instruction concerning witchcraft? *"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."* It doesn't get any plainer than that. Sacrifices to God are not necessarily a slaughtered lamb. Jesus said, *"I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* If it costs you nothing, it isn't sacrifice. *"He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."*

A sacrifice to God of old,
Is never of our wealth or gold,
The humble heart is His delight,
Which sees by faith His unseen Light. -CGP

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for His Mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy (pure), acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually." We must never forget the agony of our Saviour who sacrificed *"His Life a ransom for many."* He not only died, He suffered the most cruel death ever devised by the very men He came to save! You want to know who you can really trust? Praising God will quickly eliminate from your circle any who do not know or love God. They will immediately become uncomfortable, look askance and shy away from you. Praising God and giving thanks goes entirely against the grain of human emotion in the midst of trial, and it requires great faith and trust in God to do so, thereby pleasing God and giving witness to the world of His presence and power. *"Faith is the...evidence of things not seen."* Job gave willingly of these sacrifices in the midst of horrible trials perpetrated by Satan himself! His answer to horrible circumstances?

"Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust in Him: but I will maintain mine own ways before Him. He also shall be my Salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before Him." Job 13:15-16 KJV