



# RAY EDWARDS

LIVE WITH JOY. LEAD WITH PASSION. PROSPER WITH PURPOSE.

## Five Crucial Keys that Unlock the Doors of Destiny Episode #197

**Sean:** Welcome to the Ray Edwards Show, this is the 1940s version of the Ray Edwards Show.

**Ray:** It's in black and white.

**Sean:** It's in black and white and there's lots of patriotic music in the background as we talk about the war in Europe.

**Ray:** Very rapidly.

**Sean:** Very rapidly. This just in, we have a great show for you today ladies and gentleman... I'm normal now.

**Ray:** I wouldn't go so far as to say that. Let's don't make a leap.

**Sean:** Did you ever feel like the door to your destiny is locked?

**Ray:** I was just feeling that way.

**Sean:** Did you ever feel like the door to your destiny is just locked?

**Ray:** I was just feeling that way.

**Sean:** That's good.

**Ray:** Darn, the door to my destiny is locked.

**Sean:** Like you can't get through no matter how hard you try. Maybe the answer isn't to try harder maybe the answer is to get the keys to the door.

**Ray:** I've got the supernatural secret to more energy, less stress and amazing powers of stunning accomplishment. And, am I really recommending that you get rid of your books?

**Sean:** Are you?

**Ray:** Yep.

**Sean:** All this, plus a never ending quest for truth, justice and the American way.

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### Spiritual Foundations

**Ray:** Let's start with the easy one, the supernatural secret to more energy, less stress and amazing powers of stunning accomplishment. Aren't you glad I finally figured this out?

**Sean:** Yes I am. I've been wondering when you'd figure it out.

**Ray:** Here's the premise. You can get out of a state of fatigue, discouragement and depression and the answer is surprisingly simple as to why. The answer is found in Romans 8:11...If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit, who dwells in you.

That doesn't seem complicated to understand does it?

**Sean:** No.

**Ray:** Now, as far as how it works I'm at a total loss. What it does is obvious from the words. If the spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you and it does, then the one who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you. So he'll give life to our bodies, so here's my premise which is, your thoughts, especially your words that you speak out loud always empower some form of spiritual activity.

In other words I'm saying, you don't have these things, fatigue, discouragement and depression... I have depression. I am depressed... you create them. You generate them yourself. You want energy, joy and enthusiasm, don't wait for these things to happen to you, you make them happen. As Brendon Burchard says in his book *The Charge*, the power plant doesn't have energy it generates energy. That was good spiritual insight from Brendon. I don't know if he knows it's a spiritual insight, but I believe he does.

So, if you think of it that way then you have the spirit dwelling inside you and that's the source of your energy, so you don't have depression, you don't have lethargy, you don't have fatigue you're generating those things. Now, I understand that maybe you have a physical malfunction, like a malfunction in the physical structure of your body and that may need healing and of course, if that's the case than that is something that needs to be addressed. But assuming that everything is working physiologically at normal levels than if you need to be happier and have more energy you generate those things, so here's my call to action for you.

It's very simple, just speak out and create the energy, joy and enthusiasm, the humor, wit or whatever it is you need to accomplish what God has made you to accomplish. I know it seems a little quirky to say these things out loud to yourself, or especially when other people can hear, which is probably what bothers us the most. Like I'm okay Ray with affirmations or whatever you want to call them, as long as nobody has to hear me do them. What I'm not okay with is when people have to hear it and then I have to explain it or endure the looks I get that say, you are a crazy person.

I don't just preach this I actually practice it and I'll share with you one quick little such routine that I use. Like, before I'm going to speak or give a big webinar presentation or even before I do podcasts, my intention is saying these things before I actually speak. It goes like this. Before I speak I say...

