

Ray E D W A R D S

Ray Edwards Show, Episode 447

Heaven in Business

[00:00:00] Ray Edward: Ray Edward Show, episode 447 heaven in business, the Ray Edward Show. This is the podcast for prosperity with purpose. What's up my podcast friends, it's Ray Edwards, was another addition to the Ray Edward Show and Tiffany left or has the week off again. Today, we have a special edition of the show. We're going to just listen to a talk I gave last week at Bethel Church in Redding, California at the Heaven in Business: Sacred Work Conference.

This was a conference for entrepreneurs who are believers and how they go about integrating their faith with their business. That was the subject of my talk in the Q&A. Let's get into it. I would love to hear your responses, comments, any questions you have. Hit me up on social media or come to the website. Let's do it. Here's the talk.

I just had a picture come to me that I felt like I was supposed to share with you. I'm going to do that first. I saw you and me. We're working on a swing set and you're-- anybody ever put together a swing set for your kids? That's a very peaceful, soul-nurturing, diligent, job and I saw us working on the swing set, sweating and grunting and saying very colorful things and then it's like the camera pulled back. We were trying to build this little playground and I saw Jesus over at the open gate of Disney World doing this and yet we just kept working on the swing set.

Maybe we should think about stopping that. Maybe, maybe not. Maybe this is what you're supposed to do. Let me know how that turns out. I'm going to Disney World. I was going to talk about Matthew 11 today. Shay stole my talk. Was she awesome?

[00:02:07] Audience: Yes.

[applause]

[00:02:11] Ray: Where you blessed by her? I realized God was speaking to me while I was-- I honestly had a moment of, "Oh, I was going to do that," and I felt the Lord say to me, "I'm still working with you on that." This is for you. This is not from you. I got a, had a prophetic session. My wife and I had one yesterday and one of the ladies spoke to me about, she said, "I see you sitting at a desk with a notebook receiving downloads from God and you're writing them down and you're in a season where I believe he's

saying to you, "you've gone to many teachers and you've been very humble and respectful, but now it's time for you to learn directly from me."

That wrecked me because just this week ago, I got a phone call from a friend of mine who's a very well-known entrepreneur who said, "I have somebody who wants to come visit you." It was a very busy week. I was grinding, so it was very difficult for me, but I knew this guy knew I was a Christian, so I had to give the nice response. I said, "Tell me more."

[laughter]

He said, "He wants to come meet you and talk to you about his new startup." I said, "Great." Inside. I'm thinking, "Please God, don't let him come." He did come and I just kept thinking, "What does he want?" This is where God revealed to me a mindset, a stronghold that he wanted to release me from. What does he want from me? I show up at my office 10 minutes before this meeting is supposed to happen cause I, of course, being very gracious if he can meet me at my office at this specific time. He's standing at the door. Internally, I am grunted again. Externally, I smiled. "Hey," he turns around, he's like Iron Man. There's a light coming out from under his shirt. Literally, there's a circular light under his shirt. I said the most intelligent thing I could think of at the time, "Hey, Tony Stark."

He laughed and he was wearing the technology that he's going to tell me about and he's building this startup as a multimillion-dollar, fully funded, debt-free, startup in the medical science world. We spent the next hour and a half together, he's proceeded to tell me how they're working with a company that's in this Forbes 100. I'll leave it at that. He's got mixed emotions about that and we were talking about how that was going to work. God just lit up something for me and I said, "I don't know if you've thought of this but," and I gave him an idea that I heard from God that was totally ridiculous. I know nothing about this guy's business. I know nothing about the other business that's involved other than it's huge. He just sat there with his jaw hanging open. He said, "I never thought of that. I need to call some people. We need to rethink the whole way we're doing this deal. This is what I came here for." I'd asked him earlier, "Why did you come here?" He said, "Just to talk to you." Okay, what he really said was, "Because I've been told you're the godfather," I'm thinking, "I saw that movie. That's not a flattering comparison."

