



RAY EDWARDS

Ray Edwards Show, Episode 408

A Bunch Of Stuff That Happened

Voice Over: Ray Edwards Show. Episode 408. A bunch of stuff that happened.

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Voice Over: The Ray Edwards Show. This is the podcast for prosperity with purpose.

Ray: Welcome to another edition of the Ray Edwards Show. This is another on the road recording. My executive assistant and I, Tiffany Laughter-Twining we're having a conversation about Cliff Ravenscraft's event, Free the Dream event and we kind of lapsed into talking a little bit about my history, how I've come to the place I am in my life right now. I guess it's appropriate for us today, September 23rd, 2019 is actually my birthday. Birthday number 54.

It's a good time to reflect on how I got to this place in my life, I think, and if not, if that doesn't interest you, then skip to next week, I'll teach you something solid. For now, it's an episode we call, a bunch of stuff that happened.

Tiffany: I feel like you're living your best life. You've actually said that to me too. We all kind of know why. You were talking about this earlier like how you're so in love with your life and everything. I realized the only thing that changed was your mind.

Ray: Well now. That's interesting.

Tiffany: Because your life has been the same since I've known you, but now you just have a different view.

Ray: What does that look like from where you first met me and got to know me to now? When you say my life has been the same, how do you describe that?

Tiffany: We've traveled. I know what it might be. Before we would Uber and now we rent radical cars.

Ray: That's true. You know, before I would fly into an event the day I was going to speak, speak, and then fly out the next day. The only part of the city I was in that I would see is the airport and the hotel.

Tiffany: Why did you do that?

Ray: Because I was being efficient.

Tiffany: What would you do then? You got done speaking, would you just come back to your hotel or would you meet with other speakers?

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Ray: No, I'd come back to the hotel.

Tiffany: And do what?

Ray: Write, do email, be impatient to get to the airport. I was super uptight.

Tiffany: Because you're not like that now.

Ray: I needed somebody to look at that situation and say, "Why do you do this? Why don't you do something fun while you're in Nashville, for crying out loud?" That was a new concept for me to actually get there the day before and leave the day after and do something to actually experience the city that I was in. Then we started renting the cars.

Tiffany: Why did we wait so long on that? I mean, I don't not appreciate being picked up by an Uber because it takes the stress out of driving sometimes.

Ray: Well, like here in New York City, I don't think I want to rent a car in New York City.

Tiffany: No. But in Nashville, there is enough open road.

Ray: You could get into real trouble.

Tiffany: Yes, I kind of have delayed saying this to you. I almost feel like saying it would jinx it, but isn't it weird how this is the fourth trip where we've rented fast cars, I haven't gotten a ticket?

Ray: Yes, it's weird.

Tiffany: I feel like I'm protected.

Ray: Because you've been driving really fast.

Tiffany: I could have been caught going-- This could be--

Ray: 110.

Tiffany: Yes. It'd be a big ticket. Anyway, so there's that, but I get you safely to and from your destinations. [laughs]

Ray: I get you safely to and from your destinations at 110 miles an hour.

Tiffany: You might be perspiring out of the shared exhilaration you're experiencing, but you arrive calm and collected, ready to go on stage.

Ray: I'm living my best life and nothing's changed except my mind. That's true. It's a perspective shift because really nothing in my external circumstance has changed.



Tiffany: No. Almost nothing. In fact, I can't think of one thing that has changed. I don't know everything, but I see when we're working.

Ray: We were always making a lot of money, compared to what most people think, it was a lot of money. We were always honored when I came to speak somewhere, treated well. Nothing has really changed except my attitude about life, but I was depressed. I had depression. That's a little different I think than just being depressed. You can be depressed temporarily about something that happens, but then normal people get over it. I hung on to it like it was a pet.

Tiffany: Like a bush baby.

Ray: Well, not as cute as a bush baby. If you haven't done this yet, just Google bush baby, we'll wait, you'll be about half an hour or so.