*I now command my spirit to be open to all God's resources to change the lives of the people that are listening to me for the better. Lord I call upon your promise that you will*

*provide us with the words to speak that will win men's hearts. Holy Spirit thank you for providing me the wisdom, revelation, brevity, the humor or whatever it takes to get these people to see your kingdom and to give their lives to it now. I am not here by accident. You sent me to these people at exactly this time and that's because you have a purpose and therefore I have a purpose in being here. What I have to share today is vitally important, it matters to them and to their loved ones it is from you. Those that hear it will be changed forever. Through Christ I can do all things. Jesus, you have given me every resource I need to succeed. You are my wisdom. You are my strength. You are my righteousness. Because of you I have the energy, the passion and message to make a huge impact now and for eternity. By God's grace I am prepared.*

Now yours may not be that elaborate and some of that may freak you out a bit, but you get the idea. Speak the thing that you want to experience. Hey now, you can tweet that.

**Sean:** You're a rock star.

**Ray:** Wait, get your game on. Hey now...

**Sean:** You're a rock star.

**Ray:** Okay. Anyway that's what you do, you speak the thing that you want to experience.

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### **Tip of the Week**

**Ray:** Get rid of your books.

**Sean:** Get rid of them. Stop reading.

**Ray:** It's not good for you. My friend Jeff will be very upset; Jeff with the Read to Lead podcast. What I'm suggesting isn't that you stop reading, you know that I believe in reading, that I believe that readers are leaders and vice versa. I didn't make that up but will say it often enough that you'll begin to believe I did.

The most important thing for avid readers to do is get rid of your books. Here's the point. What is the reason that you have books? Is it to own them or to be impacted by them? For many people, the ownership of a lot of books is evidence that they're really smart, which may or may not be true. If you own a lot of books but haven't read them then there's no chance those books are making you smarter, it doesn't work that way. And, it's also possible to read books and not be smarter because you don't absorb or understand what you're reading.

The point of owning books is to be changed by them, to absorb the information in them, to cause them to stimulate your own thinking and to have them make an impact on you in your life. I'm currently reading John Adams Biography by David McCullah and it's been interesting reading about Thomas Jefferson and John Adams and their massive book collections and how when they were in France they would buy cases of books, Jefferson especially. Jefferson had a debt problem. He was constantly borrowing money or spending more money than he had.

He shipped more crates of books back to the U.S. from Europe than anyone ever had in history at that time. As I thought about this I thought, maybe I should retract my

statements about trying to thin out my book collection and then I realized, this was a different era. That was a different world. In today's world any book we want is instantly available at our fingertips. In Jefferson's world if you saw a book and didn't buy it, you might never see it again.

**Sean:** That's true.

**Ray:** So it was important if you were a man or woman of learning that you collected the books that you wanted to learn from, cherish and possess because you may never see them again. So today through this little device called a Kindle or the Kindle app, virtually any book you want to own is available instantly at your fingertips. I carry an entire library in my pocket on my iPhone. I can get the new books I want instantly. There's almost no book I cannot get that way.

Now here's my call to action for you. Get rid of all your physical books, except the ones you know you will read again or any that you know you'll read in the next three months. This is tricky because it's easy to tell yourself you'll read something over the next three months, so I would encourage you and I'm going to try this myself. Am I living this out?

**Sean:** Yes.

**Ray:** I've gotten rid of a lot of books and I think I shocked you and your mom when I started carting books out to the used bookstore.

**Sean:** Yes, it's like is dad okay.

**Ray:** This is the reversal of 45 years of work. I'm going to set a date by which I have certain books read and I'll stick an index card in the bookshelf that those books sit on and if I haven't read those books by that date then they're gone. You can always get them back. You can get them from the library if you can't afford to buy them back. The other reason I'm advocating for this is because now that I read on my Kindle so much, it's very difficult for me to read a physical book because I want to take notes and grab quotes and phrases out of the book and you can't do that in a physical book.

**Sean:** No, and this is an embarrassing story. I think I've told you before that once I was reading a physical book in the last few years and I came across a word I didn't understand and I instinctually pressed my finger to the page on the word to get a definition, which shockingly, didn't work. The page didn't pop up a little window.

**Ray:** There's something wrong with this book. Librarian, this book is malfunctioning. And while we're making admissions, I will admit to recently doing the same thing in a restaurant while looking at the menu. With the Kindle you can highlight the passages you like, which are instantly saved for you in your Kindle account. You can go to [Kindle.Amazon.com](http://Kindle.Amazon.com) and login with your account and be shocked to find that everything you've highlighted in each book is saved there. You can copy and paste it to use as you will. You can even make notes and annotate your books. It's beautiful and you will have physical baggage and you'll actually get more from your books if you follow the recommendation I have given.