We parted as now-friends who are going to stay in contact, and he left, and I realized he came on total faith. He told me the first thing out of his mouth when he sat down at my conference table was, "I'm a total Jesus-freak." I am like, "Okay, that's a point in your favor. So is my whole family, so is our company." We connected on that level. We prayed together and I just realized he flew from a city on the other end of the country to see me for an hour and a half and he got back on an airplane and he left because he wanted a word from God, not from me.

He was directed to me and I was directed to him so that that could happen. I told my wife about this and she goes, "Why did he come to see you?"

[laughter]

I love that woman. She's with me today. Lynn?

[applause]

Soon to be 35 years.

[applause]

I'm going to think what I'm going to do is something unusual. I have a few points I'd like to share with you and then based on what I share if you've got questions, I'm just going to do a lot of Q&A or this is going to be a very short session. If you have some cues pop into your head, write them down and I will answer them specifically because I've developed a belief that so often we come to things like this and we have specific questions we want the answers to and we don't ask because we're embarrassed to ask. I want to encourage you to release that embarrassment and just ask whatever the question is. Even if you don't think I know the answer because I probably don't. I'll just tell you that in advance, but I know somebody who does, and you all do as well.

This may be nothing more than an exercise in you letting go of your fear of what other people think to ask your question specifically. About nine years ago, I may be wrong on that number. I had my coming out day. I'm just enjoying the reaction.

[laughter]

I came out as a Christian businessperson publicly on my blog. I had, for those of you who don't know, which is probably almost all of you, I'm known as a copywriter and marketing consultant. I've had the great privilege of serving and working with people on their copy and their marketing campaigns, many of whom you would have heard of, some of whom you wouldn't have heard of. It's been a great privilege for me, and I've really enjoyed doing that. I still enjoy doing it. I'm working with people, teaching them how to do it for themselves now more than I do it for individuals.

I had built a pretty good business, a very high six-figure business and my son had graduated from college and decided he wanted to go to a ministry school in Redding, California. We lived in Spokane, Washington, still do. I looked up this ministry school on the internet, feathers, gold teeth, manifestation, cult. My wife and I drove down in our RV that holiday season, prepared to rescue our son from the cult and take him to a deep programmer to get him straightened out. We were here for a while. We audited classes for a week to see what weird stuff he'd gotten into. We joined the cult.

[laughter]

My wife will testify that's the fastest I've ever given our testimony.

[laughter]

Went back home. God said to me, "I'd like you to give me your business." I said, "Lord, everything I have is yours." He said, "That's funny because I see your name all over it. I don't see mine anywhere." I wrote a post on my blog that I was convinced would be the end of my previous business and would be my entree into the business of being a pastor. God said to me, "That's not what I have in mind for you. I have enough pastors in pulpits, I need ministers in the marketplace." I made the post. It blew up. It became the most popular post on my blog for a long time. My blog's at

rayedwards.com and the post if you want to see it sometime, it's called the *Secret of My Success*.

The secret is Jesus, and it caused a big stir. I got lots of negative feedback, almost all of it from Christians who wanted to correct my doctrine since I was obviously a prosperity gospel preacher. I was so naive at the time; I didn't really understand what the prosperity gospel was. I did quickly learn to ask them the question, "So you prefer the poverty gospel?"

[laughter]

That doesn't seem like it would go over very well. An interesting thing happened. I began talking more and more about Jesus and I began to get more and more people who are not Jesus followers attracted to our business because I did it in a way, I wasn't trying to be proper. I was just trying to be respectful. Telling people, you don't have to believe what I believe. I'm not telling you that. That's not my job to decide. It's not my job to convert you or convict you. I'm just sharing what's happening in my life and I have a lot of practical business knowledge you might want access to, and they did.