Tiffany: [laughs]

Ray: Because they're like little monkeys.

Tiffany: But better.

Ray: But better. If you know how to get a bush baby, contact me. You can send an email to tiffany@rayedwards.com, she'll mediate the whole thing, we'll get a bush baby. We're kind of off-topic, but maybe this will get us a bush baby for the office and for trips.

Tiffany: For trips, it could be your emotional support creature.

Ray: Yes, I'm all for this.

Tiffany: It would go with your yellow hat that you just got at Hat Works, spelled weird. The shopping is not over yet though. I get to shop for my job. It's a really cool job.

Ray: I get to talk for my job.

Tiffany: I feel like you're paving a new way.

Ray: What do you mean by that?

Tiffany: Well, you're like branching off this other way. The crowd is like barreling this direction, but you're branching off this way and I notice that some people are looking at you and some people are turning and following you.

Ray: The only way I can see that I'm veering off is I'm being more real and more honest about what's going on in my life and in my business and not trying to portray a picture of things being better than they really are.

Tiffany: Yes, but you're also speaking really strongly about miracles.

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Ray: Well, yes. All you have to do is experience one or two and you can't help but speak strongly about them.

Tiffany: You're causing other people to believe you who have not experienced miracles yet.

Ray: We had an interesting experience. This makes me think about something that happened backstage at Cliff's event. I won't name the person because I don't have their permission, but he's an engineer. He's a very mathematical logical guy. He was telling us about his bulging disc or dislocated, some kind of disc problem in his back and he's going to have surgery. We talked about different alternatives because like my stepdad had back surgery and he wishes he'd never done it.

Tiffany: Oh, and it's so painful. Having even just a bulging disc is extremely painful.

Ray: Everybody I've known who's had surgery for that has said, "I wish I'd never had the surgery."

Tiffany: What did they do? Fuse?

Ray: Yes, they fuse it and it hurts even worse and then they're stuck because there's nothing else they can do. I was telling this person about that and then I said, "Well, we could just pray for it and get it healed." He said something like, "Well I know you pray for me anyway?" I said, "Well, yes, but let's do it right now." This is a very common experience for me. It happens so casually that I don't think about it before I do it. I just started praying for him, and as I'm finishing up, and the prayer is never very sophisticated, it's always just like, "Jesus, heal this bulging disc. Amen."

I asked him, "What's something you couldn't do before? Like, what would have hurt before we came in here?" He said, "Turning my head." I said, "Try." He turned his head and he said, "Well, that's weird." I said, "Is it better?" He said, "Yes." I said, "How much better?" He said, "Well, it's 30% better." I said, "Well, great. Let's go for 100%," because that's how we were trained at the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry.

There's a scripture that talks about the seed is sown and some farmers get 30% returns, some get 60%, some get 100%. What we were taught was, if you get to 30, you need to be thankful for it and ask for more, for the rest of it. That's what we did. We prayed again and he said, "It's almost all gone. That's really weird." I had to think about this.

I saw him again today and I said, "How's your neck?" He said, "It's still mostly gone. Some of it is back." I just put my hand on the back of his neck and when I finished, he moved his head around and he said "That's weird. Thanks, Ray." That's what I think of as an everyday miracle. Things like that happen all the time at these meetings. At least, that's been my experience.

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Tiffany: Yes, and even those simple miracles can transform somebody's idea of even God's love for them. That's what I experienced in Redding.

Ray: Talk about that experience.

Tiffany: Well, I went to the service on Friday night all by myself and I was actually excited but nervous. I was standing there and I'm taller than everybody and aching. I was aching my entire body. It's like I couldn't wait to sit down, but we were singing and stuff and there was this couple ironically from Nashville--

Ray: Really?

