

## Hold Your Head Up!

*KJV Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and **his countenance fell**.*

Cain seems to be the first man that couldn't **hold his head up!**

Cain became angry and disappointed because he failed to please God!

Cain's efforts didn't produce what he thought he deserved so **his countenance fell, his face dropped, and he was crest fallen!**

Cain was walking around with his head hung low, so God asks him why!

*Genesis 4:6 Then the LORD asked Cain, "Why are you angry, and why do you look disappointed?*

*7 If you do well, won't you be accepted?*

God says to Cain, *"If you do as I say I will accept your worship, but if you do what you please sin is in the mix and I cannot accept that?"*

❖ **Have you ever wondered if God accepts your worship, your service, and the offerings you give Him, or do you think it's automatic?**

**God doesn't have to you know, in fact the scriptures tell us He often didn't!**

*Psalm 51:16 For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering.*

*17 The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. O God, you do not despise a broken and sorrowful heart.*

Anything we offer God is **meaningless and unacceptable** if **not** done with the right spirit; a **broken spirit** and **contrite heart**.

A **broken spirit** is being overwhelmed by our own weaknesses, inadequateness, and ability to please God!

A **contrite heart** is being aware of our own limitations, and our tendencies to **fail and fall short of His glory!**

**Sometimes a person's anger, disappointment, and frustration with the God really comes a lack of their obedience to God!**

**Cain** worked hard ploughing, planting, harvesting, and gathering the best of his crops to them to God, only to become angry, disappointed, and frustrated because God refused his offering.

Cain didn't **obey** and bring what God **required!**

Cain thought God would accept what he offered because of the effort he put into it!

Cain walked away from the presence of God with **his head down!**

*KJV Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God!*

Cain sinned and fell short of the glory of God, Abel obeyed and received praise of God!

*Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*

Abel obtained the testimony from God that he was righteous!

God accepted **Abel's** offering and even though Abel is dead his offering still speaks of his righteousness. (offerings declare what we really are)

*1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*

**Obey** here means **"to listen carefully in order to understand"** instruction can only be carried out correctly by people who listen and understand the instructions.

**Cain's head was fallen** because he let down **The Head of his life and The Head of The Universe.**

How can our heads be held high when we're in rebellion and sin?

How can we walk around proud of our accomplishments when what we've done, built, or said doesn't please God?

*KJV Colossians 2:19 And **not holding the Head**, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.*

**Not holding The Head means not acknowledging Jesus Christ as the only Savior and LORD of mankind.**

**Not holding The Head is not keeping Jesus in the forefront of our thinking!**

**Not living like He's our LORD & Savior even when others don't!**

**Even when others LET THE HEAD DOWN, we keep Him lifted!**

*John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.*

Jesus descended from heaven so everyone on earth could lift Him up!

When athletes, coaches, generals win a great victory they are **lifted and carried on shoulders (on the same level as our heads)!**

This is a sign this man has **replaced** my head (**my thinking**) and he is the reason we got the victory!

When Israel was traveling through the wilderness, they had to go around Edom because they refused to let Israel pass through their land.

This made their journey longer and harder (they were still going to The Promise, it just wasn't fast and easy enough) so they became rebellious.

*Numbers 21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food."*

In short what they were saying is what some saints are saying today...  
**"I don't like what God is doing in my life right now!"**

*6 Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.*

7 And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

**Numbers 21:9** So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

God forced the people who rebelled and bitten by the serpents to **look up to it** as a sign of their **pride**, revealing how they looked up to their own opinion, how they **held their heads** higher than God's Word.

It's a reminder of how **holding our opinions** above God is poisonous!

*KJV John 12:32* And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

**Keeping Jesus lifted is holding up The Head of The Body of Christ and keeping Jesus in His proper place of glory and honor.**

The head gets the most attention from people, it's where beauty is calculated.

The head is where most of our sensory organs are located, sight, sound, smell, taste and speech.

Holding our heads up is placing Jesus on our shoulders allowing Him to get the glory for all our victories.

It's giving Him the honor for what's beautiful, lovely, and pure in our lives!

This is what I call **"Holding Your Head Up"**!

**Col 1:18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have (**preeminence**) first place in everything.

**The Head always gets The Preeminence!**