Time after time, we put on conferences in the marketing and business world and we have people show up who will come to me at a break or after the day's over and say, "I'm an atheist but I love coming to your conference because you have a way of teaching. I love your team. I love the atmosphere here." Or, "I'm a Muslim and I don't believe any of that stuff you say about Jesus, but I like hanging out with you and your people." I had one gentleman tell me, it was like he was angry. He's like, "All this Jesus talk, I'm a staunch atheist and I normally wouldn't go for that, but for some reason, whenever you talk about that stuff, I feel better."

[laughter]

You might want to inform your faith. I am a slow learner. I don't say that out of false humility. I say it out of truth. I keep having to learn the same lessons over and over again. Anybody feel me? Every major advance in our business has come as a result of my listening to the illogical voice of God telling me what to do. Every major pit I've fallen into is come out of me coming in from my very own logical, proven, tested plan. Why do I have to keep learning this lesson over and over again? I don't know, but I did. We went through the school of ministry the first year. My wife and I, we prayed for lots of people. We saw people heal miraculously from small, medium, and huge problems.

One of my good friends was healed from stage 4 cancer after we prayed for him. It was a total miracle. He has the body scan showing his body full of cancer before prayer, showing his body devoid of any cancer after the prayer. He told me the story of sitting in his doctor's office who had told him, "You need to get your affairs in order, you're going to die." His doctor said, "There's no cancer in your body." My friend said, "How is that possible?" The doctor said, "Well, it's not possible. This is what you'd call a miracle."

[laughter]

It's 2011 September 22, it's the day before I was supposed to speak at a Healing Rooms International Conference in Spokane, Washington. When I say speak, I was supposed to give an announcement about the offering right before Bill Johnson talked.

[laughter]

The day before, I went to my doctor's office for a small problem I've been having with my handwriting and I went to a neurologist and the neurologist said you have Parkinson's disease. My response was, "Oh, great because tomorrow I'm going to this healing conference. This is going to be a huge testimony. It's going to launch me into my healing ministry." I didn't say that to the doctor. I thought that would scare her. We went, I got prayed for by a lot of people who are well-known in the healing movement. I did my announcement; I can't remember what I said because I was totally terrified because I kept looking down at Bill Johnson sitting in the front row. I am like, "Don't say something wrong." I love Bill.

By the way, my favorite takeaway from yesterday? I think I got this right, "You can't enjoy the fruits of one Kingdom living out of the laws of another one." I had to soak that up again for a minute. There was no immediate evidence of my healing and things got worse and I ended up spiraling into a huge depression. Anger is God. All the cliched stuff you hear about that happens to people. It culminated in us running away in our RV into Glacier National Park in October in the cold pouring-- if you want to go somewhere to be depressed, go to Glacier National Park in October. Everybody's gone. All the leaves are off the trees. Everything's dead and closed down. It's rainy and cold and dreary and the only reason you would possibly go outside is, so your dogs don't poop in the RV.

Then we ran all over the country in our RV going to different healing ministry sites. We went to IHOP, we went to Toronto, we went to the International Church of Las Vegas, got prayed for various places, came back to Redding, did not get healed. It was getting more and more depressed. Coming up with more explanations of why I had not been healed, that were not good ones. They were the ones I thought up. One day my wife here in Redding at the RV park, not far from-- It's not far from here, it's that way. She pulled me close and she said, "I need to have a talk with you."

Please in advance I'm asking for some grace for giving me a voice. What I'm about to repeat what she said, she will deny she said. She has her facts mixed up. She said, "I need you to pull your head out of your ass."

[laughter]

I would love to say that I immediately changed, repented and became a renewed, revived person. That's not the way it happened but I would love to say that. Over time, I saw more and more the wisdom of what she was saying and I'm not claiming any perfection now. I still have off-days. Actually, it's more like off-hours now. It used to be off, it was off-months, then it became off-weeks, then it became off-days. Now I think we're down to off-hours where I forget who I am, whose I am, and the fact that even though my body still exhibits the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, and even though I am healed, it doesn't matter.