Tiffany: Yes. Who were standing next to me, and then the pastor was like, "It's time to pray over everybody." I was like, "Crap. I've never prayed over anybody," but instead of me having to do that, this couple turned to me and they're like, "Can we pray for you?" I was like, "Yes, my neck is hurting." I didn't go into the fact that my entire body was hurting.

They said a really quick prayer and all of that went away. I felt like, "Oh, my God. You see me. You see me and my pain." I actually left right after that. I got in my car, I was crying. I called Troy, I'm like, "You can't believe what just happened." I was blaring my music in that Chrysler with a really awesome stereo.

Ray: That was the M300 you got.

Tiffany: That was the beginning. I blasted down the road. It was like, "Oh, my gosh." The simple small miracle really shifted my thinking about how God loved me and saw me, and He was there.

Ray: I don't think I've ever told you about the effect that had on me.

Tiffany: You had an effect?

Ray: From your experience. I was not feeling well and I stayed in my room and slept. I slept the whole time I was in Redding.

Tiffany: I remember.

Ray: I was there to speak at an event. I was supposed to be going out with them to pray for businesses and do all this other stuff, and I just slept the whole time. I sent you to the service, I said, "You should go to the Friday night service," and I didn't go with you. I remember thinking, "Oh my God, she's probably going to quit her job."

Tiffany: No way.

Ray: Because I sent her to this crazy environment that's going to freak her out. When you told me the next day about what happened, I was blown away. I called my wife and I said, "Lynn, I have to tell you what happened to Tiffany."

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Tiffany: I really needed that in that time. It had been a really long time since I felt like I heard from God. I felt like I was desperate to hear from Him in that day, in that day, in that moment. He came through in a weird way. I didn't expect that, but it's like I went to that service in hopes that he would speak to me.

Ray: I knew that when you entered that service, that there would be a part where they'd say, "Put your hands on your neighbor pray for them."

Tiffany: Oh my God. Good thing you didn't tell me.

Ray: Because I know that's how they operate. They believe that every believer has the power to pray for other believers and they can be healed. You have this power, this direct connection to God. I've been there many times. I've experienced it many times. I knew what I was sending you into. That's why I thought, "Well, she's going to quit. This will be the end of Tiffany working for me."

Tiffany: Oh my God. No, it was awesome. It was really cool, because I got back in the car we've gotten. I was just crying, like, "This is amazing. Finally, I'm hearing from you." There was a song that came on. It's by Zigala, some chick. I love all her album covers. It's called *I Came Here for Love*. It was the first song that came on. I was like, "Is there anything more?" [chuckles]

Ray: I remember you playing this for me and telling me that now.

Tiffany: That was really cool.

Ray: We say it's an everyday miracle. It's amazing when it happens. It's like when Sean went to the school of ministry, Lynn and I were convinced he had joined a cult and we went down there. I joke about these people and they think it's just a joke that I tell on my story from stage, but it's the truth. We thought he had joined a cult, because we read about it online and all the stuff that happens down there.

Tiffany: Is that not completely ironic? I know you had a huge adventure with Bethel and that whole school, but look at you then, now look at you now.

Ray: So different. We went down there in the RV prepared to pack up all of Sean's stuff. I was actually researching deprogrammers that specialize in getting people out of cults. Because I thought that's what we were going to do, to get Sean out of the cult. We audited classes for a week and I was freaked out by what happened. I went to the Friday night service and I was like, "I can only stand here for 30 minutes." I left. I said, "This is too weird. I can't take this."

Tiffany: What do you think was weird about it?

Ray: I had never experienced worship that went on that long and where people stood up the whole time. I grew up at a church where we sat when we sang the hymns. We only sang the first verse and the last verse. We skipped the two in between.



Tiffany: You're like, "Wait, this is weird."

Ray: This is weird. These people are singing like they actually enjoy it.

Tiffany: You know what actually I remember from that service too is that it weren't these victim songs. It wasn't like, "I was such a sinner and now--" It was all praise.