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## **Feature Presentation**

**Sean:** Well, we've arrived at the feature presentation where we will be discussing five crucial keys that unlock the doors of your destiny.

**Ray:** Your destiny is predetermined. I said it. It is predetermined by you. You get to decide. You design it by the choices that you make. The fact is, even though we feel sometimes that the doors of destiny are locked against us, the doors are not usually locked they simply remain untried. We haven't tried to open the door. We haven't even decided what door we want to walk through. This is especially true for many of my Christian friends, who are waiting to be led by the spirit.

Well, brother, I'm waiting for the spirit to tell me that which I should do. It sounds very spiritual, but often it's an excuse for not making a decision. Because then we've taken a risk. We've decided and stepped forward and now if it doesn't work than who can we blame? I began in life, in terms of business and education and so forth with every disadvantage. I grew up in the least educated part of the country, SE Kentucky. At the time I was born and as I was growing up I think we had the worst educational record in the nation except for Mississippi and it may not be much better now, I'm not sure.

I went to college for less than a year, but it wasn't paid for by my parents and I didn't have a scholarship. I had no financial backing, no base from which to get started. I had bad habits. I was drinking, smoking and doing all sorts of things that young people do that they shouldn't be doing and it's the privilege of older people to say I did it but you shouldn't. Trust me younger friend, it puts miles on you that later you will wish later you could get back. So I made changes over time that slowly altered my destiny.

The word destiny at it's root means 'destination'. It's where you're headed. Your destiny is the direction in which you are headed. If you want to know what your destiny is just look at what you're doing in your life right now, the results that you're getting and project those out on a trajectory over the next 10-40 years and you'll see where you wind up. You might ask how you can do that and here's something that may frighten you a little.

Look at the last 10 years.

- What has your income trend been?
- What's your debt ratio trend been?
- What's your health trend been?

If you've gone deeper into debt, your income has gone down effectively in comparison to inflation and so forth and your weight has gone up, guess what the trends are? You're going to make less money, deeper in debt and be fatter 10 years from now, unless you decide to change it.

So, I believe that anyone can unlock the doors of destiny, even if you started from humble beginnings or less than humble, by using five crucial keys that open the doors.

### **1. Your purpose.**

It starts simply like this, you just have to answer this question... what is the meaning of your life?

In Interview with a Vampire, the book by Anne Rice, one of the things that struck me so much, and I can't remember if this was in the movie or not, was that Louie who is made

into a vampire by Lastott, king of the vampires, Louie thinks since he's entered this supernatural realm he's now going to find out about God and the meaning of life. But he's very disheartened to discover from Lastott there is no answer. There is no, I don't know why we're like this. I don't know why this is all happening, stop looking for an explanation. That's terrifying.

Now scientists, especially the neo-atheists, the biggest proponent of this kind of atheism is Richard Dawkins. He's the most outspoken and well-known representative of this kind of atheism, this vigilant, militant, almost Jihadist kind of atheism. We're going to make you atheists or else. When Dawkins was interviewed in a movie called 'Expelled', the subject of evolution and creation was being discussed and we're all looking for meaning somewhere and when backed into a corner, Dawkins said, God did not create it. We don't require that theory to explain how the world got here. He answered the question with, how did we get here? He said aliens. It begs the question, where did they come from, but I guess that's another movie.

For me, the meaning of my life, and again I believe this is something we get to decide. In fact, we have to decide it and some may be offended by this. You may say it's mandated biblically. Okay, but you decided that that's what the meaning of it was. You made the decision that that was true for you. I'm not saying truth is all relative. I'm saying you decide what you believe is the truth. For me, the meaning of my life is to glorify God by living my life fully alive and taking my deepest enjoyment from him.

I believe that in order to function in a healthy manner you must know the larger story that you are part of and you have to decide that.

