

OUR OWN STRENGTH OR WITH GOD'S ANOINTING ?

Scripture Reading: Gen 4:16-21

16Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. 17And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son--Enoch. 18To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

*19Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. 20And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21**His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.***

Discussion

Cain committed murder. As a result of this sin, he was driven out of God's presence.

How tragic that Cain had to leave the presence of the Lord because he had allowed sin to rule and had yielded to the flesh. In Genesis 4:6-7, God had given him instruction not to yield to sin and his offering would be received – “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you. But you should rule over it.”

Testimony Time: Give each person in the group the opportunity to share about past things in their life that has ruled them and how God has helped them to come into victory.

You and I must die daily to those things in our life that would rule us. We must constantly present our bodies as living sacrifices unto God which is our reasonable act of worship.

Discussion: Read Romans 6:6-18 and discuss these verses in light of Cain's actions and how our response in life should be.

From the descendants of Cain, we see the first mention of music in the Bible. Jubal in Gen 4:21 is said to be the father of all those who play the harp and flute. From this we gather that he was a skilled

musician. There is no mention of the presence of God because Cain and his family had removed themselves from the presence of God. We do not need God's presence to develop good music.

Question: There has always been a dilemma about the importance of skill as opposed to anointing. What sort of priority would you place on skill and what would you place on anointing? Do you think it is essential for musicians and singers to play or sing in the world to gain skill and experience? For those that play or sing secularly, do you think it is easy to separate playing or singing according to natural ability and playing or singing with the anointing?

In the worship ministry, what would happen if you kept focussing on good music instead of God's presence? You could be developing good music outside of God's presence. So all you have will be good music and not God's presence. Unfortunately, this trend has crept into the church. People are running to churches with the best music regardless whether the presence of God is there.

Question: If both skill and anointing are important, what about people who have had years of experience playing or singing or have a natural ability to do what they do with skill. Do you think it is essential for them to continue lessons or look to further ideas? Do you think that it is enough for them just to now seek God's anointing?

To Sum Up:

Examine your life again. Have you been praying and asking God to anoint you as you play your instruments or write your songs ? Music developed in God's presence with skill will touch and change lives. Music developed outside God's presence is only good for entertainment.

Group Prayer

Pray for dedication of your life and music afresh to God. Ask God to help you to spend time in His presence and develop music from within His presence. Then pray for a fresh anointing of God's Spirit on your life and music.