

# The Key To Life

Hebrews 11:24-29

Multitudes of people in our world today are on a quest. They're looking for the purpose of life. They're trying to identify the aim of life. What's it all about? Why are we here? So that being the case, since so many people in the world today are looking for joy and happiness, contentment, satisfaction. You know, there are a lot of people that are looking for these things in life, and yet many times never able to secure those things.

So would there be a key to life? And by that I simply mean would the Bible outline for us what life is all about? In other words, would it be possible to identify the key to living here on earth? I think the answer is yes. As a matter of fact, I believe that we have an abundance of material that will lend insight into what life's all about.

And again, this idea that there are people today, they've been on a quest for many, many years and they're trying to feel that natural void or vacuum in life. And they're looking in a lot of different places. The problem is, again, they're looking in all the wrong places. So what we want to do is to identify the real key to life.

Because if we can come to an understanding of the key to life, then we're going to enjoy a good life here on planet Earth. Now that being the case. I want to direct your attention to the book of Hebrews for a minute. And I want to call your attention to Hebrews chapter 11. In the 11th chapter of the book of Hebrews.

We have what's often called phase Hall of Fame, and there are a number of individuals identified by the writer, individuals whose lives were adorned by faith, and not just faith only. But we can read about people who demonstrated an active, obedient faith. They acknowledged God, and they put into practice his simple precepts. As a result of that, they enjoyed real blessings in life.

One of the great men that we read about in the 11th chapter of the book of an 11th chapter of the book of Hebrews, is a man by the name of Moses. Moses is not a stranger to us. Those of us that have spent some time in Scripture, we're familiar with this man identified by God as the leader, the law giver of ancient Israel.

And you go back and you read the history, go back and read the Book of Exodus for a minute, starting there, and you'll read of the unfolding of his life and how his life began, and the providential care and welfare that was lavished upon him. You remember in in Exodus chapter two, the Bible tells us that Pharaoh and the long ago had made a decree that every male child that was born was to be cast into the river.

But those who were females, they were to be spared. Well, the Bible says in chapter two that a child by the name of Moses was born, and his mother, being a Hebrew, was concerned about his well-being when she could no longer hide him but the tender age of three months. She made a little ark, and she placed that child in the ark and placed him in the river.

And the Bible tells us that Moses sister stood from afar off so that she might see what would happen to him. Well, the text tells us that Pharaoh's daughter had gone down to the river to bathe, and one of her servants saw that child, and the child began to weep. And so when Pharaoh's daughter saw that child, no doubt she had compassion.

And the sister of Moses said, shall I call one of the servants? Now I don't think it was by

accident that she went and called Moses biological mother to come and care for him, to attend to him. So here's this child by the name of Moses, and he is reared in the home of Pharaoh's daughter. Now, that's going to help us to understand what the writer is saying in chapter 11 about his life and how he came to understand the key to life.

So let's look at Hebrews chapter 11 beginning in verse 24. The Bible tells us some things about Moses that will help us isolate the real key to life. So number one, there were some things that Moses avoided in this life. We might say there were some things that Moses said no to. Now, I understand there are a lot of folks in the world today.

They have difficulty saying saying no to anything. They have trouble sometimes saying no to peer pressure. Well, Moses had the ability to say no to things that would have impeded his relationship to the Lord. So, number one, Moses had the ability to say no to a life in the palace. The Bible says that when he came to years, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God.

And let's just pause there for a moment or two. Moses said no to palace living. Now can you imagine that? You know, compared to the Hebrews who were slaves being oppressed. I mean, their lives had been made difficult by Pharaoh by the conditions in Egypt. And here is Moses, a Hebrew child, and he's been reared in the home of Pharaoh's daughter.

The Bible says in Acts chapter seven that Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, mighty in words and deeds. Can you imagine the advantages he had as a result of palace living? I mean, imagine if you can, you've been taken into a royal family. Let's say you live in England, and the royal family adopted you.

And when you came to a certain point in your life, when you came to your teenage years or maybe early 20s, you said, I'm walking away from all of this. I don't want anything to do with it. Now that's almost inconceivable, isn't it? And yet, that's exactly what Moses did. And also think about this. He said no to a life with the daughter of Pharaoh.

