

# Thanks for the Rebuke

Genesis 4



## Relationships

- Qualities of a “good” relationship
  - Good back-and-forth connection
- Qualities of a “bad” relationship
  - Bad back-and-forth connection
- Qualities of a “dead” relationship
  - One sided. Or zero sided
- Growing a relationship with God

## Reading the Bible

- Be skilled at reading the lines rather than reading between the lines
- We should pay attention to what the author tells us to focus on
  - Often more words or repetition
  - End stress or middle stress
  - Especially dialogue
  - Especially dialogue with God

## Genesis: a key for reading

Toledoth

Generations of, Family records of, Record of descendants, Genealogy, History of the family of, Written account of, Family line of

About the offspring of the person

The heavens and the earth / Adam / Noah and his family / Shem, Ham and Japheth / Shem / Terah / Ishmael / Isaac / Esau / Jacob

The Account of the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 2:4-4:26)

## Genesis 4

1-2a

2b-5

6-7

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

8

9-12

13-16

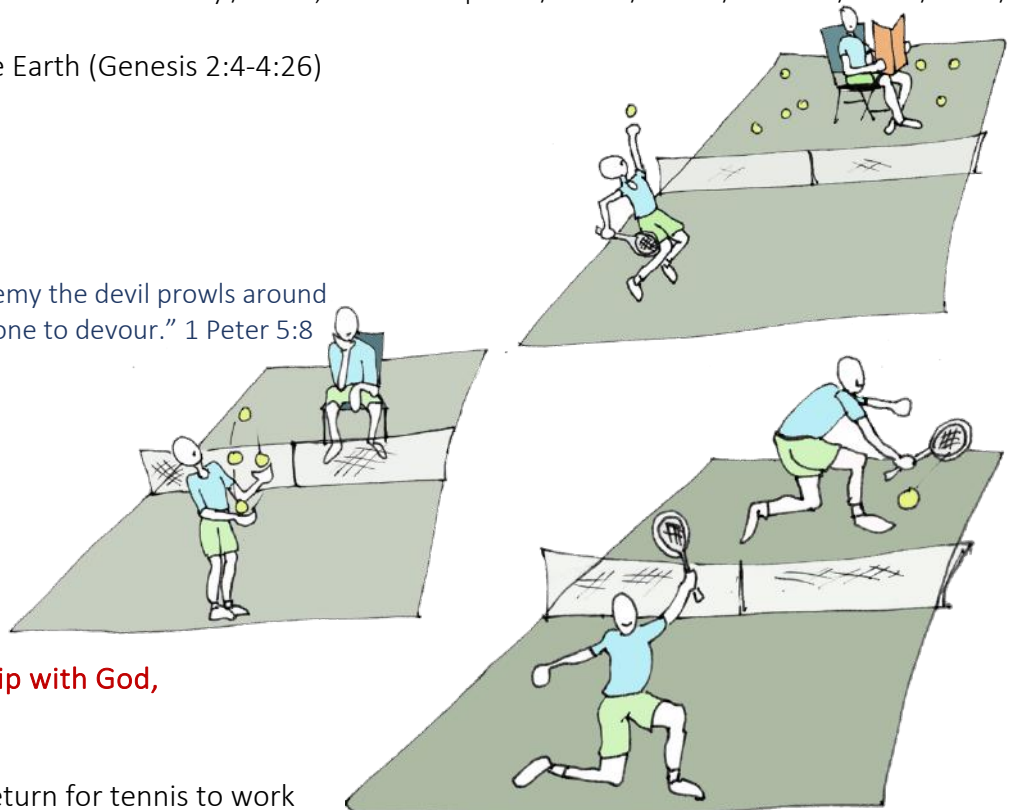
17-24

25-26

## The Main Point

**In a world with sin,  
blessing comes through a relationship with God,  
both receiving from Him  
and calling upon Him**

- It takes 2 people who receive and return for tennis to work
- Skill development that doesn't involve receiving and returning isn't tennis
- Tennis requires receiving and returning by both players
- A relationship with God requires listening and speaking by both sides**



## Application

### Receive from God, especially in the Bible

Comfort & encouragement

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him” Psalm 103:11

We seek “the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Instruction (unlike Eve)

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 2:10

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man” Matthew 7:24

Correction (unlike Cain)

“Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die.” Proverbs 15:10

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.” Proverbs 12:1

My typical goal: find an excuse not to have to act

Listening to God = enthusiastic embrace

When making decisions (like Jesus)

“One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them” Luke 6:12-13

When needing strength (like the disciples)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” Acts 1:8

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Matthew 6:13

### Call out to God (like Seth’s family)

Return to God what you have received from God (unlike Cain)

Pray through Scripture

Pray through His comfort, His instruction, His correction, His guidance, and His strength

“You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.

When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.” Psalm 86:5-7

What is the time delay between trouble and calling out to God?

Often trouble is God’s invitation to call to Him

### Help others listen and call out to God

Have courage to call people to the right path

“My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” James 5:19-20

“And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” Daniel 12:3

“Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue.” Proverbs 28:23

It doesn’t always work ... not even for God!

Yet it is a powerful expression of love

## How is your relationship with God?

What will you choose to do to grow your relationship with God?

Schedule time

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## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

How would you describe your relationship with God? What might be a next step to grow it deeper?

## Conversation starters

What does “having a relationship with God” mean? Do you have a relationship with God? If not, are you interested?