

**If you do well, will you not be accepted?  
And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.**



<b>(Genesis 4:3–7 ESV)</b>	<b>The Action ...</b>	<b>Color Commentary ...</b>
3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,	<b>Cain presented an offering to LORD.</b>	Cain presented “an offering” to the LORD. We do not know what instructions he had been given, but we do know that he did not “do well” with his choice of offering. And we know that his choice was not God’s choice because we will see it was rejected.
4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,	<b>Abel presented a offering to the Lord, and the LORD accepted Abel and his gift.</b>	Note the difference in the way that Abel’s offering is described—“the firstborn ... their fat portions.” Abel presented the best of his best, an offering suitable and honoring to the LORD.
5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.	<b>The LORD rejected Cain and his offering.</b>	The LORD will not accept just anything. Throw a bone to God, and he will throw it back. God will not give us the time of day for our rebellious pretense disguised as worship.
So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.	<b>Cain became furious and looked depressed.</b>	The LORD had rejected Cain’s demand, and Cain didn’t like it one bit. Whatever instruction God had given Cain, Cain had disregarded it and brought his own choice of offering. We know it was a demand because of his anger when God didn’t give in.
6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?”	<b>The LORD challenged Cain’s reasoning for his anger and dejection.</b>	The LORD challenges Cain to think through what he has done and the reason that he is angry and sulking. Cain blamed God, and now the LORD is trying to turn Cain’s mind to see who is actually at fault.
7 <b>If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.</b> Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”	<b>The LORD admonishes Cain to do what is right and warns him of the danger of refusing to do what is right.</b>	The solution is simple. Do what is right. The warning of danger is real. Sin is crouching at the door. We think that we can maintain our spiritual composure, but God tells us that when we decide to step out in our rebellion that sin is crouching behind the door, ready to take us down.

At the time of worship (apparently the end of a season or a proclaimed time to sacrifice), both young men brought their offerings. The Hebrew construction describing Abel’s offering is elaborate, **the writer stressing that Abel went out of his way to please God:** he “brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat.” ... **“He brought the fattest of the firstlings of his flock.”** In contrast to Abel’s offering, Cain’s is simply mentioned—he brought an offering of the fruit of the ground. ... **one worshiper went out of his way to please God, the other simply discharged a duty** (A. P. Ross, Commentary on Genesis).