He turned his back on the very woman that brought him up or brought him into her home, gave him a place to live, clothing fitting, schooling, all these great advantages he had. You know, the Bible talks about how when it comes to serving the Lord, sometimes we have to make hard decisions. Sometimes those decisions affect our relations with our family members in Luke 14.

You remember in verse 26, Jesus said to the disciples, to the multitude of people. On one occasion he said that we must love less father, mother, brother, sister, wife, children. He said, yes, even our own life. Take up our cross. Follow him. In Matthew chapter ten, Jesus said, he who loves father and mother more than me, he's not worthy of me.

He who loves son or daughter more than me, not worthy of me. Sometimes we have to make hard decisions. Sometimes we have to say no. So here is Moses. And Moses said no to a life in the palace. But the Bible also says that he said no to the passing pleasures of sin. Again, that's found in Hebrews chapter 11.

So here's a guy that had, as I said a moment ago, the world at his fingertips. He could have had anything. And you think about, here's a guy that said, you know what? Number one, I'm going to align myself with my Hebrew brethren. And number two, I can see life for what it really is. And I'm not willing to sell my soul for the passing pleasures of sin.

You know, the devil has the ability to make things look so good, so appealing, so appetizing. The devil wants to bait us, to trick us. How does he do that? But one of the

ways he does this through the world. In first John chapter two, John said to the long ago, love not the world, neither of the things which are in the world.

If any man loves the world, he said, the love of the father is not in him. For all that's in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the highest pride of life, he says, not of the father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof. But he who does the will of the father abides forever.

So here's a guy that said, no number one to palace life. Number two, he said no to a life filled with the pleasures of sin. Paul talks about people who are lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Are there people like that today in the world? Yes. Can you enjoy living a life of sin and unrighteousness and don't have any doubt?

There are folks today in the world. They have literally immersed themselves in the pleasures of life. It's all about being gratified in this life. It's about me, myself and I. That's all that matters. Well, Moses didn't think like that. Moses understood. There's something more to life than the here and now. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone had that ability?

If everyone could somehow see through the see, through the brevity of the pleasures of this life, to understand what life is really all about. Think for a minute about Jesus. In Matthew chapter four, we have an account of the Lord Jesus being tempted by the devil. And you remember, the Bible says that the devil took Jesus up to an exceeding high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

And he said, all these I'll give you, if you'll fall down and worship me. Well, what Jesus do. Well, the Lord Jesus Christ did not bow to the wishes, to the overtures of the devil. We've got to understand that there is more to this life than just living a life absorbed in sin, pleasure and gratification. No. Jesus talked about laying up for ourselves.

Treasures in heaven. Not here on earth. There are a lot of folks their treasures are here. Which leads me to another thought here. The Bible says that he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater treasures than the riches in Egypt, greater, richer than the treasures in Egypt. Imagine that here is a guy by the name of Moses. He said no to a life of a palace.

He said no to a life filled with the pleasures of sin. Here's a man that said no to what we would call prosperity the treasures of Egypt, the immense wealth that was at his disposal. And again, we go back and we emphasize the idea of having the world at your fingertips. There are people today, if we were to say, would you like a life and a palace?

Would you like to immerse yourself in the pleasures of life? And by the way, we're going to give you an abundance of prosperity, material wealth here on earth. Would you like that? What would people say? Sure. Well, Moses could have had all that, but he said no. Now again, Jesus talked about the danger of laying up treasures on earth.

In contrast, laying up treasures in heaven. Because you see, what is here on planet Earth at some point in time is going to end. When the Lord Jesus comes, the world that we live in is going to be destroyed. Peter said, the heavens will pass away with a great noise. The elements will melt with fervent heat. The earth and the works therein are going to be burned out.

So all the things that we've accumulated here on planet Earth, if the Lord were to come, it's gone. If we were to die before the Lord comes, we don't get to enjoy it anymore. We're going to leave it behind, aren't we? Wasn't it Jesus who said in the long ago? What shall I profit of man? Feast your game the whole world and lose his own soul.

What shall a man give an exchange for his soul? Now, are there people today they bought into that life. It's all about the materials, all about money. Listen to what Paul said in first Timothy chapter six. Paul said they reminded to be rich, fall into a temptation, and snare many foolish and harmful lust which drown men in destruction and perdition.