We're here temporarily to do something. We're all sent here to do something. What matters is do we do what we were sent here to do? Do we do it with joy regardless of the circumstances? Everybody in this room, I promise you, has a circumstance that they're not happy about and I'm not belittling your circumstance or your pain. I'm saying suggesting gently. Maybe it doesn't matter. Maybe that's not the important part. Now what I'm about to say does not mean I've developed a theology to explain away not being healed yet. I know that at the very least when I step into the full consummation of the Kingdom, I'm healed.

I expect it before then. I go to bed every night. If that's not today thinking, "One day closer." I woke up this morning thinking, "Maybe today's the day." That's my model for how to deal with that. In one of my periods where I was a little off-track, this was a little over a year ago, I had gotten into this idea of following other people's blueprints that had worked for them to get them to work for me. That was not working out really well and so one night I found myself going to bed saying, "Lord, I got nothing. I am ready to receive whatever you've got for me to do. My business needs help. My heart needs help. I got nothing."

I slept like a stone, which has not been my usual, and I woke up the next morning with a full-blown plan in my head about what to do with our business. The only problem with this plan was it was completely illogical and made no sense at all, and my friends in the business were going to mock me and ridicule me. I, of course, immediately took my plan public because I knew if I didn't do that, I'd be afraid to do it, I wouldn't do it at all. We did a webinar training. I started the webinar training like this, "Who's ever been in a webinar training where something was sold, an online class where they sold something at the end of the class? Who's ever been on one of those?" Who knows that the way you start that class is not by saying, "I'm here to sell you something really expensive? If you don't want that, you should stop watching." That was the brilliant plan the Lord gave me.

[laughter]

One day, \$600,000. Now, that's what the Lord told me. That may not be what he's telling you. Andy is like, "Good, good. Yes." A little while, I said I got a little off-track again. I told you I'm a slow learner. We put on a conference in Franklin, Tennessee. Some of you were there. It was an amazing conference. It was a business conference, and God completely took over. People were healed, marriages were restored, people were saved, and the guy who was there collecting the information for us about what our audience felt was happening gave me a report afterwards and said, "You need to cut back on those Jesus stuff."

To my embarrassment, I listened. I thought, "Was this what our audience said?" I had experienced the opposite. I don't know if this ever happens for you, but you experience something, you know it, and you let someone else's voice-- I let someone else's voice lead me off-track. Bill Johnson says-- I wonder how many sentences in this area start with those words, Bill Johnson says, "Our problem is not hearing God's voice, our problem is being willing to listen to others."

Thus, began my next sojourn in the wilderness. We had started a program called the Miracle Factor, and the reason it's called the Miracle Factor-- Lord, help me. When I

was born, my actual legal on the birth certificate, last name, was Miracle. I was born Lonnie Ray Miracle. Yes, I'm from the South.

[laughter]

When I was in trouble, it went like this, "Lonnie Ray Miracle, get yourself in here." I had never shared that publicly, but I began sharing it a lot because I felt like that's what the Lord was leading me to do. We started a membership community called the Miracle Factor. That was about the time my friend came and told me, "You need to cut back on this Jesus stuff." I had other friends who were telling me the same thing, I felt-- It wasn't going as well as I-- It wasn't a \$600,000 thing. I decided, "We must have been off-track with that." I'm just telling you the real-- I know I should, probably, if I wanted to promote myself better, I'd tell you all the miracles that we've experienced, but I feel like today what I'm supposed to do, unlike every other day, is to tell you the truth.

[laughter]

Then somebody mentioned haters, I started getting haters popping up online, talking about how I was using Jesus to make money or worse things than that. One of them really sought to get to me in a deep way and left me a voicemail, and I'm not going to detail the voicemail, but it was very angry and hateful, and it really made me stop and question myself, stop and say, "Is that really what God said?" Now, does that sound familiar? I may be a slow learner but I'm not stupid.

