

Examples of Success Attitudes With Cain and Abel

Practicing God's Power-Attitudes

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God's power-attitudes are the foundational tools that we must not only possess, we must learn how to USE them in real life. First we have to understand what they are and what they do. Then we have to allow God to put them in our lives so they are ready for use, as we face each life situation that requires them. God's power-attitudes are the doors into all He has.

We are taking the main people God handpicked to be in His Bible and using them as examples for seeing how God's power-attitudes work. Some of these people succeeded in using these power-attitudes and won at life. Others failed to use them and were damaged in various aspects of their lives. By our being able to see how God's power-attitude doors work in these Biblical examples, we will see how to use them in our own lives. But, before we move into Cain and Abel's lives, let's take a quick look at the definitions of the power-attitudes of God.

God's Power-Attitude Definitions

Poor In Spirit is a power-attitude that is extremely teachable but only as it relates to truth.

Mourning empowers us to allow God to show us what our real problem is within ourselves. It gives us an attitude that is willing to feel dissatisfied, unhappy, and willing to grieve over it.

Meekness is being able to accept professionals and experts we put some part of our life in their hands. God's **power-meekness** makes Him our expert or authority on life's subjects. This attitude makes God our final authority on everything.

Righteousness is the attitude and act of only doing those things that are good for us, those around us, and God's plan. It is also the total avoidance of all those things that are bad for us, others, and God's plan. And, it only allows God to establish what is good and what is bad. However, it isn't **righteousness;** it is God's power-attitude to **hunger and thirst** for it.

Mercy is God's power to give people good things they don't deserve, and, the power to refuse to punish them for things they deserve punishment, retaliation, or brought to justice for.

A **Pure Heart** is God's power that is filled with love and **righteousness**. It is to have God's love that is listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a and the **righteousness** listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

A **Peacemaker** has God's **peace-attitude** already in their heart and life. They share it with those struggling with having peace in their life and in their relationships with other people.

This **Persecution** attitude is God's power to resist any human attack against what we know God has told us to believe, know, and do. It is the power to suffer for what we believe and share with everyone. Regardless of the consequences, we present Jesus' message to everyone.

Cain And Abel
Chapter One

The First Human Children
This example comes to us as two brothers; we are only related to them in that they were Adam and Eve's children. However, we were all born through the linage of Seth; who will later be born as their third child. Cain killed Abel before he had children; and Cain's children died in the flood. Only those born through Noah, who came through Seth, live on the earth now.

Cain and Abel were born, not created like Adam and Eve. They started out just like us as innocent babies (not knowing the difference between right and wrong), then, one day, their conscience came alive and they both knew the difference between good and evil. Since they started out being innocent, they weren't responsible for any spiritual mistakes they made. But then God spoke to their conscience; and when they sinned against it, they became sinners.

Once Cain and Abel received this law from their conscience, they faced the same temptations we face as the Holy Spirit speaks to our conscience and tells us what is right and wrong. Satan came to them just like he comes to us; he didn't come to them in the form of a serpent; he came to them in their minds and in their feelings, just like us. So, let's get started comparing their life with ours as we see how to use God's power-attitudes to win at life.

Humans Through Natural Birth
Gen 4:1 (NIV) Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." This is the first human to come on the planet by means of a natural birth. But, since he came through Adam and Eve, and since they got a sinful nature through the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Cain got a desire in his body to sin. That is what has happened to us; we were born as a human from the lineage of Adam; through him we were born with a sinful nature that drives our body.

Sins Require A Blood Sacrifice
Gen 4:2 (NIV) Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. Abel was born with a sinful nature just like Cain. Both of them had to deal with a desire in their body to do wrong things. They both had already started sinning against their conscience. God put a desire in their heart to offer Him an animal sacrifice for the sins they had been committing. This would stop the consequences of sin in their lives.

A Blood Sacrifice Stops The Consequences Of Sin
The consequences of sin are eternal death, destruction, hopelessness, massive depression, and unbearable pain. There is no family relationship with God in the consequences of sin; there is no love in these consequences. Sin will grow into worse types of sins; and, it will contaminate and hurt more and more people around us. But, these consequences are stopped with a blood sacrifice. Jesus is our blood sacrifice; but, a certain type of animal was to be used in their day.

Refusing To Offer A Blood Sacrifice

Gen 4:3 (NIV) In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. Rather than Cain using some of his vegetables to trade Abel for an animal to sacrifice, he decided to take a shortcut and offer some vegetables to God for his sins. Most of the sins we commit involve taking shortcuts. Stealing is getting the money or things we need, but, without working for them. Lying is telling people what we want them to hear without us actually producing that which we are claiming to have produced. It is making something up or distorting the truth so we can gain something we don't deserve.

Responding To The Requirement Of Our Conscience

Gen 4:4 (NIV) But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering. It was easier for Abel to make his sacrifice because he already had animals to offer. But, his sacrifice came through giving up one of his animals. It also came through seeing an innocent animal die in his place. We may not understand the full implications of there needing to be a blood sacrifice; but, this is a rule or law of God concerning the cleansing of sin; it isn't just some arbitrary rule.

Heb 9:22 (NIV) In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and <u>without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness</u>. We may not understand why we need to eat certain foods in order to be healthy; but, that is what our body needs. Just like we have to abide by the rules and requirements of gravity, chemistry, and mechanics, we have to abide by spiritual laws as well, whether we understand them or not.

The Doors To Freedom

This is where the power-attitudes of God come in; if we aren't **poor in spirit** enough to allow God to teach us how spiritual things work, won't **mourn** over bad attitudes, aren't **meek** enough to allow God to be our final authority for how life works, and aren't willing to **hunger and thirst for righteousness,** sin enters into our life and there isn't anything to empower us to get help for it. These are power-attitudes; they are the doors that lead us into God's ways.

The Beginnings Of A Temptation

Gen 4:5 (NIV) But on Cain and his offering He did not look with favor. <u>So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast</u>. This example with Cain shows us how we grow in an area of temptation. We don't always understand why God is for something or against it. We can either believe He is doing it for our own good or believe He has a bad reason. Cain could have gone to God and asked Him why He preferred Abel's offering over his. This would have helped Cain grow spiritually by asking questions and getting answers and training from God.