Ray: That's interesting that you noticed that because one of the first things that Bill Johnson said that ever caught my attention was, he said, "As Christians, we shouldn't be writing songs that are odes to our problems. That memorialize our problems, that worship our problems, and I realized, "Oh, that's all of Christian radio."

Tiffany: You said something that was like, "God doesn't want you in that place. He has forgiven you from all that crap, and He doesn't want you groveling at His feet. Stand up and praise."

Ray: Yes.

Tiffany: I can't wait to go back there.

Ray: It's going to be so wonderful. I love going back there. We audited classes for a week, and I thought, as we were getting ready to leave, we came into our RV, and we decided we weren't going to rescue Sean after all. Sean said, "I want to have my revival group prophesy over you guys." I had no idea what he was talking about. I never heard of prophesying over anybody.

Tiffany: At that point, where were you in this, "Oh, my gosh, this is a cult," or were you kind of coming to see--?

Ray: I was like, "It's kind of a cult, but it's a harmless cult. It seems to be mostly good. They do some weird stuff, but, maybe, I'm okay with it." He said, "My revival group wants to prophesy over you." I didn't understand what prophesying over somebody meant. That it meant getting a word from God and giving it to the person. Lynn and I, that morning, we're in the RV talking about life and how we feel about it.

We go to the room where Sean's revival group which is a small group of students he was going to school with. They'd gotten in a circle around us. There was like, I don't know, 10 of them. Young people, his age, and they start speaking words I felt like they've heard from God for us, and they were all good, but there was this one young lady who started saying things. She was repeating word for word, things that Lynn and I had said to each other in the RV that morning, and nobody else was there.

Tiffany: I'm getting goosebumps, right now.

Ray: I started crying. I couldn't help myself. I was like, "How is this real? How's this happening?" I looked at Lynn. She was crying. We were blubbering like babies. I mean, like ugly cry. Snot, the whole thing. We left there in an altered state, walking



back to the RV and I'm thinking to myself, "How am I going to tell Lynn that I think now not only should we not rescue Sean from this cult, we should come to school here."

Tiffany: Was she ready for that?

Ray: We got in the RV, and she says something like, "I don't know how to tell you this, but I think we need to come to school here." We applied while we were there to go to this school. That's how that happened. Some people will say, "Well, that's a small miracle." It wasn't small for us. It was monumental. It steamrolled our life and it changed our life.

Tiffany: Completely. A complete 180.

Ray: The next lesson I learned out of that was, even that wasn't enough to prepare me for what was coming when I got the diagnosis.

Tiffany: Let's talk about that for a minute. I know you and I have talked about a lot about your diagnosis. If it weren't for Parkinson's, I don't think that you would have the humility or the reach that you have now.

Ray: I think you're right. This is really the first time I've admitted this publicly because, for a long time, I've railed against that whole idea that-- I still don't believe God gave me Parkinson's to humble me. You said something about the humility I demonstrated when I talked at this event that we were in. I said to you, "It's not hard to be humble when you are being humbled." That is really what is happening. I was an enormously proud man.

Tiffany: I didn't really know you then, but I could see that.

Ray: I did not want to display any sign of weakness and now I can't help it. I step up on a stage, and my voice is weak and my steps are slow. There's nothing I can do except press through and deliver the message I was sent there to deliver. While all the things that gave me any cause for thinking I could be proud of myself are stripped away from me. I think any disease is not from God; Cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, you name it. Hashimoto's, sinus infections.

Tiffany: He really uses them for your own good.

Ray: Exactly.

Tiffany: It truly is and I'm seeing this unfold in front of me.

Ray: Exactly. He's used Parkinson's to totally reform my character because the truth is I was a proud, arrogant, selfish bastard.

Tiffany: Which might be a good lead into the 10 worst things you've done.

Ray: The topic that will not go away.

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Tiffany: Maybe the top three.

Ray: The first one was Lynn had a baby named Sean and Ray bought a motorcycle.

Tiffany: How soon after she had the baby?