## **2. Mission**

How are you drawn or compelled or in what way do you feel magnetically pulled to operate or live out your life in the context of that purpose?

Your purpose, I believe, doesn't change. Your understanding of it may change. The way you explain it may change. But I don't believe your purpose overall, changes. Your mission, the way in which you are assigned to or have decided to achieve or support your purpose that could change. In practice it usually doesn't for people, I think people get locked into, this is my mission. This is what I'm doing and this is what I'm doing forever. It's also one of the traps people fall into because they're looking for that shaft of sunlight coming through the clouds moment, where it's very cloudy and dramatic and the beam of light descends from the Heavens with a voice saying, this is your mission. Let me spell it out for you so you don't misunderstand it.

Then you write it down and have it on stone tablets and you know from that point forward what your mission is and it doesn't usually work that way. Even for the people for whom it did work that way, like those in the Bible, read their stories of how quickly they forgot and how quickly they explained those moments away or convinced themselves they were no longer valid. It's not a modern day thing. Don't think for a moment that if God appeared to you in a shining shaft of light and glory that you would suddenly have all doubts and confusion removed from your mind. You would momentarily but five minutes later it would begin to creep back in. It's a discipline so you have to work at it.

How are you drawn to operate in the context of your purpose? You must know what role you play in the story. That's the point and remember, you get to decide.

### **3. Your vision**

What does the fulfillment of your mission look like? The clue to determine the difference between mission and vision is that vision implies seeing.

- What does it look like?
- What's the actual picture?
- What do the scenes look like?
- Does it look like you traveling the mission field in a foreign land, bringing clean water to people?
- Does it look like you training business people and entrepreneurs how to become wealthy and benefit the world by creating products and services that make everyone richer?
- Does it look like you operating in the realm of government and changing the policies that affect how we live out our lives, the philosophies by which we live and how we deal with issues like poverty, disease and lawlessness?

The role that you play is important, but seeing how it plays out is more important.

There's a story, and I don't know if it's apocryphal or not, but even if it is it should be true, that at the opening of Epcot Center, and Walt Disney passed away before it was completed, Disney's widow and brother were standing with the press and someone said as they watched the opening ceremonies take place, if only Walt could have seen this. His brother, Roy, said Walt saw it first, that's why you're seeing it now. That is what vision is. Walt Disney knew what it looked like in order to accomplish his mission.

### **4. Goals**

How will you know when you've arrived?

I have a good friend, who said to me recently as we were talking about goal setting, he said I've never failed to hit my goals. I said how is that possible? He said, because I've never set one. That's a good way to never fail to hit them, just don't set one and you'll never fail.

For you to know when the mission is truly accomplished you have to define the specific objectives that need to be met in order for it to be accomplished. You have to know what victory looks like so that you don't land on the deck of a ship and put your hands up in the air with a big sign behind you that says Mission Accomplished and forever have to live that down in history, when people know the mission was not accomplished.

### **5. Actions You Have to Take**

This is where the rubber meets the road. This is the part where people's plans often fall apart, because honestly and let's tell the truth, it's fun to think about the meaning of your life. It's fun to think about your mission. It's fun to think about the vision and imagine and fantasize about what that will look like. It's even fun to set the goals and put the dates on the calendar and say by this date this is what's going to happen.

None of us really have a problem with that. The trouble comes up in the doing of the things. The dirty little secret about work is, it's work. It requires effort and sweat. It's

sometimes unpleasant. Sometimes things don't go well or go the way you plan. Sometimes you have to try harder than you thought. Sometimes it's painful. Sometimes you get discouraged. Sometimes you feel like giving up.

My grandfather used to tell me this story about the man who wanted a turkey for Thanksgiving. Every day for several weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, the man would pray and he was a poor man living in the hills of Kentucky, he would pray God please send us a turkey for Thanksgiving. Every day he'd go out and look and there was no turkey in his yard. That night, God tomorrow please send us a turkey for Thanksgiving. Finally, the day before Thanksgiving he realized no turkey was coming so he prayed a new prayer. God, if you won't send me a turkey please send me out after one. So he got it, he understood. If you want to bag the turkey you have to go on the hunt.