Like us, Cain didn't understand WHY God required a blood sacrifice. He knew God required it; but, he didn't see any real purpose or meaning in it. So, he allowed himself to be the final authority in his own life. He decided that God wasn't being fair to him. He decided that God wasn't a good God. He decided that he had the right to decide what kind of sacrifice he should make. And, he decided that he didn't need to discuss it with God to get the right answers.

What Causes Temptations To Sin?
Let's say we are Cain; what could be some of our reasons for getting mad at God?

- We could think God preferred Abel over us.
- We could think God just doesn't like us for some reason.
- We could think that God doesn't appreciate what we do for Him.
- We could think that God doesn't understand our situation.
- We could think that God isn't fair.

Satan is right there ready to speak into our mind and emotions. He talks to us in these areas just like he talked face-to-face with Adam and Eve. The arguments are the same; he tries to make us think God isn't fair, doesn't love us, is mistreating us, and is trying to use us.

Let God Tell You
The best and only beneficial way is for us, is to go to God and ask Him why He is working with us the way He is. If we face circumstances or fail to get certain wants and needs met, it is vital to our relationship with God that we not assume any bad or negative things about God; if we do, we will ALWAYS be wrong.

If we are a person who doesn't know that much about God, we may start out with a negative assumption. But, if we go to God with that assumption, He will help us get set free from it. He will show us His love for us; He will show us His grace and mercy for us; He will show us that He loves us with the same intense love He has for everyone.

Preventative Questions
Chapter Two

We Must Allow God To Question Our Attitudes
Gen 4:6 (NIV) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? God knew why Cain was angry and his face downcast. He asked that question so Cain would open up, if he wanted to. It was at that moment that Cain could have exploded and poured out all his anger, frustration, and jealousy. But, he didn't because he didn't want any help. He wanted to remain angry and have his face downcast.

This is one of those spiritual questions that is designed to help us start to diagnose ourselves.

- The HOLY SPIRIT may cause us to feel bad about the way we are thinking about God's motives. He may speak to our CONSCIENCE and help us feel wrong about an assumption we are holding against God.

- God may give us a THOUGHT that challenges the way we are thinking. It may be a quick flash of a thought that simply points out we are assuming something about God that isn't right.

- God may use some PERSON to point out this bad assumption we are making.

- God may use some SCRIPTURE to show us where we are starting to be tempted and need to be set free from it.

No matter how the help comes, we must realize how important the warning is. It can be our last warning just before we do something we may have to live with for the rest of our lives. Cain will never be able to undo this; God is trying to keep him from doing something that will change his life in a drastic way.

There Are Different Types Of Sins
We are looking at the birth of a decision to do something that will damage our lives in a horrible way. There are some sins we commit that make small, gradual changes that hurt us because of the amount of them. But, there are some sins that are more hurtful and damaging than any others.

It is true that ANY sin that is not covered through Jesus' salvation makes us a sinner. However, even though sin is sin, we have to be aware that some sins do more damage to us and the people around us than other sins. Jesus makes this clear as He defines some sins that may seem to be fairly harmless; but, they are in fact sins that are the same as what Cain did.

It's Worse Than I Thought
Mat 5:21-22 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca [you empty headed, worthless person],' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

If we feel feelings of anger, we may not think much about it; we may not see it as being all that dangerous. We may not feel a warning signal that tells us we need to pray about it. But, we can ask God to help us consider any feeling of anger as a warning signal letting us know we need to pray a quick prayer in our mind about it.

We may have been taught that sticks and stones may hurt our bones but names will never hurt us. However, us doing damage to a person's confidence, esteem, reputation, or mental health is considered to be like murder to Jesus. Plus, even the smallest of sins can turn into murder, if left alone. Cain is about to demonstrate that!

God Has Rules That Govern Temptation

Gen 4:7 (NIV) If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? <u>But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door</u>; it desires to have you, but <u>you must master it</u>." This is Cain's final warning before he destroys Abel's life and ruins his and his parent's lives. We get this same type of warning from God; He doesn't typically speak to us out loud; but, He does speak to us in our conscience in a very powerful way. God has a system of controlling the sins and temptations that come our way. He uses this system so that we don't get into trouble unless we want to. Let's take a quick look at the control God exercises over all the temptations that come our way:

The Temptation Governing Rules
1 Cor 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1. NO temptation has seized you except what is <u>common to man</u>
When we feel like our temptations are unique, that is when we feel no one understands what we are going through. When we feel no one understands, that is when we try to handle them alone. When we try to handle them alone, that is when we fail. When we feel our temptations are worse or more embarrassing than most people's, that is when we fail to turn to God. When we get any ideas or feelings that cause us to bury or hide the temptations we are experiencing, that is the moment we need to cry out to God; He will always understand and be ready to help.

It isn't a sin to be tempted; it is a sin to yield to the temptation. The temptation that comes your way may be embarrassing, filthy, perverted, and sick. But, it isn't YOUR temptation; it is an embarrassing, filthy, perverted, and sick temptation out of the mind of Satan.

2. And God is <u>faithful</u>

We need to always be praying about our opinions of God. If we have any negative opinions of Him, they will hurt our abilities to come to Him for help. Satan will send thoughts and feelings our way that try to cause us to think or feel things about God that aren't true. He knows that if we don't trust God, we won't turn to Him. But, if we do turn to God, we will ALWAYS find out that God isn't anything like what Satan says. Cain doesn't trust God because he thinks God isn't being fair to him. So, when God warned him about sin, he rejected everything God said to him. God was telling Cain the truth and Satan was lying to him in his mind and heart.

