



RAY EDWARDS

LIVE WITH JOY LEAD WITH PASSION PROSPER WITH PURPOSE

How to Get What You Want

Here we are digging into episode 125. This seems like a broad subject, but ask yourself this question, have you ever known anyone who just never seems to get exactly what they want in life? They make lots of plans but things never seem to work out exactly the right way. Perhaps you know this person intimately. I believe there are five crucial requirements for getting successful outcomes in any area of life and in today's episode I'll share these five requirements, as well as show you how to put them to work for yourself.

I have a few announcements. First, I want to say thanks for the five star reviews on iTunes from Brian Knight of SuccessForNurses.com, thank you for your kind words and also from Sheree Fields of CreationScienceForKids.com. If you enjoy the podcast I would consider it a favor which I will personally acknowledge on the show if you will subscribe and leave a review and rating in iTunes. These are two different things, a rating is the star rating of what you think of the show and five stars is fantastic but vote your conscience and then leave a review to tell us what you think of the show. You might want to look at what others have said as well, we appreciate it. Your reviews helps others find the show and helps it become more accessible in the ratings and it's a great favor to us and everyone we attempt to serve.

I also want to remind you that I'm speaking at the Platform Conference in November in Colorado. I have a link in the show notes at RayEdwards.com/125. If you use the link and as you check out enter the code RAY into the box you will save \$100 off your ticket price. I definitely want to connect with you, so let me know if you register through that link so we can connect while we're in Colorado together at the conference.

We'll make the transcripts of this show available within a few days after broadcast and those are provided by SuccessTranscripts.com, a great solution if you need your podcast, sermon, speech and other audios or videos transcribed.

Tip of the Week

I don't know if you've ever had this problem, but I haven't been able to find a great way to get my iPad to stand up when I use it. I have the little magnetic smart cover that comes from Apple, which I don't think is tremendously great. I've tried a few other stands and cases, not overly thrilled with any of those, but I think I finally have a solution I'm pleased with and I will recommend to you. It's called the stump and you can find it at StumpStore.com. It's a piece of rubber but it's heavy and it lets you leave your iPad in three different viewing positions. It doesn't just work for the iPad it also works for the iPhone and for any other tablet as well. It's handy, stable and solid which keeps me from worrying about the tablet ever falling off and hitting the floor. If you need a great way to stand you iPhone or iPad up to read or watch a video or just type on a wireless keyboard, this is a great solution that I strongly recommend.

Spiritual Foundations

We're often instructed by pastors, preachers and teachers that we should seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. I heard someone preach on this recently. It comes from Matthew 6:33, which says we should seek first the kingdom and his righteousness and all these other things that we want will be added to us and the implication usually given with that preaching is that we have to seek mostly his righteousness, which means we have to learn how to behave better, keep the rules more closely, be better Christians and introduce more Christian stress into our life and I don't think that's the answer at all.

- **What is the kingdom of God?**
- **How do we know that we're in it?**

In Romans 14:17, the apostle Paul clears up the question. The kingdom of God is not good works, being sinless or reading your Bible regularly or going to Bible study groups. Paul writes that the kingdom of God isn't something outside of us flowing in, like our behaviors. He says "*The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, it's something inside of us flowing out.*" He tells us the kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- **How do we experience this practically?**
- **What does that mean to me on a daily basis in my life?**
- **How do we seek first God's kingdom in a way that brings us righteousness, peace and joy?**

We start by flowing with righteousness which produces the fruit of the other factors of the kingdom. Righteousness is not something you can work for. It's not based on what you do. This will upset many Christians who desperately want to keep a checklist of rules and good behavior so they can earn their way into the kingdom, but that's not how it works. The righteousness that we're told to seek when we seek the kingdom of God is right in front of us. It's so amazing that we don't see it. We read it through the lens of, we think we have to behave our way into this, but it says seek first the kingdom and his righteousness, not mind or yours but his. It goes on to tell us in the scripture that it's a gift.

