

# Overcoming Sin's Desire to Control Us

Genesis 4:3-7

- I. "The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favor."
- II. "Cain was very angry and his face...downcast..."
- III. Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"
- IV. "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?"
- V. "If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door."
- VI. Sin "desires to have you, but you must master it."
- VII. Overcoming sin's desire to control us.
  - A. Remember why sin desires to control us.
    1. God created us to be His close companions, Genesis 3:8; John 14:3; 17:24; Revelations 21:3.
    2. But to be with God we must be like God –free from sin's control.
    3. Sin desires to make you unlike God, so you cannot live near Him, Genesis 4:7.
      - a. God wanted Cain near Himself.
      - b. Sin wanted to separate Cain from God.
      - c. Cain had to choose to overcome sin's desire.
    4. Cain did not value closeness to God. So, he yielded to sin's control, Genesis 4:8.
    5. Overcome sin by remembering this: Every choice to sin drives us farther from God, Genesis 4:14; Romans 6:19.
  - B. Ruthlessly reject sin's control over you.
    1. God warned Cain about sin's intentions, Genesis 4:7.
    2. Cain ignored the warning and entertained sinful thoughts.
    3. Sinful thoughts allowed "crouching" sin to leap upon Cain and overcome him, Genesis 4:8.
    4. He spent the rest of his life separated from God, Genesis 4:14.
    5. Ruthlessly reject sin by asking:
      - a. "Will this increase my love for Jesus?" 1 Corinthians 10:23.
      - b. "Will this draw people's attention to Jesus?" 1 Corinthians 10:31.
      - c. Will this hinder me from living close to Jesus?" Hebrews 11:1.
- VIII. We shall live near God because we overcome sin's desire to control us.