

DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH
2021-2022 (September 29, 2021)
“MEN BEGAN TO CALL ON THE LORD”
GENESIS 4:25-26

I. *A DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - EARLY ATTEMPTS AT PRAYER*

- A. *The broken relationship prayer of Adam and Eve*
- B. *The argumentative prayer of Cain*
- C. *No recorded prayers after Cain - can't argue from silence though*
- D. *Living a life independent of God*
 - 1. *The original couple had not been long in the Garden before they were removed*
 - 2. *There was very little time to develop a true devotional life incorporating prayer. That requires enough experience to know one's need. Prayer springs out of need and provision*
 - 3. *From the biblical record we do not see any formalized methods of worship, praise, sacrifice or prayer developing nor do we see any commanded or taught*
 - 4. *By the time Adam and Eve have been “divorced” from God, they are leaving without any experiential knowledge of God, His nature His character or any basis to know what He is like.*
 - 5. *Their first experience of note was with deceit, willful disobedience without a real understanding of what such disobedience would bring to them. They would not even understand what their actions might mean to their children*
 - 6. *When they are sent away from the Garden, they are sent away alone and with no thought of how their relationship with God might be restored. No instruction of being restored was given to them. Wouldn't you like to know what they understood was going on? Before I fault them more for doing nothing to be restored to God, I remind myself that they are the pioneers of the man-with-God relationships; they are learning the pattern of what that even means.*
 - 7. *Life outside the Garden in life without the conscious presence of God. He is there but He seems to be unnoticed.*

They do not seem to be guided by God into a restored relationship; they do not seem to have an interest in it. It would appear they are just surviving and trying to thrive will doing so. It is noteworthy that Eve acknowledges that it is God who has given her a son Gen 4:1 and again, with the birth of Seth, He had given her a replacement son for the murdered Abel. They are not totally ignorant of God but nothing is recorded of their attempts to speak with Him again.

- 8. Yet two of their sons, the ones God is going to tell us about, do strike upon the notion of making some kind of offering to God. This looks to be perhaps some kind of praise or thanksgiving offering. Perhaps the account of their mother offering some kind of praise to God for her conception and birth inspired them to make an offering. The kind of offering is not really given to us in the text but they at least had some kind of understanding of what MIGHT be acceptable to God. Abel, by faith offered an acceptable offering; Cain did not offer an acceptable one and was too stubborn or hard-hearted to offer a better one when he knew what made a better offering.*
- 9. Though no real account is given about how men lived with or thought of God, we do have an odd entry given to us in Gen 4:26. When it says that at the time of the birth of Seth's son Enosh men "BEGAN" to call on the LORD it implies that prior to that time, men had NOT been calling on the LORD.*

II. MEN BEGAN TO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

- A. By simple calculation of the times given in the Scripture, this event was 235 years from the time of Adam's creation. I am assuming that recording of time is from Adam's creation; it may have been from the time he was removed from the Garden. The Scriptures say that Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born. (Gen 5:3) Seth was 105 years old when his son, Enosh, was born (Gen 5:6). It was around the time of the birth of Enosh that someone took note that men began to call on the name of the LORD.*
- B. The Scriptures do not tell us who initiated this calling on the name of the LORD. The birth of Enosh only sets a marker for how long it took men, alienated from God, to attempt to reestablish personal contact with the LORD*

- C. *The Scriptures do not tell us what it looked like to call on the name of the Lord*
- D. *The Scriptures do not tell us what motivated men to want to call on the name of the LORD.*
 - 1. *Had they been frightened off after they saw how horrible the first recorded offerings had gone? One man lost his life for the jealousy of the offering and the other became a marked man for life. Offering things to the LORD might have looked disastrous!*
 - 2. *Was it because already things had become violent and people were frightened? How quickly after Cain killed Abel did the rest of society degenerate? How long was it after the rejection from the Garden before the sons of God saw the daughters of men and mated with them, creating the violent Nephilim?*
 - 3. *Was it the prior movement of God that drew men to Himself? Was it the nature of the image of God within man that wants to be with Him so badly they would do anything to make it happen?*
- E. *Whatever it was, it had not been done before and it is beginning here in history.*
- F. *A quick look at the way this phrase was used might give us a clue as to what meaning it has.*

III. *MEN CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD*

- A. *From Genesis 4:26, the next episode in which this phrase is used is in 2 Samuel 22:7 when David had been delivered from all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. It is a plea for help in a time of distress. Looks like prayer! This same prayer is echoed in Psalm 17:6, Psalm 18:6. The echo of calling out to God in distress is also found in Psalm 116:4 where the psalmist is pleading with God to deliver his soul.*
- B. *It is used in Psalm 99:6 to tell of Moses and Aaron and the other priests who called upon the LORD and He answered them. Here it does not mention an distressed situation but it does speak of God hearing them and answering them. Again it sounds like prayer.*
- C. *This action is directly tied to salvation as the method used to get God into action in Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13. Again we see that it is an action of prayer or men crying out to God in some kind of a need*

D. But it is also tied to worship in a direct contact with God probably in prayer! Psalm 116:13, 17; Zephaniah 3:9; Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:22 2 Peter 1:17

E. Calling on the name of the Lord is prayer and worship.