3. He will not LET you be tempted <u>beyond what you can bear</u>

None of us get temptations that are too much for us. The temptations that come our way are filtered by God; He sees to it that we have all the spiritual equipment we need to be able to defeat them. God wouldn't tell Cain, **"you must master it,"** if Cain couldn't **master** the sin that was trying to come into his life. When God spoke to Cain and when we read the Bible, we are being exposed to creative words. They typically aren't just instructions; they are power being spoken into us. Cain got **mastering-power** when God said: **"You must master it."**

You Will Get Creative Power Words

Jesus had healed a man and **later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. <u>Stop sinning</u> or something worse may happen to you."** That wasn't just instructions that put the power pressure on the man. When Jesus said: **"Stop sinning,"** He spoke **stop-sinning power** into the man. Then, if the man went out and sinned, he would do it AGAINST the power that Jesus spoke into his life. Then, if he did it against the power Jesus spoke into him, **something worse may happen to** him.

There Are Limits On Satan's Temptations

No one is being forced into sin; there are never temptations coming our way that God doesn't have us prepared for. Either the Bible has spoken power into us, God has spoken it into our heart and mind; or Jesus used some person to speak it into us. Satan couldn't make Cain murder Abel; but, he could keep TRYING to make him mad enough. But, when God spoke to him, those words gave Cain the power to overcome the temptation.

You Will Get A Power-Warning

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? <u>But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door</u>; it desires to have you, but <u>you must master it</u>." Some kind of warning like this will come into your mind or heart, in your conscience, through some person, or as you read the Bible. God will provide you with a Scripture, a feeling, a warning thought or a friend; He will give you an exit strategy that will keep you from finding yourself in the MIDDLE of the temptation.

You can either start making your plans for how you are going to yield to the temptation and get by with it, or, you can join Jesus and start making your plans for how you are going to find the exit path. You can join Satan and sin; or, you can join Jesus and win over the temptation.

You Can Refuse To Think About It

In the BEGINNING of a temptation, you typically find yourself drawn to an idea, an attitude, an emotion, or a desire for something. But, you haven't thought it through, reasoned with it, considered its "benefits," or made any plans as to how you would go about yielding to it. The second best place to resist a temptation is before you spend time thinking about or planning it.

You Can Get Spiritually Ready Before Tempted

The BEST solution is to get ready before a temptation. Then when a temptation does come, we have the tools and weapons ready we can deal with the beginning stage of it. God's power-attitudes are all about prevention; they are our weapons before the temptation comes.

4. But WHEN you are tempted

We may decide to not DESIRE God's things, not STUDY the Bible, not PRAY, not BELIEVE, not yield to God's LOVE, or not practice our FAITH-ACTION, but, the temptations will still come anyway. It is our responsibility to spend time with God so as to be ready for them. "When" is different than "if;" "when" is saying it is just a matter of time. Temptations will come your way; you have to "do what it takes" to learn how to deal with and win over them.

5. He will also provide a WAY OUT

The major **way out** that God provides is us developing the right desires, the studying we do, the praying we do, the believing we grow in, the love we yield to, and the faith-actions we take BEFORE we are tempted. Too many Christians wait until they get in the MIDDLE of the temptation and then wonder where the **way out** is.

Repenting Is Only A Cure

There are things we can do when we are in the MIDDLE of a temptation; but, none of them are preventative. It is in the middle of a temptation that we and God have to start dealing with the consequences of sin. Forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love can come to us, if we repent (make a U-turn). But, we will still reap the results of the things we have done. **Gal 6:7 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** All the of the CONSEQUENCES of sin will keep coming our way for as long as we stay in the sin. They keep making our life worse until we repent and start going in the right direction. BUT, the REAPING of all the results of that sin will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Sin doesn't stop growing, spreading, mutating into more and more evil, and infecting others until we repent.

6. So that you can stand up under it

Winning is the objective in facing temptation. It is WHEN we are tempted, not IF we are tempted. So, us **standing up under it** is what our goal is all about. Learning how to win, succeed, defeat it, and become much more powerful is what Jesus is trying to do. If you look at each challenge as a life-class, you will learn a great deal from every temptation that comes your way. God has a reason for allowing THAT particular temptation to come your way. He has already given you the power, abilities, skills, and provisions to win. The main question is, have you been practicing so as to be ready to use it all?

Preparing To Be Tempted – Part One
Chapter Three

What To Do When The Temptation Comes

Let's go back to the place where Cain was ABOUT to be tempted. Let's see why he failed.
Gen 4:5 (NIV) But on Cain and his offering He (God) did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Cain was on his way to defeat before he even entered the battle with temptation. Why? He hadn't gotten himself ready for such an issue. God tried to help him get ready by explaining what he needed to do to get ready. God's power-attitudes are the characteristics Cain and we must ALREADY have WHEN we face this kind of temptation. In order to keep this from being a study about what Cain SHOULD have done, we need to see how to get ourselves ready by studying and learning how to USE God's power-attitudes to help us win at life.

The Strange Thing About God's Power-Attitudes

God's power-attitudes aren't the power to resist temptation. They are the power to be open to those things that empower us to resist. They are like a door to all kinds of weapons to win at life and defeat the efforts of Satan against us. If we don't have God's power-attitudes, then the doors are closed to us. All the powerful provisions of God remain behind locked doors. So, once we get God's eight power-attitudes, all the doors into the blessings and provisions of God become available to us. Once that happens, we move into the procedures for using the blessings and provisions of God. Let's take a look at getting these doors open so we are receptive, interested, teachable, and cooperative with Jesus' training, blessings, and provisions.

Using God's Power-Attitudes To Get Ready Before Temptation Comes

Poor In Spirit

Open To Truth

Being **poor in spirit** is very similar to having a teachable attitude. This means that Cain needed and we need to BE WILLING to learn all those things we are going to have to have during a battle with temptation. It is vital to be ready for temptation BEFORE we get into it. If we come into this battle in Cain's condition, we are approaching it with self-confidence. Cain thought HE knew who God is; he thought HE knew how to handle his sins; he thought HE knew how to be god; he thought HE knew how to run the universe. He wasn't open to God's truths; so, he didn't get them.

Closed To Lies
Being **poor in spirit** opens our heart and mind to God's truth and God's truth only. With it we can't be lied to about God, about ourselves, about our sins, and about our power to win against temptation. Cain needed to yield to being **poor in spirit** so he could be open to truth only. Satan was able to convince him that God had mistreated him. Satan could lie to him, cause his feeling to be hurt, cause him to hate Abel, and close all doors to the truths of God.