The love of money, he said, is root of all kinds of evil, which some men, having reached after, have pierced themselves through with many sorrows and been led astray from the faith. How many casualties, spiritually speaking, do you think have occurred over the vast thousands of years of time? How many people have given in to the the seduction, if you please?

Of money and materialism. It's all about what you have. It's how a lot of people think, isn't it? And yet, what about Moses? Now, Moses said no to a life in the palace. He said no to a life with the daughter of Pharaoh. He said no to the passing pleasures of sin. He said no to a life of prosperity.

Now, let me parallel this with something for a moment. Go back and read what Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes, because in many ways Solomon is evaluating life and Solomon is trying to determine, okay, what's life really all about? And you can go back and you can read the divine record. And Solomon, in many ways, he had it all.

He had the world at his fingertips. The Queen of the South said after having evaluated Solomon. The half hasn't been told well. Solomon was a man of immense power. A man of prestige. Prominence. A man that had great wealth, material possessions. He, too, had immersed himself in the pleasures of life. And yet in chapter two, verse 17, Solomon said, therefore I hated life.

Those things didn't make him happy. Oh, I know there are people today. They think if they can just have a little bit more that this world has to offer, then that's going to be it. That's going to be panacea. That's going to give them what they want to really be happy in life. Well, let me ask this question.

How's that working out? There are a lot of folks in our world today. They have everything. And quite frankly, they have nothing. So what is life all about? Solomon. Ecclesiastes chapter 12 Solomon said here the conclusion of the whole matter fear God, keep his commandments. For this is man's all to realize that what life is really all about.

It's not about what I can get in this world. It's not about storing up more and more of this world's good goods. It's about serving God, living for him, following his word, submitting to his to his will. Now that's what life is all about. Now, having said all that, on the one hand you see that Moses had the ability to crystallize what's really important in life.

So there were some things that he said no to. But on the other hand, there were some things that Moses said yes to. In other words, he avoided some things and he accentuated other things. I believe that the things that Moses accentuated those things were what were really important in life. You see, he had the ability to look at life and to ultimately see what this life is all about.

If somehow we could come to an understanding of the mindset of Moses, we could save ourselves a lot of heartache, a lot of trouble, a lot of difficulties, a lot of tears, and we could enjoy a good life. Don't you want a good life? You know, we talk about again contentment, satisfaction, joy, peace and all those wonderful blessings.

That's what we want. We don't want a lie filled with heartache and emptiness. We don't want

to live a life that's just material in nature. It's all about me. It's all about what I want. No, that's not how we want to live. We want to live a life that's productive, satisfying, fulfilling. Well, how do we do that, number one?

When I think about the life of Moses, I see, number one, that Moses said yes to a life of faith. Now go back and read Hebrews chapter 11. If I'm not mistaken, if you go back and you read verses 24 through 29, and the Bible talks about by faith Moses, about four times that term is used. Now faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God.

Romans 10:17. Moses was a man of faith, but not blind faith. No, Moses had faith in Jehovah God. In Hebrews chapter 11, the Bible says in verse one, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen as yet. Moses was a man whose life was adorned by faith. Now I remember many years ago a brother saying on one occasion that faith gives substance and reality to things not seen.

Now just think about that for a minute. Faith gives substance and reality to things not seen. Faith is an imperative. It's not optional in life. The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews chapter 11 he said, without faith it's impossible to be well pleasing to God, for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

God called on a man by the name of Moses, and God used him in a mighty way to lead his people out of Egyptian bondage. And Moses and Aaron had the opportunity to stand in the presence of Pharaoh and to show the mighty power of Almighty God. And yet Pharaoh stood and unbelief. And ultimately, when Moses and the children of Israel left Egypt after the command to observe the Passover, they did so.

And how did they do that? By faith. They left Egypt by faith in Jehovah God when they crossed the Red sea, as if it were dry land. How did they do that? They did it by faith. Now faith is taking God at His Word. Sometimes you'll hear people say, well, you know, God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.

Look, whether I believe it or not. Irrelevant. Irrelevant in one regard. Because the fact of the matter is that God said it. That settles whether I believe it or not. So here's a man that had a life of faith. When we talk about the Christian life, the Christian life is a life of faith in Christ. Paul would say in Second Timothy chapter one, I know whom I believed.

