

Ray

E D W A R D S

The Daily Ray, Episode 05

The Truth About Clients, Agencies and Freelancers

Automated Speaker: It's Friday, February 28th and this is the Daily Ray.

Ray: The Daily Ray today is about the power of optimism. Optimism. I'm not talking about the kind of unrealistic optimism that people practice where they deny reality and they just forge ahead knowing they're walking into danger or stupidity or about to make a horrible mistake and just convince themselves it's going to be okay somehow magically. That's not what I'm talking about. What I'm talking about is optimism that is informed optimism. You have reasons to believe that your cause is achievable. Now, it doesn't mean your cause is likely. All we're looking for is possible because finding a toehold or a grip or just a strand of possibility leads to the achievement of the impossible. Think about it.

Our friend Hal Elrod wrote a book called the miracle equation and part of the miracle equation is the presumption that you can go from impossible to improbable, to probable to inevitable. Inevitable. How does that happen? It happens through the power of the human will. That's how it happens. The human will makes the difference often between impossibility and inevitability. The human will makes the difference between impossibility and inevitability. Think about the way that mankind ended up on the moon. It was impossible at the time that president Kennedy made the announcement, we were going to go to the moon, put a man on the moon. We didn't know if space would kill people or not. There was plenty of people who thought the radiation in space, no matter what you did with the spacecraft or how you shielded it, the radiation be too much to people would die in space. There are theories about what zero G would do to the human body that people would die in zero G. We didn't even know that we were survive. It was impossible and yet we went. It went from impossible to inevitable and now we're even kind of bored with the idea of going to the moon. We stopped going, which is a shame. That'll change mark my words. There's a coming in the next decade, there's a coming revolution in the space industry and it will become an industry, not a governmental military pursuit, but an industry and that's what will give it life. We'll be exploring the solar system. Not the galaxy yet because you don't have the propulsion systems to do that.

We have to remember that our reality is not caught up with our fantasies yet. We think about intergalactic travel. We think about star Trek or Star Wars, but we don't have

the technology to do that yet. But people are working on it. People are working on faster than light drives that will allow us to or near Light-speed drives that will allow us to travel quickly across the vast expanse of the universe. And people right now are saying that's impossible. But just like going to the moon was impossible. I believe it's not impossible. I believe it's inevitable. We have conceived it and we believe it and I believe we will achieve it because remember, whatever the mind of a man can conceive and believe he can achieve, or she can achieve. I'm gender friendly. My language sometimes is not. I'm working on it. Optimism.

Optimism is what allows us to have hope for the future. No matter what our circumstances are currently hopelessness, depression comes from not being able to construct in your mind the picture of a hopeful future. That's where depression comes from, and hope is not wishing hope is a positive expectation of good things to come. That's the kind of hope the Bible talks about. I believe the ultimate optimist was God. I mean, he made us and then put the planet in our care and said, go to it guys, and we really messed it up. We made a mess of it, but he knew we would. He had a plan for developing our character, through our own behavior, and thus we have faith which fuels our optimism, which fuels our sense of possibility, which fuels the inevitability that we will achieve what was once thought impossible. That's the power of optimism.

The power of optimism is what will carry you through a dark time when everyone else thinks you are done, everyone else thinks you might as well give up and you say, no, I will not give up. I've gone backed up as far as I'm going to back up. The enemy may come this far and no further. I draw the line here. That's what I've done with Parkinson's disease and sometimes I get criticism for talking about that so much, but it's a clear and present reality in my life. I deal with it every day. I don't say this to complain, I'm just telling you, I'm giving you a perspective. I know you deal with your own thing every day. That's one of the gifts that Parkinson's has, has given me is the empathy to understand. Everybody deals with something that I may not see, but the enemy may not pass the line that I've drawn in the sand as by good friend Doug Pew like to quote from one of our favorite movies, the way is shut.

So, Parkinson's, I'm told what the prognosis is, and I don't accept it. I said, this disease has pushed me so far, but no further. I draw the line here. You shall not pass. You shall not pass, stupid Balrog. My victory over my challenge that I face is inevitable because regardless of the outcome, I am victorious. If I learn, if I grow as a human being, if I make a contribution, if I take the poison, the enemy tried to give me the destruction that the disease has tried to wreak upon me and I turn it against the very thing that tried to destroy me. I have optimism that I have the power to do that and my optimism is fueled by my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You may not believe the same thing I believe about Jesus Christ. That's okay. It's not my job to try to change your mind. I'm just telling you what works.