Freedom From Human Effort
If we are being tempted with anger like Cain, for example, our emotions would come to us with negative feelings. Our mind would try to come up with a reason for why we were angry. It would reason out all the circumstances that point to the fact that we have been mistreated. We would have feelings of being abused, cheated, and used. But then, rather than using God's power-attitude of being **poor in spirit** and coming to God with the issue, we would try to diagnose and solve our own emotional problem.

The Cain problem in us would cause us to neglect to use the provisions that God has given us to fight this battle. We would be using our own thought processes to try to decide what to do about this temptation. We would be using powerless tools for dealing with supernatural pressure from Satan. God's power-attitude would have been more than enough to win. So, let's allow God's statement to Cain guide us into using each power-attitude to defeat Satan.

A Power-Attitude Of Being Poor In Spirit Faith Statement
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith Through Being Poor in Spirit:
Let's say to our emotions, "why am I so angry? Why is my face downcast? If I do what is right, will I not be accepted? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master it with God's power-attitude of being **poor in spirit.**" Rather than concentrating on ourselves and what we think and feel, we take the words of the Bible and make them our words, thoughts, and feelings.

But, in the Cain situation, there was no statement of faith; rather, what God said was just ignored. His words were treated as words that were open for his consideration. They weren't the "final authority" words from **meekness.** They weren't with respect for Who God is; they weren't taken into consideration God loved him, wanted the best for him, and spoke them for his benefit and safety.

Mourning

Mourning is allowing God to show us what our real problem is within ourselves. Since the anger in Cain's heart was killing him, he needed to get it out. God's power-attitude of **mourning** would have empowered Cain to repent and tell God he was sorry for the way he felt. It would have shown him that he was wrong about God. It would have helped him get rid of the way he felt about Abel. Cain felt incredible pain, suffering, rejection, and devaluation. It was so powerful that it was leading him into attitudes and desires for murder. How was he going to win over something that was so powerful?

If we are being tempted with a relationship issue like friendship, business clients, divorce, marriage, or child raising, for example, we can allow Satan to build thoughts and emotions into us that build and grow in power and motivation. The more we listen to Satan, the more reasons come into our mind for doing something wrong, bad, and evil. The more we allow Satan to build the fire in our mind, the more our heart feels, anger, hatred, and ill will toward a person or group. The ONLY way to open the release valve on all that evil is to turn to God and **mourn.**

A Power-Attitude Of Mourning Faith Statement
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith Through Mourning
We say to our heart, why am I so abusive in my relationships? Why is my face so prideful? If I do what is right, will I not be accepted? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master these relationship problems with God's power-attitude of **mourning**.

But, in the Cain attitude, there is no statement of faith; rather, what God said was just ignored. The Cain attitude doesn't allow God to help us go over our attitudes and help us feel bad about them. We want to feel good about our attitude; we want to justify the way we feel; we want our friends to tell us we are right in the way we feel. We want to go over and over it until we feel like people deserve what we are about to do to them. It doesn't allow our heart to open and let God show us what evil thoughts we are thinking. It keeps us from yielding to **mourning** and start feeling bad about what we are planning. It causes us to resist God's words, thoughts, and feelings and embrace our thoughts and feelings.

Preparing To Be Tempted – Part Two
Chapter Four

Meekness

No One Is Good At Everything

Meekness is accepting professionals and experts as being people we need to put some part of our life in their hands. Since there were only four people on the planet, Cain hadn't had much experience with that. But, Adam, Eve, and Abel all had skills, talents, experiences, and abilities that were special to them. Cain could see that Abel was better than he was at raising cattle and sheep. And, it should have been easy for him to see that God was better than he was at everything.

Look At All God Has Done

Cain wouldn't even exist if it hadn't been for God making that possible. All the vegetables he was growing were created by God. As he looked over each vegetable, he could have seen the wonderful handicraft of his God. The bushes, flowers, landscape, sky, stars, animals, birds, and butterflies were beautiful. They were giving him a testimony about the greatness and goodness of his God. Was he seeing the superiority of God's knowledge, understanding, wisdom, power, and love? No! Why not? He was busy looking at all the wrong things.

If we are being tempted with a self-centerednes, for example, we may decide to try to handle it with our own skills, talents, power, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Or, we may choose some person who isn't a Christian to be our expert or give us professional help. **Meekness** is the process of us accepting God as our only expert in the area where we need help. If we are **poor in spirit** (teachable) with someone other than God and the people He picks for us, then we have become **meek** with the wrong person or group.

Being Meek With God

What is it that God can't do to help you with all of your problems? Who would you rather have help you with your issues of life than God? God may use one of us humans to help you; but, if you don't filter all of us through God, you could get cheated. **Meekness** empowers you to clear all your relationships with God. It helps you go to Him to make sure you have the right person for the job.

A Power-Attitude Of Being Meek Faith Statement

Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith Through Meekness

We say to our heart, why am I so self-centered? Why is my face so prideful? If I do what is right, will I not be accepted? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master self-centeredness through making God my final authority.

This can be a statement of faith in God and His words, if we have opened our heart to accepting Him as our expert or professional for doing things for us that we are not capable of doing for ourselves. We can see God as being the expert of all experts, the authority on all subjects, the professional of all professionals, the leader of all leaders, and the God over all creation.

But, in the Cain attitude, there is no statement of faith; rather, what God says to us is just ignored. The Cain attitude doesn't accept God as our expert or professional in the matter. It causes us to consider our self to be the expert and professional for this issue. Rather than putting God in the decision making position, it causes us to keep our self there.

Righteousness

Righteousness is the attitude and act of doing those things that are good for us, those around us, and God's plan. It is also the avoidance of all those things that are bad for us, others, and God's plan. However, what is good and what is bad is established only through what God says they are. If we are being tempted to be judgmental, for example, to **hunger and thirst after righteousness** is to go to our heavenly Father and ask Him to show us what is the good way to treat people and what is the bad way. We should ask Him to show us who is being benefited by the system of judgment, we are using, and who is being hurt.