Romans 5:17, I Corinthians 1:30, make it clear that it's not something we earn but something but a gift of righteousness. We, you and I, need to be grounded in the truth that we are the righteousness of God in Christ. When I first heard someone talk about that, when they said you, Ray Edwards, are the righteousness of God in Christ, I thought that's some kind of flaky out there doctrine, until I read it in the Bible in II Corinthians 5:21 and that's exactly what it says, that we are the righteousness of God in Christ.

This means that the debt for your sin has already been paid, past, present and future sins. Don't just nod and say yeah I've heard that before, think about what that means. It means the sin you haven't committed yet has already been forgiven. This could lead to all kinds of crazy thinking. It could lead you to think, does that mean I could sin all I want to? Here's the scandalous answer. Yes, because you will sin all you want to and Jesus knew that when He made the sacrifice to pay for your sins, which by the way, all were future sins when He made that commitment.

You hadn't done any of them yet, so He knew the ones you've already committed and He knew the ones you're going to commit and He said I'll pay the bill for all of that. Talking like this got the apostle Paul persecuted by the other apostles and disciples who thought he was nuts. He's saying that we can sin all we want, that anything is permitted, that the more we sin the more grace there is and he had to defend himself against this, which is why he wrote... so what am I

saying? Am I saying we should sin all the more so that grace can abound? Of course not, by no means. This is what he was defending himself against when he wrote those words. He wasn't just exercising some abstract thinking, he was writing a response to criticisms he was under at the time in that place.

So, if when we are preaching the gospel of grace, if we're not being accused of the same crazy doctrines that Paul was being accused of, perhaps we aren't preaching the same gospel that Paul preached. So the debt for your sin has been paid. God says in the book of Hebrews that He's cleansed our conscience, we shouldn't have a guilty conscience we have peace with God and we also have the peace of God, two different things worth exploring in your own Bible.

Where does the joy come from if we know the righteousness is his and the cleansing of our conscience of for the debt of sin because we don't have to pay the debt Jesus paid it, if our conscience is cleansed and we have righteousness and peace, where does the joy come from? It comes from the same place it came from for the disciples. In John 20:20 we read that they were filled with joy when they saw Jesus and his pierced hands and side.

So here's what to do to experience this. Everyday, practice seeing yourself as righteous in Christ. This means don't be conscious of your sins. Don't think about them or dwell on them, but rather, be conscious of your righteousness. You may be going through your day doing things like listening to worship music, preaching or teaching or observing nature and other people, but whatever you're doing, whatever you're feeding yourself on, let it help you see Jesus with his pierced hands and side, the same evidence of the work that He did that's finished that pays for all sin that gave the disciples joy. It will give you joy. See all your sins as forgiven.

You may think this is not your problem. You may think that the misery, depression and sickness, stress and strife in your life doesn't come from not seeing yourself as forgiven, but I suggest to you that this is exactly where it comes from. See all your sins as forgiven and you will experience peace and joy. You will flow in righteousness, peace and joy. This is the practical advice of how to seek first the kingdom of God.

Feature Presentation

Now that you're flowing in righteousness, peace and joy, you are all set to learn how to get what you want. I tease you a little in the beginning by talking about knowing anyone who ever doesn't seem to get what they want out of life, maybe you know them well, someone who makes plans but those things never seem to work out exactly right. I believe the reason behind that is that one of these five requirements is probably lacking in whatever endeavor you're engaged in.

This could be a relationship, business, mission work, a project you're working on or a redecorating project at your home. Whatever the outcome you're seeking through activity in the world, I believe you need to meet these five requirements for success and here they are.

1. Clarity

We need to know what it is we want with clarity. So many times, the reason we fail or get mediocre or unsatisfying results is simply because we didn't know what we were looking for to begin with. I've seen this played out when people talk to me about wanting to start a business and they say I want to start a business and I ask them what kind and their response is, I don't know yet or, what's the goal for your business? The answer is often, to make a lot of money. How much is a lot of money? A lot, a lot more than I have now, enough to pay all my bills.