Ray: Almost immediately.

Tiffany: Hour?

Ray: Not an hour. Like within a month.

Tiffany: How much was the motorcycle?

Ray: I Don't know. It was way more than we could afford. I borrowed money to buy it.

Tiffany: Without any kind of knowledge on her part, you went and got this motorcycle. Not only did you get a motorcycle, you got a loan to get the motorcycle. You bring it home, you come upstairs jingling the key, what did she say?

Ray: I don't remember exactly. That's the worst part. I don't remember what her reaction was.

Tiffany: Why isn't that okay? Maybe you've just had to block it out.

Ray: Maybe, I know she was not pleased.

Tiffany: Maybe she knocked you out.

Ray: She should have. That was the first worst thing I did. The second worst thing I did was, I got us deeply in debt because I just wanted stuff and I wanted it now. I didn't think about her security, her need for feeling safe.

Tiffany: What about the third thing?

Tiffany: It's kind of related I think. I placed my own desire for satisfaction in my life ahead of hers or Sean's. I had career goals I wanted to meet and I was willing to meet them at whatever cost. We would move anywhere, go anywhere. I would pay any price to get to the next biggest market. In radio, that was the thing. Your goal is to get to the next biggest market, to top 100 markets where the play field and the goal was to get to either one of the top three markets, New York, LA or Chicago.

Tiffany: During that, I almost want to say tailspin of a journey, Lynn, was she supportive of your moves and your ambition?

Ray: She was. I wish we had her here right now, so she could talk about this.

Tiffany: I know, that'd be so cool.

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Ray: I think she was probably terrified because I was not delivering the security she needed. Those are the worst things. Now I feel like a jerk. I feel like everybody hates me now.

Tiffany: No, they don't. That was a while ago, and you've obviously learned, which might be a great road into the top three best things you've done.

Ray: Well, without a doubt, number one is surrendering my life to Jesus. I don't just mean getting saved like in a church service, I mean really surrendering my life.

Tiffany: Like recently.

Ray: Yes, when I was at the bottom of the pit. I was so depressed, I was ready to die. Literally, I was ready to die. I told God either fix me or kill me because I can't.

Tiffany: That's exactly where He wanted you. Not to die, but that space.

Ray: To surrender.

Tiffany: Yes. Otherwise, what would he have ever done with you or your business if you weren't really ready to surrender it?

Ray: When I did that, seemingly, everything changed. I'm suddenly in love with my life. I'm in love with my wife. I'm in love with God. I'm in love with waking up in the morning and I'm still occasionally frustrated by Parkinson's disease, but it's because like I get impatient trying to unscrew a bottle top, but it's really not that important to me overall. That's the number one best thing. The next best thing I did with my life was I married Lynn.

Tiffany: God, how old were you?

Ray: 20.

Tiffany: 20 and she was what? 25?

Ray: Yes.

Tiffany: Way to go brother.

Tiffany: I married a hot divorcee.

Tiffany: I want to see pictures of her from back then.

Ray: The third best thing was we had Sean.

Tiffany: Can we talk about the second best thing for a minute?

Ray: Yes.



Tiffany: Where was the first time you saw Lynn?

Ray: I saw her in a play.

Tiffany: What play?

Ray: The *Night of January 16th*, it was a play written by Ayn Rand.

Tiffany: Ironic that your son seems to devour all of the Ayn Rand books.

Ray: He doesn't remember where he got that.

Tiffany: Let's serve this as a reminder, Sean.

Ray: Remember, my son, this is the origin of your parents' romance. Gross out on that. I saw her in this play and I thought, "That woman is hot." Then I went to work at a radio station and I realized she worked-- I was working on the FM station, she was working on the AM station. I realized it was her. I was like, "I have got to date her."

Tiffany: Was she dating anybody at the time? Did she give you any inclination that she might be interested?

Ray: No, she didn't.

Tiffany: Did she look at you? Did she give you the eye? Nothing?