It is amazing how messed up our evaluation of what is right and what is wrong. Our heart can take something like murder and twist it into something that needs or has to be done. It is true that God has some people killed; but, He isn't confused as to what will happen to the future if they aren't. But, we don't have God's knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom. We make all of our decisions in a vacuum; if we don't consult God, we make all our decisions with a vast lack of vital information. We need to allow God and His Bible guide us as to what is **righteous.** Then and only then will we know what is the right, good, and **righteous** thing to do.

A Power-Attitude Of Being Righteous Faith Statement
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith As It Relates To Righteousness
We say to our heart and mind, why am I so being so judgmental? Why is my face self-righteous? If I do what is right, will I not be loving? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master being judgmental through **righteousness**.

This could be a statement of faith in God and His words, if we see the true character and attitudes of God's **righteousness**. Without us being able to see this clearly, we have a little doubt or question in our mind as to whether or not God's word on the matter is true, best, right, or good IN OUR CASE. Without this **hunger and thirst,** we may think things like, He may be right on this subject for other people; but, this doesn't apply to my situation.

But, in the Cain attitude, there is no statement of faith; rather, what God says is just ignored. The Cain attitude doesn't allow us to open our heart to the **righteousness** of God. It doesn't give us the ability to decide to ask God to help us yield to those things that are good for us, those around us, and God's plan. **Righteousness** would have saved Cain and Abel.

Being Willing To Be Willing

There was a part of Cain that didn't want God's help, it wanted to murder Abel. But, there was another part of Cain that could have said, God, I can't seem to come up with a desire to be helped with this attitude. My feelings and desires are so strong I can't seem to want your help with this. But, I am willing for You to help me be willing to seek Your help.

This is the type of prayer we can pray when we are seemingly filled with a complete desire to do wrong. It is a moment when it looks like our mind is made up. It appears all is lost and we are going to sin no matter what. Even though we aren't willing, at the moment to accept God's help, we can pray and ask God to help us be willing to reach out for His help. Just say: "God help me be willing to be willing to reach out for Your help."

Preparing To Be Tempted – Part Three
Chapter Five

We have just completed the first four power-attitudes of God. In being **poor in spirit, mourning,** being **meek,** and **hungering and thirsting for righteousness,** we were working on God's power-attitudes that mainly deal with our relationship with God. There we were empowered to be teachable in the issues of truth, we yielded to God helping us feel bad about wrong, bad, and evil things, we allowed God to become the final authority in our life, and we started opening up to a desire for only doing good to ourselves, others, and God's plan

Now, we are looking at the next four power-attitudes of God. Being **merciful, pure in heart,** a **peacemaker,** and being willing to be **persecuted,** we are being empowered to build godly relationships with people. They will empower us to do good things to people who don't deserve it, have relationships with them that have pure motives of love, share Jesus' peace with them, and be willing to be **persecuted** because we are sharing Jesus with everyone.

Using God's Power-Attitudes To Get Ready Before Temptation Comes

Mercy

Mercy is to give someone something good that they don't deserve or to refuse to punish them for doing something they deserve punishment, retaliation, or brought to justice for. In this case, there is only Eve, Adam, Cain, Abel, Satan, and God involved in this temptation issue. Cain could have talked to Adam and Eve, his parents, and explained what he was thinking and feeling; he could have even talked to Abel about it. He could have tried to see if those around him could help. They might have prayed with him and helped him get the healing he needed.

Instead of Cain turning to God, he listened to Satan and never got God's power-attitude of **mercy** that he and Abel so desperately needed. **Mercy** doesn't take the issue of deserving into account. But Cain spent his time planning how to give Abel what he thought Abel deserved. He spent his time thinking about what he felt he deserved. God gives us grace, mercy, and gifts. Yes, Cain was having to work for a living; but, the garden was growing with God's plants; Cain was growing them in God's soil; Cain was using God's sun; and Cain was using the body God gave him. Did he deserve all these things? No! Did he deserve all the things Abel was bringing from the animals he was growing? No! Did he deserve all the things Adam and Eve were GIVING to him? No!

The Cain attitude can happen to us, if we don't put ourselves in Cain's place for a short while. It is vital for us to see that we are no different from Cain. It may take a lot of events; but, we can all be pushed into very evil things, if we don't desire, study, pray, believe, love, and take faith-action. We have a lot of gifts from God that we do not deserve; let's be **merciful!**

A Power-Attitude Of Being Merciful Faith Statement
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith Through Mercy:
We say to our heart and mind, why am I being so filled with hate? Why is my face so vicious? If I do what is right, will I not forgive? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master it by being **merciful**.

Pure Heart

It Houses Our Attitudes And Character
A **Pure Heart** is to have motives that are filled with love and righteousness. It is to have God's love that is listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a and the righteousness listed in Galatians 5:22-23. God knew what was in Cain's heart; but, Cain couldn't see the danger. His heart was a place where he needed to ask God to search it for him. Since his heart was buried in a deep place where it couldn't be analyzed by him, and since it couldn't be reasoned with by his mind, he needed God to guide him with the prayers he needed to pray.

It Is Out Of Our Control
Jer 17:9 (NIV) The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Cain was and we are up against a part of ourselves that is impossible for us to diagnose. He couldn't and we NEVER will be able to examine our own motives for why we are doing something. We will never know FOR SURE that we are doing it with pure motives. Cain was trying to justify himself and actually convinced his heart that Abel deserved to die. That was as far from having God's power-attitude of a **pure heart** as you can get.

It Is Out Of Our Reach
If we don't take our heart to God, the One Who nothing is impossible for Him, we WILL be fooled by our heart. Cain convinced himself that he was bring Abel to justice. We MUST allow God to search our heart and help us see what our REAL motive is. He must show us why we want something, why we are thinking, feeling, saying, or doing something, or why we are living a certain way. Cain needed to be stopped by getting a **pure heart.**

It Is Outside Our Authority
No matter what it is we are being tempted with, our heart will have a hidden agenda for why it is trying to justify doing the wrong thing. It can make us want to yield to the temptation with a very strong emotional desire. It will be irresistible without God's power to help us with it.