Well, Paul believed deeply in the Lord. What would you need to do to begin a life of faith in the Lord? Well, number one, you've got to have faith in Jesus, that he's the Son of God, and then you've got to act upon that faith. That is, you've got to obey the gospel. Now, the Bible says, faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God.

Paul would write in Romans chapter one, verse 16, I'm not ashamed of the gospel. It's the power of God unto salvation. The Hebrew writer said that the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword. So I come to understand Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And I'm willing to repent like they did on Pentecost day.

Furthermore, I am more than happy to confess with my mouth what I believe in my heart that Jesus is the Son of God. Romans ten nine and ten. And then I'm willing to be baptized into Christ because salvation is in Christ. God's grace is in Christ. Second Timothy chapter two. And the blood of Christ that's in Christ. And the only way that I can appropriate that blood is to be baptized.

Paul said, Romans chapter six, verse three. No, you're not that all we who are baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. So once I'm baptized into Christ, God puts me in the church. Acts 247 I'm endowed with all spiritual blessings, and I begin that life of faith. But there's a second thing. Moses was not only a man of faith.

Not only did he say yes to a life of faith, but I believe that Moses said yes to a life focused. And then Hebrews chapter 11. The Bible tells us that Moses saw him who is invisible. Now let me tell you, that's faith. And I mentioned a moment ago, you think about the things that Moses was willing to walk away from.

He was willing to walk away from a life in the palace, a life with the daughter of Pharaoh, willing to walk away from the passing pleasures of sin, willing to walk away from a life of prosperity. All of that. And his focus was on Jehovah God. Paul would say in Second Corinthians chapter four, Paul said, we look not at the things which are seen, but of the things which are not seen.

What about you? Are you looking at life merely through the lens of this world, from the vantage point of the here and now? Or are you looking at life through the lens of the Word of God, and you're allowing the Word of God to direct your life? Are you living in such a way that you see him who is invisible?

Now, I mentioned a moment ago faith and taking God at His Word. You remember it was said of Noah in the long ago by faith. Noah being warned of God, of things not seen as yet, moved with godly fear, prepared a house for the saving of his household. Did Moses have anything to look back to when God said, I want you to build an ark and say, oh yeah, I remember the last time God destroyed the world by means of a flood.

No, we'd never seen a flood like that. But he did see him who is invisible. He did see the one who made that command. And when God said, this is what I want you to do, the Bible says in Genesis chapter six, verse 22, thus did know according to all that God commanded him, so did he. So what about your focus in life?

Jesus said, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you at you. 633. Paul writes in Philippians chapter one. In verse 21, Paul said, for to live is Christ. In Galatians two and verse 20, Paul said, it's no longer I who live, but Christ liveth in me. And then, of course, in Colossians chapter three and verse four, Paul said, When Christ, listen to him who is our life.

So what are you focused on in this life? Are you focused on the spiritual side of life, or are you focused on the material, the here and now, the transitory as opposed to the eternal? There's a final thought. The Bible tells us that this great man, a man by the name of Moses. The Bible says that he looked to the reward.

Now that tells me this man had a future, that he was immensely blessed. So I want to just pause here and ask you this question outside of what you have here on planet Earth. What do you have on the other side? What kind of future do you have? It may be the case that you have interviewed with various corporations, businesses, and you have had the opportunity to sit down, face to face with someone who is looking at you as a prospective employee and you've just asked a question.

Okay. What kind of future do I have with this company? Is there the possibility that I can advance move up in the rank? Well, by the same token, if it's true in the business world, we're looking for a future we want to advance. Wouldn't it stand to reason that we would put more emphasis on the spiritual side of life?

And we would be thinking about, okay, what do I have on the other side? Again? Jesus said, don't live for yourselves treasures on earth. No, you need to lay up treasures in heaven. What about you? Paul said that those of us who belong to the family of God, that we live in hope of life eternal, which God who cannot lie, promised before time began the key to life.

The key to life is to say no to some things, to say yes to other things. If you haven't obeyed the gospel, I encourage you today. Put your faith in trust in Jesus. Be baptized into Christ. Let God add you to the church, and you be faithful till death so that you might enjoy the crown of life. Thank you and God bless.