Ray: I didn't think there was anything. There was a mutual friend we had, she was interested in me, the mutual friend, and I wasn't interested in her.

Tiffany: You're like, "Could you hook me up with your pal?"

Ray: No. She was talking to Lynn. She's talking about me and she said-- I don't know exactly what she said, but she said things that made Lynn think about me in a different way. We were at a party together with people we worked with. I don't know if she's going to be happy. I don't know if I should even tell this on the podcast.

Tiffany: Tell it.

Ray: We were at this party with all these radio people and we were drinking, which is what radio people do in a party, and like everybody else on the planet. Lynn and I were sitting on the floor singing *Comfortably Numb*.

Tiffany: Together?

Ray: At the top of our lungs.

Tiffany: That's so cute. Before that, how were you guys sitting on the floor together?

Ray: I don't know how we ended up there.



Tiffany: That's so cute. After that night, what happened? I mean, not during the night.

Ray: Things happened.

Tiffany: Back then, there were landlines. Did you get her phone number?

Ray: Yes, but I didn't really need it. If you know what I'm saying.

Tiffany: Oh, you moved in. I mean, for the kill. You were, what, 19?

Ray: Yes.

Tiffany: 19. What made you think that you could secure a relationship with a much more sophisticated woman who happened to be a couple of years your senior? You must have been pretty cocky.

Ray: I was. I just didn't doubt it. She said, "Don't get emotionally involved, this is just for fun."

Tiffany: You're like, "Already there, babe."

Ray: I said, "Okay." Second year later, I proposed. She said, "I'm not sure this can last." I said, "I will make it last." So far, it's lasting.

Tiffany: What year are you on?

Ray: 34.

Tiffany: Your top three things include?

Ray: Surrendering my life to Jesus, marrying Lynn, having Sean. Then, number four is this new phase of my life where, as you put it, I'm living my best life, which is really I just finally I feel free to be who I am, without pretense.

Tiffany: Actually, I really feel like you're like that.

Ray: Which means something to me because you never hesitate to tell me when you think I'm full of crap.

Tiffany: You enjoy yourself at the dinners. You don't try to just dart out of a room really quick.

Ray: I used to not enjoy being around people. I was talking to Lynn last night and I said, "It's weird. I'm at a place in my life now where I actually want to and enjoy entertaining people and being with them."

Tiffany: Does she love that? Because I feel like Lynn would love that.



Ray: Yes. I feel sad that it's taken me this long to get there because she loves it so much.

Tiffany: Now you're here.

Ray: Yes.

Tiffany: Maybe you're in a better place to be doing it.

Ray: Yes.

Tiffany: Okay. If you publish this, what would you call it?

Ray: I don't know. I'm happy with it. I don't know if anybody is interested in it.

Tiffany: Can you just shut up?

Ray: [laughs]

Tiffany: People are interested in this. Seriously, this is what we talked about the last podcast about what-- It's like, you can teach people and you should, but the full picture, right?

Ray: Yes. This is what we talked about.

Tiffany: Yes, it's jilted and a little bit scattered, but I think it's--

Ray: Well, that's like life, isn't it?

Tiffany: Yes.

Ray: Life doesn't work like movies where there's neat little plot points happening along the way where you know what's going to happen next. It's like there's an episode of *The Simpsons* where to get to the end and Marge said something to Homer about, "What was the lesson?"

Tiffany: [laughs]

Ray: Homer says, "Marge, there is no lesson. It's just a bunch of stuff that happened."

Tiffany: [laughs] Yes. Maybe we should call it that.

Ray: Just a bunch of stuff that happened. Done.

Tiffany: [laughs]

[music]



Tiffany: Yes because this rounds out the picture. You can teach people, but I think a lot of it, not all of it, but a certain part of it are your stories that people can learn from.

Ray: That's real. I would love to get rid of this disease, but without it, I would not be living my best life.

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