A Power-Attitude Of A Pure Heart Faith Statement
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith Through A Pure Heart:
We say to our heart and mind, why am I thinking, feeling, saying, and doing these things? Why is my face so determined? If I do what is right, will I not be healed? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master these things through a **pure heart.**

This could be a statement of faith in God and His words, if we have a heart that is being shown to us by God. In Romans 8:26-27 we have a way of being presented heart motives that are typically hidden from us. If we are praying and yielding to the Holy Spirit's presentations of things that need to be healed in our heart, we will be able to put our whole trust in God and His words.

Feelings Of Persecution
But, in the Cain attitude, there is no statement of faith; rather, what God said was just ignored. The Cain attitude doesn't allow us to pray and ask God for a **pure heart;** as far as we would be able to tell, we wouldn't even WANT a **pure heart.** It causes us to WANT to feel sorry for ourselves; it makes us ENJOY thinking about how mistreated and abused we are.

The more Cain mulled over his feelings of self-pity, the more pleasure he got from it all. But, the more pleasure he got from it, the more desire he got to do something about his situation. His distorted view on life filled his mind and heart until he BECAME CONVINCED that he was totally justified in killing his brother. We can produce the total opposite of a **pure heart;** rather than making God the source of our heart and mind's material, we can fill it with thoughts and feelings from Satan. He can so distort our thoughts and feelings that we lose contact with the way things really are.

Preparing To Be Tempted – Part Four
Chapter Six

Peacemaker

A **Peacemaker** is a person who has God's peace already in their heart and life. They are willing to share this peace with those struggling with having peace in their own life and in their relationship with other people. Cain didn't have peace in his own heart; it is true that God not accepting his offering really set him off. But, he didn't get to a place where one thing took him all the way to murder. Cain had been resisting peace in his heart and life for a long time.

Born With A Strong Will

We can start out as a baby with a strong will; we can have strong emotional reactions as a normal way for us to deal with the issues of life. We can be born with a volatile personality that responds differently from most people. However, that doesn't mean this is the way we are supposed to be. Cain probably excused himself with statements like, that is just the way I am. He may have justified his actions by deciding that someone else "made him mad;" he may have decided that they deserved his reactions. Cain more than likely blamed circumstances and people for most, if not all, of his problems and behavior.

Excusing, Justifying, And Self-Forgiveness

When we have a temperament, attitudes, and emotions like this, we learn how to live with ourselves by excusing ourselves, explaining our reactions away, justifying our behavior, blaming it on others, forgiving ourselves, and getting our friends to help us decide it wasn't our fault. When someone proves us wrong or does us wrong, we take it all out on them. We prove our superiority by defeating, out doing, or getting even with them. Because Cain didn't and if we don't have peace in our own life, he wasn't and we won't be able to be a peacemaker.

A Power-Attitude Of A Peacemaker Faith Statement
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith For Being A Peacemaker

We say to our heart and mind, why don't I have peace in my life? Why is my face so stressed? If I do what is right, will I not be filled with peace? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master this issue with peace.

How Did I Get Here?

Just think what could have happened in Cain's life if he had just allowed God's power-attitude of **peace** to enter his heart. We assume the people in prison started out being people very different from us. We can assume this one event set Cain off. But, like Cain, we all start off being fairly normal people. It starts with small, insignificant, simple thoughts and feelings that we cultivate and feed. We either grow in God's things or we grow in Satan's things. We can't mix them; we must choose who we want to be and yield to those philosophies, principles, attitudes, and character. Then we END UP where we have been traveling for a long time.

Persecution

This **Persecution** attitude is God's power to resist any human attack against what we know God has told us to believe, know, and do. It is the power to suffer for what we believe and share with everyone. Regardless of the consequences, we present Jesus' message to everyone. In this situation with Cain, his attitude was more of an imagined persecution. Rather than being attacked for what he believed and knew, he THOUGHT Abel was his persecutor. He probably even saw God as persecuting him.

God had told him what he needed to believe. It could have saved and protected him from any kind of temptation. But, since he saw God as one of his persecutors, that kept him from listening. Since he saw Abel as one of his persecutors, that kept him from being able to identify with his situation. Being willing to be **persecuted** because we are willing to lay our life down for others, wasn't even in the far horizon for Cain. He not only wasn't willing to lay his life down for his friends, he was willing to murder those who didn't do what he wanted.

No One Can Make Us Give Up On Jesus

Satan couldn't force Cain to change his beliefs or training through his conscience. All Satan was able to do was try to convince Cain to do the changing himself. We don't go the direction we go by being forced; people, ideas, feelings, and circumstances have to convince us to make the change; the FINAL decision is ours.

Persecution is more of an effort to FORCE us to change our beliefs and truths. It can come as a verbal attack of making fun of us, criticizing us, accusing us falsely, gossiping against us, and saying all kinds of evil things about us. It can come as a rejection socially, cutting us off relationally, or punishing us through governmental systems. It can even come through our life being threatened if we don't give in.

Seeing Things Backwards

Since **persecution** is all aimed at trying to FORCE us to give up on Jesus and His words. We are being attacked to give up good things. However, the Cain spiritual condition is where a person is trained, thinks, and believes wrong things. His good attitudes and character weren't being challenged. His wrong, bad, and evil attitudes and character were being inflamed. He thought he was being "persecuted" for his good qualities and value when it was his own evil that was being challenged.

Psychopaths

The Cain spiritual condition is very unique in that it is the reverse of what most people go through. People with the Cain condition actually believe their way of life is the right way. They think those who are resisting them are trying to **persecute** them out of doing what is right for them. These people's beliefs are based on being selfish, self-centered, egocentric, narcissists. They can be psychopaths who lack the ability to identify with anyone but themselves; Cain was a psychopath.

Secular Humanists
A milder case of this is a secular humanist who believes in self-esteem, self-confidence, self-assertion, self-aggrandizement, self-pride, and selfishness. They aren't prone to murdering anyone; but, they will use people, abuse them, defeat them, neglect them, cheat them, and hurt them without any feelings of remorse. Jacob was one of those people who started out with this spiritual condition. See the Esau and Jacob example.