None of those answers is a clear specific answer. If it's a physical or health goal, if your answer is, I'd like to stop eating junk food or lose a lot of weight, that's not clear and I would suggest to you that being clear often goes deeper than we think it does. Because, if I say to you that I would like to lose 75 pounds that's not a clear health goal. Seventy-five pounds of what? I could lose 75 pounds by having my limbs amputated but that wouldn't be a method I recommend for weight loss.

I could lose 75 pounds of bone or muscle mass because I have some type of disease or disorder. Again, not what I'm looking for if I'm clear, but if I say I'd like to lose 75 pounds of fat and build 25 pounds of muscle with a net weight loss of 50 pounds and a body fat composition of 15% or less, that's a clear goal. So whatever it is you're seeking, whatever endeavor you're involved in, whatever project you're starting or goal you're setting, have clarity and know what it is you want and know it with precision. Put that in writing somewhere so you have a criteria to evaluate when you've arrived at your destination.

2. Confidence

You must have confidence that your goal is worthwhile, that it's achievable and that you can achieve it. Let's unpack this. If you set a goal simply because somebody else told you that you should set it or because of peer pressure that you feel like other people expect you to set this particular goal, but you have no passionate attachment to it, you have no feeling that it's really worthwhile or you have no value invested in achieving the goal, you will not have confidence in moving forward. There will be a part of your sleeping mind that will constantly be working to sabotage everything you're doing because unconsciously a deep part of you knows you aren't committed to this goal and aren't convinced of its value. You aren't convinced that it's worthwhile.

Earl Nightingale said, *'The definition of success is the progressive realization of a worthwhile goal.'*

So you can be successful today, immediately, if you are making progress toward the achievement of a worthwhile goal, but that presupposes that you've defined a worthwhile goal. So you have to have confidence in the fact that it's worthwhile, confidence that it's achievable. If my goal is to grow to be 8' tall and I'm over the age of 21 and I'm 5'4", it's not an achievable goal for me to think I'm going to grow to 8' tall it's physically impossible.

That's a ridiculous example, but there are goals that people state out loud that are impossible and many will be upset with me now and will say Ray, you can't tell people their goals are impossible. Roger Banister didn't listen to people who said it was impossible to run a 4 minute mile, but he did it anyway. John F. Kennedy didn't listen to people who said it was impossible for man to go to the moon, but we did it anyway. The trick is, those things were possible and yes, many thought they weren't. However, there are clearly goals that some people state that are outside the realm of possibility and for us to fail to acknowledge that is folly. To be so divorced from reality that we pursue goals that are impossible.

So the goal must be achievable. You must have confidence that the goal is achievable by you. You may believe a thing is possible but you may not believe it's possible for you and this is something you'll have to wrestle with. You must decide if you have the confidence that you can actually achieve this thing that you've set out to achieve.

Before moving on, let me address something that's come up for a few of you already. Knowing me you know that I believe what scripture says which is that with God all things are possible. God can stop the progress of the sun in the sky, He can part the waters of an ocean to allow his

people to pass through and He can raise his own son from the dead. Nothing is impossible for God and I accept that and believe it. I also believe that as followers of Christ we are called to step into impossible situations and bring a supernatural solution. So the kind of possibility I'm speaking of is the possibility of achieving things in your life and your business that are both worthwhile and not a goal set in a spirit of folly.

I don't think God is going to part an ocean for you if you're doing it as a show, in which you charge money for people to attend. Watch me use the power of God to part the sea, pay \$10 to see this miracle. No. It was in alignment with the character and will of God for him to perform that miracle for the children of Israel. That's a little sidebar but for some people I know there was a cognitive dissidence that was setup with Ray believing all things are possible with God and on the other hand saying some things just aren't possible. I hope that helps. Let me know.