I realized, "This is the confirmation I need to get back up off my dusty-rusty and get back to doing what I was told to do, to start with." The next day, we opened up some new mastermind groups called Kingdom Business Masterminds. I made a strong declaration about recommitting our business to Christ. We've made it more our banner for marching out publicly than we ever have before. Some would say it's never been subtle, but now, it borders on the obnoxious. That's what God led me to do. That may not be what he's leading you to do. Hear me on that.

Since we made that declaration and started moving forward, two things have happened. One, we've been blessed as a business, and that's been awesome. Two, we've gotten more haters who've jumped on board. I agree, don't let your haters be your motivators unless they are.

[laughter]

This is just a small group that I believe were assigned to me to help me. I pray for them, and I bless them, and I thank them for their service, and I mean it. If you're watching, God bless you. I feel like one of the questions that's bothering some people in this room is, "How do I operate as a Kingdom business and do it carefully without offending? I don't want to put like a Jesus fish on my door." Or some are already there and wonder if they should go back the other way. This is how I would answer that question. There's a two-part answer. First, I'll tell you how to answer that if you're supposed to be very overt and forward, faith-forward, as one of my friends calls it, in your business, or whether you're supposed to be covert. I don't know.

Why don't you ask the one who's handing out the assignments? He will tell you as he told me, and I am following his directions to the letter. I'm a slow learner but I think I've learned. I'll continue to remind myself, and in case I don't, my wife's always there to help me if I need a cranial-rectal extraction. There's a saying that I've heard, maybe you've heard it too, "Higher levels, bigger devils." Ever heard that? You believe that? No? I didn't until I started having some bigger devils come my way. I'm like, "Well, now I need to figure out what to do with this because I don't believe this but it's happening."

I went back to my experience at my conference where the stats were telling me one thing and I experienced a different thing. I think it was Benny Hinn who said, yes, I quoted Benny Hinn, Benny Hinn who said, "A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an opinion." My experience of late has been, if you are moving in great strides forward in your destiny, whatever that destiny may be, for the Kingdom, whatever you've been called to do you, and you sense resistance coming at you from the enemy, that's probably a sign that you caught his attention.

That was a sign that before he was very happy with what I was doing. He was going to do what he could to help keep me comfortable. I do not want the devil keeping me comfortable. As I was wrestling with this whole question of whether to just really step out boldly and say, "I am a person who teaches entrepreneurs who are Christians how to take Christ into the marketplace," and just be very upfront about that, I was wrestling with whether I could openly talk about prosperity in Christ. The one statement invites critics from outside the church. The other statement invites critics from inside the church. I was proposing to invite all the critics. A friend of mine at the table where we're having dinner, we're discussing this, said, "Well, Ray, I didn't even know you as a copywriter. I know you as the Prosperity with Purpose guy. 48 weeks out of the year, you're the prosperity guy, and then four weeks out of the year, you're the copywriting guy. You're like 48:4."

I've been around the church long enough to know a Bible verse reference when I hear one, 48:4. I went searching them out. I found this one in Genesis. "Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession." I said, "Come on, that's mine." I believe that's ours. My recommendation to you is if you feel directed by God to be very faith-forward, don't listen to any man who would tell you to do something different.

God knows what He's doing. It may not look like \$600,000 in a day. It may look very different from that. My advice about how to do it is do it with grace. Sometimes people will quote to me, "Let no corrupt talk come out of your mouth." Have you heard that verse? Usually, they're quoting it to me because they heard me say something salty. I think it's important to read that entire verse in Ephesians because it says, "Let no corrupt talk come out of your mouth, but only that which imparts grace to the hearer."

When I'm speaking to an audience at what most people think of as a secular marketing event, where there's 1500 people in the audience, I will say to them, "I follow Jesus Christ and I believe he's the son of God. You don't have to believe that to use what I have to say, but I'm telling you the principles that I'm teaching comes straight from him," and we just move on. That's given me more ministry opportunities than most ministry speaking engagements I've had.