What works for me. What only makes sense for me? What makes sense for me is my faith in Jesus gives me the power to accomplish anything and his grace gives me the freedom to not be under the weight of shame and guilt and fear. Because to quote one of my favorite movies, Oh brother, where art thou? One of the characters gets baptized and he comes out of the water and he says, I done been saved boys. Neither God man's got nothing on me. All my sins been washed away. Remember that scene and some say, well, does God's grace remove your responsibility for sin. Yes, it does. My sins had been forgiven past, present, even my future sentence. I don't have to worry

about sending anymore more. Sin has been defeated. It's done. And some have said, well, Jesus didn't die so you could do nothing. No, he died so we could do anything. So, my point that I'm circuitous, they try to make is what my friend Jason Sisson points out when he says he quotes and he says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities powers according to the apostle Paul." And you're right. Jason wrote me a note and said, I continue to pray for you and your healing, but also for God's grace. No matter what he brings your way, that my friends is the meaning of grace. Grace is unmerited favor.

People like to quote that scripture where Paul says, I know you may feel like I've gotten off track, but I promise I'm going to bring this back around. We're going to fly back around the airfield and land the airplane. You're gonna go, Oh, that's where he was headed. The apostle Paul wrote, he asked the Lord he had a thorn in his flesh. So, I have received a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, and I prayed to the Lord three times, remove it and he said to me, my grace is sufficient unto thee, the King James cause I grew up with a King James version of the Bible. Some people don't like it. I think it's a beautiful language. I don't think it's the, I'm not a King James only guy, but I think it's beautifully written. Many scholars agree it is the most beautiful piece of literature and English language and the Lord said unto me, my grace is sufficient unto thee. And people have used that to say sometimes God sends illness to keep us from being proud. I would argue against that. I believe that Paul wasn't even referring to an illness when he talked about his thorn in the flesh. That's a different, that's a different study. That's a different subject. Just look up, do this. If you're curious about it, look up. The number of times the, the phrase thrown in the flesh is using the Bible every time it's other people persecuting a single person and that's what Paul was talking about in this section where he's writing. He's bragging about being persecuted by the other apostles.

So anyway, he says, the Lord said, my grace is sufficient. Even though I don't believe that verse is about illness per say, it applies. It's been great comfort to me because no matter what happens, God's grace is sufficient for me. Doesn't matter what happens. Does not matter. I want to be relieved of all the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. I want that, but my life does not depend on it. My happiness does not depend on that outcome. My joy does not depend on that outcome. My optimism does not depend on that outcome. In the end, achieving a specific goal of healing or total health is not the point. The point is what happens to me along what happens to me through the journey. The journey itself is the point the overcoming to the obstacle is the point. God's grace is the point. His grace is unmerited favor is sufficient to me. Totally. Whatever happens to what the enemy might intend for my destruction, God turns to my good.

Optimism is a choice. Faith is a choice. Joy is a choice. Positivity is a choice. We choose, and the choice we make determines, the choice we make determines the quality of our lives. If we choose to be optimistic, if we choose to be cheerful, if we choose to be positive, if we choose to take joy in the journey, whatever that journey may bring. Remember, the most meaningful happenings in your life probably were preceded by periods of great pain. The progress, the new level of achievement, a new level of understanding and the level of wisdom that you got came through pain, so you should maybe rejoice when you are going through all kinds of trials. Maybe you got idea. Optimism, my friends will change the quality of your life. Suffering serves a purpose, but I almost don't like to use the word suffering. I think pain is inevitable. We

will have pain. Suffering is optional. I can transmute pain into something greater, something more useful, something more joyful, and there are always possibilities. There are always possibilities, my friends. We can go from the impossible to the inevitable in a single step. Why? Because with man, these things are impossible, but with God, all things are possible. All things are possible.

My prayer for you this morning is this. Jesus, I ask that you touch every heart, even the ones on this live broadcast or listening to this podcast who don't believe you even existed. You touched their hearts with your grace, with your love, with your forgiveness, with the life you offer, a freedom from any guilt or shame or fear that you would give each of us a new vision of your grace that you would allow us to see every moment of pain, every moment of suffering, every moment of persecution as not a destructive force come to eat us alive, but rather as an opportunity to demonstrate your power, your grace and your love turn what was intended for evil to good. Amen.

I bless you, my friends. I love you very much. I will plan to be here. 5:00 AM tomorrow, but I'm going to be at the airport, so all things would not be within my control in that regard. But if I'm not able to do 5:00 AM tomorrow, I'll do 5:00 PM tomorrow. So, there will be alive at five tomorrow, one way or the other. Okay? M'kay. Until then, be blessed. Be aware of it, and I won't see you soon.

Automated Speaker: To join forces with Ray and his team, visit Ray Edwards, agency.com join Ray live Monday morning at 5:00 AM Pacific on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Periscope for another Daily Ray.

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