3. Character

- What kind of person do you have to be in order to achieve the success you're after?
- Do you have to be disciplined?
- Do you have to be consistent in your activities?
- Do you have to be persistent?
- Do you have to be untiring?
- Do you have to be devoted to the cause you're working towards?
- Do you have to be brilliant and charming or entertaining?

There are qualities that are required of a person who's setting out to achieve whatever it is you're seeking to achieve, whether it's a business endeavor, a personal relationship, personal goal, family goal or a book you're working on, whatever it is. What kind of person do you have to be? What kind of character do you have to have to make it happen?

Perhaps, if you're a writer you know you have to write 1000 words a day to achieve the goal you're after. Do you have the character to apply your rear-end to the seat and your fingers to the keyboard or pen to paper or however you write, and get the writing done? If you don't have it currently you can develop it and you must if you wish to achieve your success.

4. Consistency

For any goal I can think of that's worth working toward. The way to guarantee achieving it is through consistent application of effort day after day, until the goal is achieved. We like to believe that we're going to succeed through the big win, through the winning lottery number, homerun, hole in one or the hail Mary pass. That's what we long for, just like the gambler who's looking for his big win in the poker game, to finally get himself right, to get himself even, paid off, paid up with all the people he owes money to and a big pile of money. He's going to quit as soon as he gets that big win.

It's the same for many people in their jobs, careers or businesses, family and relational life but that isn't the way life generally works. There's a book by Jeff Olson called *The Slight Edge* that I highly recommend and another called *The Compound Effect* by Darren Hardy. Both are written around the same premise, which is that it's not the big Herculean efforts that bring success in life most of the time. Most of the time it's the small actions we take consistently, everyday over time that eventually yield the big results. That is consistent effort applied over time.

5. Commitment

What does commitment mean? It means you don't quit. In marriage it means we're committed to one another. That regardless of what happens, regardless of the vows that are so well known to all of us, and you may or may not have said these vows in your ceremony, but most people will vow something like this... I will stick with you through sickness, and in health, for better or for worse, in poverty and riches until death do us part. That's commitment. People who have stuck it out knows what that commitment means. Marriage offers unique challenges and there will be times in your married life where you will feel more committed than you are or are not. There will be times in your marriage where your commitment is tested. For better or worse, richer or poorer, sickness and health till death do us part means just that.

In business it means you don't quit on your customers. You don't quit working to create value for those you serve. It means that when the difficult part shows up you don't turn tail and run, you are committed. I put commitment last on this list because I think it's important for us to define right up front the clarity first of what it is we're after and what outcome we're seeking. And then number two the confidence that it's a worthwhile goal that's achievable and that we can achieve it. Then three that the character that is required for us to achieve this outcome and four the consistency to apply effort over time in order to bring about the outcome.

If we have those four requirements than we can decide to own requirement number five.

Commitment is difficult but not nearly so difficult when you have the other four requirements for success.

So, if you're in a position with any endeavor in your life right now that doesn't seem to be going well or that you aren't excited about anymore or that seems to be in deep trouble, and for some that may be the case where you feel you're about to careen over the edge of a cliff, for any situation like that run it through this filter to see what's missing.

- Do you have clarity and know what you want as the outcome?
- Do you have confidence that it's a worthwhile goal, that it's achievable and that you can achieve it?
- Do you have the character required to carry it through?
- Do you have the consistent effort or can you put for the consistent effort over time that is needed to succeed?
- And, are you committed or not?

Answer these questions and you will either, decide that this is not a goal you actually wanted to pursue to begin with or, I believe you will begin to see the way out of darkness and move toward the success you were originally seeking when you set the goal to begin with.

What to Do Now

My question for you for this episode is... **how have these five requirements helped you succeed already in your life? Or, how has their absence caused less than ideal results?** Leave your comments at RayEdwards.com/125. I love hearing from you.

Until next time, I pray that God will continue to bless you and keep you, and do more for you than you can ask or even possibly imagine!