I just encourage you, just do it with grace. If you try to argue people into the Kingdom, my experience is that's not usually a successful strategy. If you love people into the Kingdom, it seems to me that works a lot better. If you want to share Jesus, in my experience, you can simply say, "Well, I'm not trying to tell you what to believe. I just want to share something that happened for me, and you can do with it what you will."

Nobody can argue with your experience of the Lord. They can argue with your theology unless you refuse to argue, which I do. I'm not interested in debating people about theology. I know somebody who's got theology all figured out. His name is Jesus. This grace thing that Shay was talking about earlier, grace over grind, that's important. There's so many things for me in my walk with the Lord. My walk as a businessperson in the marketplace is also bringing the Kingdom. We have supernatural healings take place in our conference.

In my consultations, I've been on consultation calls with a client that didn't even know that I had anything to do with Jesus, and in the middle of the conversation, the Holy Spirit prompted me to ask a phrase I don't think I've ever asked any other human being except this one person. In the middle of a business consultation, I interrupted her and said, "Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?" I had been wrestling with the Holy Spirit saying, "Really, don't make me say that." That sentence unlocked something in her. It was like a key and a lock. She accepted the Lord on that call.

I have two more things to release, and then I will answer any questions that you have about any of this stuff. If you even can figure out what this stuff is because, at this point, I'm confused myself. I don't really know. There's a verse that my wife latched on to, and we've been sharing it back and forth for years now. It's this, "The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking." I won't go into the whole thing. You guys know this, already. I'm sure. In this passage, in Romans 14:17, Paul's talking about, the way I read it, he's talking about not getting hung up on whether other believers follow the same rules as you do as if they're proper Christians.

We all know we're the ones that are right, but I'm talking about all those other people. The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking. It's not rules and regulations but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. In the message translation, which I agree with you about that, it'll get you all kinds of messed up, God's Kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone, pleasing to God above you and proving your worth to the people around you. You're worth coming through the righteousness of Christ.

I've been having lots of conversations with people. This is a different subject, just for those of you who need a chapter marker about these things. Everybody has one of these. There's a fashionable trend these days to say these are the tools of the devil. They distract us from one another. They pour filth and hatred and division into our lives, into the lives of our children. While I understand where these people are coming from, I also think that's total BS, belief system. What were you thinking? This is neutral. It's what we put into it that makes the difference.

Imagine, if you will, that it's the time of Gutenberg and they begin printing books. Your local preacher is saying, "These books are evil. There are evil things in them. Stay

away from books. Don't let your kids have books. Don't you read books. Don't let people you know read books. Let's do everything we can to hold back the books." Well, that's ridiculous. These are the books of today. This is where the people are. This is where they're reading, listening, watching. I say let's invade this place. Let's own it. How do we do that?

My current experiment is we're giving away everything we can, every day, as much as possible, on every platform. We're currently up to 52 pieces of content a day, video, audio, images, text, and my goal with every piece of content is to release a little bit of the Kingdom of Christ into the internet, through those channels, every day, freely. Sometimes it takes the form of an encouragement for somebody who's having a hard day. Sometimes it takes the form of praying for people. Sometimes it takes the form of giving them business advice that'll help make them money, because two things get people's attention, miracle and money. So, when I give them both, "Thank you, dad."

Somebody once said, "Freely, you have received, freely, give." We give a lot of stuff away for free. That's not totally unique in the business I'm in, online education, where we sell training courses and classes and seminars and workshops. People often give stuff away for free, but usually, it's a tease, isn't it? It's like, "We'll give you a little piece of the puzzle, but to learn the real secret, you have to pay us." We've been turning that upside down. We give away the real secret upfront, and if you want the trivial stuff, you may pay us. That seems to be working well.

