

## ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Obstacle: Completing the Job ~

### IV. 4<sup>th</sup> Obstacle – Completing the Job

**\*Resistance is what keeps us from completing the job\***

**Our flesh resists the will of God. We must kill our flesh and die to our self.**

**Pick up our cross and follow Him.**

#### **4 Things Need To Be Established To Prevent Resistance**

- A) **Willing submission**
- B) Good communication
- C) Balanced life to direction ratio
- D) Solid foundation of maneuvers
  - 1) Mechanical
  - 2) Mental

### ~ Willing Submission ~

It does not do any good to try to force a horse to obey our commands if they have not willingly submitted first. The horse will be resentful against the commands. The same is true with people. There must be a heart change before we can expect obedience.

### Turning to God: In the World, Not of the World

Once we have turned to God and accepted Him into our heart, we then spend the rest of our lives in 2 different places. The first people born into a world of sin were Cain and Abel. I think we can learn a lot from them, because we find ourselves in both of their shoes. The oldest was Cain and he was a tiller of the ground, and younger brother was Abel and he was a keeper of sheep. Both of them were trying to serve God and work in this world.

However, one of them had it easy and the other had it tough. Abel was a “keeper” of sheep. Keeper in Hebrew is translated as – *to tend, to rule, to associate with (as a friend), companion, keep company, friend*. Cain was a “tiller” of the ground. Tiller in Hebrew is translated as – *to work, to serve, to enslave*. Cain obviously got the shorter end of the stick as it is better “to rule” than “to enslave.”

God sent me to Texas to show me the meaning of Cain and Abel. I went to Texas to ride some colts for a cutting horse trainer. He was a Christian man and my dad thought it would be good to do some fellowship with him. I was trying to get over my mono and was standing on faith that I was healed. When I arrived in Texas I did not do much riding.

I spent most of my time picking stalls and driving a tractor leveling ground. I spent at least an hour at night, and a half an hour in the morning reading my Bible. I thought about God all day no matter what I was doing. I was putting in long days and I could feel myself getting a little tired, having not a lot of strength from the mono. However, God was teaching me so much, I

gave little thought to the undesirable jobs, and that I was getting a little worn down. I was thinking about God and the plans He had for my life. I would get so excited that I had plenty of energy to get through the day.

After a few weeks, I called my dad and told him how it had been going. I told him what I had been doing, and he was a little irritated. He was worried about me, and my health, and that I was not doing the job that I went down there to do. He had gone out of his way to help his friend, the trainer, and he thought it would be a good experience for me. However, the trainer wasn't using me to ride horses and we had horses at home that needed to be ridden. (The cutting trainer is a great guy and was not trying to take advantage of anybody. He was only trying to get done the work that needed to be done). After I got off the phone with my dad, I started thinking about the undesirable jobs and that I could be doing something else.

The joy that I had left and I started to get tired. My joy with Christ did not leave because of my dad, but the things he said out of concern, made me think about the job, instead of God. Within 2 days I was starting to get sick and my side began to hurt again. I went from focusing only on God, to focusing mainly on the undesirable jobs and how I could have been doing something else more pleasant.

The same thing happened to Cain. **“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him”** (Genesis 4:3-7 KJV).

If people were living to be 900 years old and the Scripture says, **“And in process of time it came to pass. . . ,”** I do not think that after day 2 of tilling the ground Cain's heart changed toward the Lord. It was “over a process of time,” and could have been weeks, months, and probably years. Also, if Cain would have been evil from the beginning God wouldn't have let him stay in His presence.

It wasn't until he became “wroth” and his “countenance” had fallen, that he brought God an unworthy sacrifice. That is when we see sin creep in. Cain had a tougher job than Abel did. He became wroth and let his countenance fall. Wroth means *to grow warm, to blaze up of anger, zeal, or jealousy*. Countenance has the same meaning as presence, *the face as the part that turns, to turn, to face, appear, look*.

Cain stopped looking toward God, and started to think about how undesirable his job was and how his brother's job was so easy. Once he stopped *looking* toward God, he began to lose his *zeal* for the Lord. He became *jealous* of his brother, and became *angry* with the Lord. When it came time to bring the sacrifice before the Lord, his heart was not in the right place and God did not accept him.