A Power-Attitude Faith Statement Of Being Willing To Be Persecuted
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our Statement Of Faith For Being A Winner Over Persecution: We say to our heart and mind, why don't I have a trust in God for my life? Why is my face so filled with panic? If I do what is right, will I not be filled with a complete trust in God? But if I do not do what is right, sin is crouching at my door; it desires to have me, but as God gives me the strength, I will master this issue with **persecution**.

This could be a statement of faith in God and His words even in the face of **persecution**, if we are able to see how important and valuable Jesus is and how valuable all He has given us is. We can become blessed and filled with appreciation and clarity. As we realize all we shall inherit now and in eternity, we will even be willing to give up our temporal life rather than deny Jesus as our Savior.

Yielding To Temptation – Part One
Chapter Seven

Fulfilling An Evil Plan
Gen 4:8 (NIV) Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Steps To Yielding To A Temptation:

- The first step is to start thinking about how you have been cheated. You would go over what you deserve, what should be yours, what all your rights are, and how you have been neglected, failed, or unjustly treated.

- The second step into yielding to a temptation is to start thinking about the "benefits" you will get from yielding to it. You ignore any "side effects;" you refuse to think about the downsides, the consequences, or the damage you might do to others.

- The third step is to think about what method you would use to get the pleasure the temptation is offering. You may not start out with a plan you "actually" think you will implement; it can start out as just a "what if."

- The fourth step is to make plans for how you are going to carry it out WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT. You start to think about WAYS of doing it where you have an escape route; you develop systems for making it happen in such a way that people won't find out that it was you.

Going Over The Areas Where You Have Been Cheated
Let's use Cain as an example; how did he get to the place where he was ready to murder his brother? He had to do a lot of thinking, planning, dreaming about the "benefits" he would get out of it all. **"Let's go out to the field"** is based on a plan that had been worked on. Cain felt like he had come up with a way to make himself happy.

It is amazing how sick our thinking can get, if we allow evil thoughts to enter into us. Cain didn't start out BEING a murderer; he had to allow Satan to turn him INTO a murderer. To go from a normal human being into becoming a murderer takes a lot of yielding to a lot of conversations with Satan. For us to get to the place where we do things we never dreamed we would do, we have to spend a lot of time thinking about it; BUT, we assume we are just dreaming. We don't realize our thoughts are being "enhanced" by Satan.

Broadening The Steps To Yielding To Temptation
When we start going through the four steps into temptation, we start with some fairly neutral thoughts. We don't start thinking about doing something as drastic as what we end up doing. Satan sends us thoughts that make us feel sorry for ourselves.

Step One: Satan simply makes us feel like we deserve better than we are getting.
Step Two: Satan starts showing us what we "might" do to better ourselves by doing something that God calls sin.
Step Three: We work up a plan for how we would go about making things better for ourselves.
Step Four: We set up a day or a time when we will put the plan in action.
Step Five: We fulfill the requirements of the temptation.

As we look over these steps, if we put God rather than Satan, righteousness rather than sin, and some good issue rather than a bad one into the these steps, we could use them to accomplish something good. But, if we put a temptation to sin into these steps, we hurt ourselves and other people; and we hurt God's plan for blessing us humans.

We Can Still Repent
Gen 4:9 (NIV) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "<u>Am I my brother's keeper</u>?" This is a spiritual question; it is a moment where we can look back on what we have just done and repent. Sometimes we will be so CAUGHT UP in the temptation that we don't even realize how far we have gone. Then, as we look back at who we have become it shocks us into spiritual reality. We are then ready to repent and allow God to forgive and heal us. But, as you can see, Cain doesn't have a repentant heart. He isn't sorry; he doesn't feel any remorse; and, he doesn't desire God to change him.

The sooner we repent, the less CONSEQUENCES we will have to suffer. The consequences of sin keep growing, spreading, multiplying, mutating into more and more evil, and infecting more and more people. BUT, the moment we repent, all that stops growing, spreading, multiplying, mutating into more and more evil, and infecting more and more people. We will have to reap the results of our sin; but, we won't have to keep paying the consequences of our sin. The quicker we repent, the less time we give for sin to keep doing more damage to us and those around us.

A Prayer Of Repentance
Let's Make God's Statement Into Our PRAYER Of Faith For Being A Repentant Person:
We say to God, why don't I have Your power-attitudes in my life? Why is my face so filled my own wants and desires? Help me do what is right and repent. Will I not be filled with forgiveness? Help me realize that because I did not do what is right according to Your Word, sin was crouching at my door; it desired to have me and got me because I didn't put my trust in You. But, as You give me the strength, I will master this issue with repentance and ask for Your forgiveness. And, I will grow in all Your power-attitudes.

We Can Still Take It To God

Gen 4:10 (NIV) The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. We will NEVER commit a sin and God not know about it and not deal with. When we sin, the very best way is to immediately take it to God and ask Him to help us with it. If we get to the point where God has to come to us, the issue will be much greater. Cain is on the path to great judgment; his life is on a downward trend.

We don't want to ever get where Cain got; he got there by a process that destroyed his brother and his own life. It has to do with our attitudes and desires that get transformed through God's power-attitudes; if we put ourselves in Cain's place, we will learn how to keep it from happening to us. If we yield to God's power-attitudes, we will even be able to get God's help AFTER we have responded to a temptation. God's power-attitudes are awesome tools that heal our attitudes before, during, and after yielding to a temptation to sin.

Yielding To Temptation – Part Two
Chapter Eight

A Chance To Repent
God has confronted Cain and has asked him some very important spiritual questions: **Gen 4:9 (NIV) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Gen 4:10 (NIV) The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.** However, Cain doesn't seem to realize that God already knows the answers to all these questions. God isn't looking for answers of facts; He already knows that. He is trying to give Cain a chance to admit he has sinned and repent. But, unfortunately there is no repentance, remorse, or feelings of guilt in Cain's heart.