We're also working on a ratio of giving away 10 to 20 times, whatever we ask for. So, 10 free messages or pieces of information or tools or tactics to everyone message that says, "Hey, here's where you can come pay us for our products." Now, that's what the Lord said to me, maybe not what he's saying to you. I'm just giving you examples through our own business. Giving freely is working well like Jesus said it would. Cast your bread on the water, it'll come back to you tenfold. That might be in the form of money, it might not. It might be in the form of healing. It might be in the form of a blessing. It might be in the form of peace. It might be in the form of friends. Prosperity. Here's the scandalous thing about prosperity. If you're worried about the prosperity gospel, you should be really worried because it's a lot worse than you think it is. It's not just money. It's health, happiness, wholeness, great marriages, great kids, wonderful communities and a better earth. We get upset with people who are into ecology, we should be the first people in line to save the earth, to redeem the earth. That's our job. It's our assignment. That's what we're here for.

If anybody in this room is struggling with, "do I go all out and just say, I'm in business and I serve Jesus Christ?" You say even in churchy language, "The Lord Jesus Christ."

[laughter]

If you're feeling that question, then the answer is, "yes." When did we become afraid of the name Jesus? There's only one group of entities in the universe who should be afraid of the name Jesus. That is not us. I'm not careful. I'll start preaching. Anybody have any questions?

[00:41:29] Participant: Someone told me that there's an awakening going on in online entrepreneurial leaders across America. Can you tell us anything about that?

[00:41:42] Ray: Yes. There's a huge, I would say formerly underground now coming to the forefront movement of online businesspeople who are sold out to the Lord and they've begun to find one another through some mysterious force and band together as brothers and sisters and bring the Kingdom in bigger, bolder ways. I was shocked. One of these people contacted me and said, "I'd like you to join this prayer group we have on Monday mornings," and I thought, "Oh, great, a Christian businessperson's prayer group. Just what I wanted." It's the most powerful group I've been part of. It's wrecked my life for the better. These guys have become-- I count on them. I have things happen in my life. I text him, say, "This is what's going on, pray for me." They do the same.

They are bringing the gospel into the marketplace in ways that would blow your mind. There's one person who was invited into a large organization with his company to provide some training and they brought the gospel to a gospel-less organization. They watched as Jesus melted hearts and healed people in these totally secular services. They did it while honoring their host without doing anything that would dishonor the people who'd ask them to be there because the power of God is not reliant upon whether or not we speak the magic words. It's, "Do we carry the presence of God with us and to every situation?" These businesspeople, maybe you're one of us. We are reformers. We are reforming the world of business. We are reforming it in the shape of the one who created it. At his command, this is the way.

Any other questions?

[00:44:04] Ludwig: Thank you for putting it out there to ask questions. My name is Ludwig. You mentioned the cell phone, the mobile device that some people call his phone, the evil one or is used by the evil one. What about artificial intelligence?

[00:44:23] Ray: No such thing. I know there's something we call artificial intelligence. Thank you for the question, by the way. I'm not belittling your question. Let's think about what we mean by artificial intelligence. The artificial intelligence we fear is that someone has created a new form of life. Really? I think you have to get approval from the home office for that. I think what is known as AI can be good. It's neutral. It's like this phone. Look, this phone is our opportunity to spread this reformation all over the globe.

Do you realize whatever bad things we may say about them, we have the access, the ability to post for free our content on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube. There's like 3 billion people on the planet we have access to for free. The question is, are we going to take advantage of it? That's why we're putting out 52 pieces of content a day and we're going to ramp it up to 104 before we're done. We're going to fill these pipes with the goodness of God. To your question, I'm not concerned about artificial intelligence. I'm excited about how it may serve the purposes of God in the future. The examples of artificial intelligence I've seen so far seem very artificial. We got a question back here.

[00:45:56] Jane: Hello, I am Jane from Portland, Oregon, and in Kingdom business work since probably age 14 out of a Kuyperian tradition and the reformers in Portland though, we hired Christian business guys to run a business for a while. They created a Bible study. It ended up being a division in the company. They actually stole business from us. Now I've got a staff, very fearful of anything religious and the rurals in Oregon

now are you can't go to-- you can't speak about Jesus if it's a required meeting. I'm just asking how do you do that? I feel it's like hardened hearts and any approaches. I know I'm sometimes covert sometimes overt, but I'm still struggling with how to make it better.