Having been bitter and angry toward God, Cain did not repent and turn back to God, and Satan was able to enter into him and take control of him. **“And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?”** (Genesis 4:8-9 KJV).

Scripture says that we are to be as living sacrifices. **“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship”** (Romans 12:1). He wants all of us and He will not settle for only part of us. **“But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ ‘By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?’”** (Malachi 1:7-8). God is not happy when we do not sacrifice our life and give Him our all, just like God wasn't happy with Cain and his sacrifice.

When things are going good and God is blessing you, it is easy to be happy with God. It is when things get tough that we start to question God. When you turn to God, He will give you blessings in this world, but He does not want you to be in love with this world. That is why He gives us earthly blessings for a time, but also wants to give us heavenly blessings.

Therefore, we must not look to the world, but look to the heavens. This is why He asks us to give things up that are binding us to worldly affairs. God will ask us to give Him control of our lives and anything standing between God and us. This may be pride, a habit, a business, friends, the need for control in our lives, or anything else we turn to besides God. We are to give up living our own life and let Him lead us to paradise.

Many times we will be living our life like Abel and God will be blessing us, then He will ask us to give something up. When we don't obey Him, He will make our lives seem like we are enslaved, like Cain. This is not God punishing us. He wants us to give Him our entire life, so He can transform us into His image and reward us with a crown in heaven. God wants to use us here on earth and if we are still trying to control our lives, He cannot use us.

*If you have a little piece of God in this world you will stand out. If you get a little bigger piece of God, you will be set apart. The more you receive of God in this world, the more of you will depart from this world, until you are no longer in this world, and are with the Father in heaven.*

When my grandpa, Ace Black, was becoming sicker with cancer and his flesh was starting to die, he said he talked to Jesus and saw angels. Jesus tells us that we must die to ourselves. If we have accepted Jesus and we die, our Spirit goes to heaven. The same is true while we are still breathing. The more we die to our flesh (the world), the more God can reveal Himself. This is what my grandpa experienced as his flesh was dying. He was no longer of this world, but he was about his Father's business. **“How is it that you sought me? Wist ye not that I would be about my fathers business”** (Luke 2:49).

When you find yourself in Cain's situation, and you feel like God is being unfair, remember to keep your eyes on Him, and continually seek Him for answers and comfort. Once you stop looking to God and start thinking about the circumstance and how unfair it is, you open the door for Satan to come in.

Once someone has lost their trust in God and allowed Satan to come in telling lies, they will do things they never thought they were capable of doing. This is because they are being led by Satan, and he is able to blind people to the truth of what is right and what is wrong. I do not think that Cain, a loyal and righteous man who once served God, would have thought that he would be capable of killing his brother and then lying, and disrespecting God. However, Satan led him to do the unthinkable.

After Cain had let sin creep into his life, and he killed his brother and lied to God, God sent him out of His presence and into vagrancy and a land of exile and wandering. **“So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden” (Genesis 4:16).** Eden in Hebrew comes from a word meaning – *pleasure, to be soft or pleasant, to live voluptuously, house of pleasure*. Nod in Hebrew means *vagrancy, exile wandering, to waver, wander, flee, disappear, and taunt*. When we are in God's presence, we are living in Eden, but after we have sinned, He kicks us out into the land of Nod.

You may say, “I have never done anything as bad as Cain, I have never killed anyone.” Jesus tells us, **“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” (Matthew 5:21-22).** If we are angry with our brother, we are subject to judgment. In this sense we are all guilty. Once you have stopped thinking about God and allowed yourself to focus on an undesirable situation, it is then that Satan will cause you to sin. Do not keep on sinning, or Satan will take control of your life.

Ask God to forgive you, for your sins to be washed in His blood, and give Him control of your life. Then Satan will no longer have any control of your life. Then, you can enter back into Eden and can live voluptuously, in the house of pleasure. God created a perfect world, a world without sin, and one where we can walk and talk with God. It was in this world that we could be one with God and one with the animals. Jesus died to restore that which was taken.