The Consequences Of Sin Not Repented Of
Gen 4:11-12 (NIV) Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.

If Cain had repented, he would have experienced God's discipline as his heavenly Father. He would have also experienced reaping the results of what he had done. But, HE WOULD NOT have continued experiencing the consequence of sin. God's disciple and reaping the results of a sin are NEVER as bad as continuing to get the consequences of sin. Getting the consequences of our sins is the worst thing that can happen to us. Even if we have the psychopathic attitudes and character that Cain has grown into, God can heal us. We don't have to generate remorse, guilt, or a repentant heart. God can heal the hardest heart, if we will just bring it to Him for deliverance.

The Consequences Of Sin Are Overwhelming
Gen 4:13 (NIV) Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. There are several things to consider here: Cain is still just looking at himself; he isn't feeling bad about what he did; he isn't repenting and ready to make a U-turn and head in a different direction; he isn't sorry that he killed his brother; and, he isn't ready to start learning about the righteousness of God.

When we forgive ourselves, blame our sins and shortcomings on others, justify and explain away what we have done, try to tell ourselves and others that what we did wasn't all that bad, and refuse to repent, we experience the CONSEQUENCES of sin. When we REFUSE to yield to the **poor in spirit, mourning, meekness,** and **hungering and thirsting for righteousness** attitudes, we will NOT be ABLE to repent; we will end up with the consequences of sin like Cain did. Keep in mind that Cain didn't get this hard through one event. He has been giving his whole heart over to Satan for a long time.

ONLY Seeing Things From Our Own Perspective
Gen 4:14 (NIV) Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Cain wants us to feel sorry for his experiencing the consequences of sin. He doesn't see that he brought this on himself; he sees it as God picking on him. When we fail to DESIRE each item in God's power-attitudes, STUDY the Bible so we can know what they are and how to get them, PRAY and ask for them, BELIEVE Jesus gave them to us, respond to the LOVE that makes them work, and take FAITH-ACTION on the basis of having them, we end up with this type of attitude. We see the world, our situations, and our circumstances as being all about us. Cain couldn't feel sorry for Abel; he only felt sorry for himself; and, he was locked into that condition and couldn't get out.

God's Power-Attitudes Are Our Only Hope
Cain needed so many more things than what he was concerned about and was asking God's help with. Murdering his brother should have awaken him to the fact that he needed a lot of spiritual help; but, look at all he is praying about; and, that is all he gets help with.

- If he had yielded to being **poor in spirit**, he would have become teachable enough to learn truths that would bless, heal, and transform his life into wonderful things that God provides.

- If he had allowed God to take him into **mourning**, he would have been taken into being able to feel the sorrow for murdering his brother. That would have opened his heart to love, compassion, and concern for those around him.

- If he had yielded to **meekness,** God would have taken him into His incredible knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. He would have learned principles that would have given him great success in life. God would have become his expert and authority on life philosophies, principles, and methods.

- If he had started **hungering and thirsting after righteousness**, he would have learned how to treat himself and those around him with wonderful methods. That would have brought him incredible relationships that would have been his friends, family, business partners, and associates. And, he would have been able to become a part of the awesome plan and work of God.

- If he had allowed all the **rest of God's power-attitudes** to become a part of his attitudes and character, he would have become a transformed person that was able to feel the hearts and lives of the people around him. He could have expanded his life into the lives of those around him and felt the warmth, joy, and satisfaction of being a part of other people's lives.

But instead, Cain remained trapped in his own body, heart, and mind. He was only able to see the people and the world around him from his own little perspective. He went the rest of his life alone in his own little world. His suffering was all produced by his own unrepentant attitude.

We Only Get What We Ask For

Gen 4:15 (NIV) But the LORD said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. This is how a lack of being willing to repent works in all of our lives. God demonstrates how much He loves us by helping us with some of the areas of need so we can see how wonderful Christianity can be. Cain could have been given so much more; but, he just wouldn't repent and let God set him free from his sins. So, God gave him protection from being murdered even though he was a murderer. Some of us, like Cain, miss the whole point of what other things we could have, if only we would repent and go back in the direction of the grace and mercy of God.

Our Attitudes Are Our Door

God's power-attitudes are our passport into so much more than we would ever be able to think of or ask for. They open our eyes to seeing a whole miraculous and supernatural way of life that only God can give us. As these doors swing open and reveal all the blessings of God to us, it helps us WANT to repent and go God's way.

1 Cor 2:9-10 (NIV) However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him"--<u>but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit</u>. The Spirit searches all things, <u>even the deep things of God</u>.

- Being **poor in spirit** helps us be teachable; it helps us open up to all the great things God has to offer. It helps our heart and mind be able to see what we are missing. It helps set us free from just seeing things from our own little world.

- **Mourning** helps us feel bad about the way we have lived in the past. It opens our eyes to how evil sin is and how much we have hurt ourselves and other people. It shows us how much we need God's help and training.

- **Meekness** lets us see how powerful, how much knowledge and understanding about everything, and how gracious, merciful, and loving God is. It helps us realize God has all the supernatural, miraculous things and His Kingdom available for us; it help us put our trust in Him totally.

- **Hungering and thirsting after righteousness** gives us a way to start living the Christian life with the attitudes and character of our heavenly Father. For the first time in our lives, we not only know how to treat ourselves and others, we get the power to live that life.

Separated From God

Gen 4:16 (NIV) So Cain <u>went out from</u> the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. This is the existence of the sinner; this is the spiritual death that separates us from the presence of God. God didn't walk away from Cain; Cain walked away from God. But, that is what all of our rights and freedoms are about; we all have a God-given free will; and, God is determined to honor the decisions we all make.

God is waiting for us to allow Him to do those things we are willing to allow Him to do to and for us. He is listening to our heart and mind as we ask Him for what WE want. As long as we don't ask Him to do something that would hurt us or other people, He will do them for us. They may be far below what He COULD do for us; but, He will do them so MAYBE we will get the **meekness** attitude so we can see how much more He can do.

If we yield to God's power-attitudes, we will desire, we will study, we will pray, we will believe, we will love, and we will take faith-action for so much more.