So these are the keys and they aren't glamorous, astonishing or spiritually amazing but these are the keys to unlocking the doors to your destiny. Realize you decide your destiny. God has placed it in your heart where you must unearth it. He's hiding it not from you but for you and part of the fun in life is figuring out your purpose and/or mission, how it looks and what it looks like. Look to your own desires, the things that get you excited and fired up, that you want to see yourself doing, how you see yourself contributing to the larger story.

Set your goals, decide what actions need to be taken and then go after them. I believe you can decide your own destiny and unlock the doors if you've felt frustrated using these five keys to get you there.

You might ask then, what do I do now?

**Sean:** What do I do now?

**Ray:** Here's a suggestion. I think you should journal and let's go over the five keys and talk about some questions you could journal about. We'll go over each key and I'll give you questions to journal about, which will help guide you further down this path in the right direction.

1. Know your purpose: what is the meaning of my life? Write that out and if you don't know, look at what other people have said and model what they've said.

I said the meaning of my life is to glorify God by living my life fully alive, taking my deepest enjoyment from him. I borrowed those phrases. John Eldridge talks about a man fully alive. John Piper, who identified a line of thinking called Christian Hedonism says God created us to enjoy our life and to enjoy him. So Piper's famous phrase is, God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him. I simply took those phrases which speak to me on a deep level and incorporated them into my own statement about what the purpose of my life is. So journal that.

2. Know your mission: what is your current assignment in achieving your purpose?

You may have more than one assignment. You're not deciding once and for all, this is what I'll do for the rest of my life forever. This is the big MISSION OF MY LIFE that I can never change. It's your assignment for now.



3. Clarify your vision: what does success look like?

Remember it's about actual visuals. I have a friend who's in our regency mastermind group, who has this vision of having an institute that trains leaders of leaders. He has this vision of an actual physical place where they come to learn and have meetings, how many people are in those meetings, where they're held and what the environment looks like and all these things that have yet to happen, but are in the process of coming to fruition. It's because he has a true vision. So journal that. What are the pictures you see in your head that look like meteoric success in achieving this mission. Take some time here.

4. Define your goals: if you have a goal with no attached date, it's been said that a goal without a date is a dream.

I would go so far as to say, a goal without a date is wishful thinking. I sure wish this would happen. I sure wish I would have a million dollars one day. Well, how much money did you put in the bank today? None. Why not? I don't have any, because I have no income. Why not? I'm waiting for it to show up in my mailbox. Not how it works. I won't rule that out, but usually you have to sow in order to reap.

5. Take the required actions: when you set your goals you automatically know most of the things you'll have to do to make those goals get accomplished.

You need to go a step deeper and think about the process more in-depth. Look at what it looks like when the goal is accomplished and then work backwards in your journal. What has to happen in order for me to get to mission accomplished and accomplish my goal? The following things have to happen. If I have an online business I have to have a blog, some ideas, be able to write about the ideas, build an email list, have products and services to sell, and have a merchant account in order to take payments. I have to have a business license.

There are a host of things that have to take place before you actually have accomplished your mission. Write those things down and here's what's hard for most people. Key five-take the actions... do the work! You have to. If you're a farmer and you have a field, barns, equipment and seed but the seed stays in the barn in the sack and you never plow the soil, plant the seed and cultivate it then you won't reap the harvest. You have to actually do the work that's required.

Your assignment then is to journal your answers to these questions as you prepare your plans and goal setting for 2016. Most of us are setting goals for the coming year. These are important and crucial steps along the pathway as you do that process, in order to have success in the coming year and not look back at the end of this coming year and say it's no different than it was the year before.

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**Sean:** All right, you can find the show notes for this episode, including a transcription by going to [RayEdwards.com/197](http://RayEdwards.com/197).

If you received value from this show, please consider subscribing using the Apple podcast app and if you're feeling extra generous, give us a rating and writing a quick review in iTunes. That would be really awesome.

**Ray:** Actions are the fuel for the fires of achievement. Go out and make stuff happen.

Until we meet again, may God continue to do more for you than you can ask or possibly even imagine.

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