[00:46:45] Ray: Yes. Thank you for that question. I've been to Oregon, I understand. I love Oregon. The people's Republic of Oregon. You make it not required. One of the things that we've done in some of our conferences in the past, as we've said, Sunday morning, we're going to have time together. It's going to look a lot like church. If you don't want to be part of that, don't come. Now, I have to say we're having a conference and it's going to be a lot like church. You don't want to be part of that, don't come.

Actually, what we say is we're probably going to mention the name, Jesus. You don't have to believe in Jesus to be here and be welcomed. We're not going to judge you. We're not going to try to make you feel less stand. We're not going to try to convert you, but this is going to come up. If this makes you uncomfortable, you'd probably be more comfortable not being there. In that specific instance, I'd make it optional. Make it clear that it's optional. It's a situation. It's touchy if you've had previous hurts because people are going to then feel isolated and separated, handle it with grace and ask the source, not the resource.

Anybody else? Over here?

[00:48:01] Participant: By the way, huge fan, thank you for what you do, Ray. I listen to your podcasts all the time. It's fantastic. My question is about risk and following God radically. I'm super comfortable with personal risk myself and my family, how do we turn that where I've got my current position, I steward the wealth of a whole family and I run four businesses for them? How do I steward risk and radical obedience when it's not my money on the line?

[00:48:31] Ray: That's a great question. Who wishes you're up here right now to answer that question?

[laughter]

I would ask the people for whom you steward the wealth and I would ask the Lord. I'd ask him first, then I'd go to the people you're stewarding the wealth for in accordance with the terms of your agreement and share with him what I had in mind. I think that's the only way to do it. I may be wrong. You may ask the Lord. He may tell you, "All that stuff Ray told you, don't do that." I don't know but that's what I would do. Start with him, then talk to them. That may be a scary conversation, but scary conversations often result in great things, so I found.

One time my wife sat me down. If you want to put that thing on the screen with the free gift so, I have a gift for you, we're going to put the slide up on the screen. This is what's funny to me about God. When I was giving our presentation for our big expensive product, God told me, "Just say it right up front, you're selling something that's really expensive," even though that was the wrong way to do it. I felt like the wrong way to come here was to give you something that's designed to get you in contact with me so that I could continue to market things to you but God said, "I want you to share this resource with them and tell them exactly what you're feeling about

it." This is very uncomfortable for me right now, but we have a free gift for you which you can get at rayedwards.com/purpose, or you can text purpose, the word purpose without the quotes to 484-848 and you can get that free gift. Eventually, we'll get around to telling you about something you can buy if you want it, but I really want you to have the gift. I am really doing this because I felt like God told me to do it. Disclaimer over.

Any other questions? Yes. Over here.

[00:50:33] Participant: All right, I'll talk loud. You mentioned your wife and sharing your story. It's a precarious and what God is calling you to do some of these radical things. Have you and your wife always been in alignment?

[laughter]

[00:50:55] Ray: In doing all these radical risky things, have you and your wife always been in alignment on that? I said eventually, "Hahaha." Eventually, I have a magic formula for getting into alignment with your spouse that I've learned. Communicate. Over-communicate. I learned it from her. She communicated it to me vividly sometimes. That's really it. Communication and agreement prevents discord.

[00:51:45] Participant: Thank you, Ray, so much. Can you give him a hand-?

[applause]

[00:51:55] Audio: Thank you for listening to the *Ray Edwards Show*. Find the complete archives of all episodes at rayedwardspodcast.com or subscribe for free through Apple Podcasts and never miss an episode. This program, copyright Ray Edwards International Incorporated. All rights reserved. Each week we bring you a message of prosperity with purpose and freedom, remembering the truth. Freedom is available to all through Jesus Christ.

[00:52:24] [END OF AUDIO]