



Ray Edwards Show, Episode 489 Prospering Even in Times of Crisis

Announcer ([00:01](#)):

Ray Edwards Show, episode 489, Prospering Even in Times of Crisis, The Ray Edwards Show-This is the podcast for prosperity with purpose.

Ray Edwards: Hey, Everybody, Ray Edwards here. It's been a while since we've done a live stream- it's been a while.

Why am I suddenly going live after having not done it for months? Well, first of all, I've been a little quiet of late and I want everybody knows I'm okay. I had shoulder surgery on my right rotator cuff. I'm not wearing a sling today. This is day two out of the sling after six weeks of being in a sling. They repaired several full-thickness tears. And my bicep tendon was completely severed and had to repair all that. So it's been kind of painful and I've been in no condition to get on, do live video or recorded video or much of anything, really. We somehow managed to eke out a podcast every week. This might be this week's podcast. Day two out of the sling. When you put your arm in a sling for six weeks and you do nothing with it, you make no demands of it. I can tell you that it's a surprise to the arm when it has to suddenly support its own weight.

([01:17](#)): So my first aim was to let you know that I'm doing okay doing better than okay. Doing great, really been through a tough time. Some of you may have followed my post on Instagram. It was a very difficult surgery. I'm not going to complain about it a lot. Those of you who did not know it was very, it's super painful. It's one of the more painful surgeries you can have. Plus I have Parkinson's and it's on the arm. It shakes from the

Parkinson's and the first thing they told me after the surgery was no, don't move your arm. Well, that's funny, but I'm no longer taking super-strong pain meds feeling better. Have some use of the arm, got a long way to go with physical therapy or physical torture, depending on how I feel that day. But I am doing so much better. God has really blessed me through this.

[\(01:58\)](#): All right. So I'd actually do have something other than to talk about the other than my shoulder surgery. So what I want to talk to you about this morning, today's topic is prospering, Even in difficult times like coronavirus like 2020. 2020 has been difficult for most of us. When I hear the word, the word I hear most often these days is fatigue. People are just tired of 2020 of the, of the pandemic of the politics of the elections, of the war, of the masks, the war of the virus opinions, the racial tension. It's just been a fatiguing year. And of course the economic devastation it's wreaked been wreaked over the world. And that has really caused me to go into a deep place with God thinking about my message about prosperity. And I haven't, I haven't changed my message. I'm even more convinced that it's it is in God's word that we were promised prosperity.

[\(02:56\)](#):

And as I said in my book, which has not been published yet, it's available soon called *Permission to Prosper*. I say, in this book, that prosperity has nothing to do with your bank balance or your net worth. I won't say it has nothing to do with it. It's not measured by your bank balance or your net worth prosperity is so much more than money, but it includes money. So you might say, well, God wants us to prosper. Why are so many suffering right now? Why are so many suffering last year before the virus ever came around? That's a bigger question than I do answer in the book, at least in part, but I wanted to speak to this just a little bit this morning, about how you can prosper despite what's going on around you. And that's not a new message for me. It's not a new message from the Bible, it's not a new message from God.

[\(03:40\)](#):

It's been the message all along. And it starts with a walk of faith. Even when you don't know what's happening, even you cannot explain what's happening. In Genesis chapter 12, verse one, it says now the Lord had said to Abraham, "get out of it, your country from your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." And I was listening to a message from Kris Vallotton from this past weekend from Bethel in Redding, he was talking about this very passage. Think about that from Abraham's perspective, if he and his family and his servants were all leaving the land of his family from his father's house, and people were asking, "where are you going"? And he says, "I'm going where God told me to go." They said, "where's that?" He says, "I don't know, but God will show me", that would have looked totally foolish to those around him.

[\(04:32\)](#): And yet God made him the father of many nations. Wouldn't have the scripture. We wouldn't have the savior if it weren't for Abraham and his faith. He became Abraham- father Abraham.

So first and foremost, our faith is not in our own abilities. Our own plans, our own businesses. You know, I'm known as a guy who knows how to write copy, who knows how to do marketing. And I do know how to do those things rather well. And the longest

time I've relied on my skill and doing those things to make my living, to make a good living, to make a lot of money. The last three years, our company's made over a million dollars a year. And I'm going to get back to that in a moment. I'm not saying it to brag. Oh, I have, There's a lesson for me to share with you from my own painful lesson book about that this year, it looks like we're going to clear a million dollars again.

[\(05:18\)](#): I think we already have, we haven't totaled up the books yet, but I think we've already hit a million dollars in revenue for this year. Even in 2020 however, money to run a business. The question is not how much money did you make? It's how much money did you keep? How much money did you spend as a business person though, I had come to rely on more and more of my skills? Well, on my reputation, on my credentials, if you will. And one thing I've learned during this pandemic and during my own health challenges with Parkinson's and with the rotator cuff surgery combined, which basically laid me back debilitated, not able to do anything for even run my business. And that was a reminder to me, we're not relying on ourselves we're relying on God. We don't have faith in ourselves. We have faith in God because we are human beings.

[06:08](#)):

We will fail. Ultimately we will fail. Our bodies will fail. We will die. So yes, I believe in divine healing is God heal every disease today when we want him to know if saw would not have Parkinson's, it'd be gone. I hate it. Did God give it to me? I don't think so. God waiting for his own timing to heal it even cause after I leave this world? Yes. Why? I don't know, but I know he knows best. I trust him. I trust his judgment. I learned so many things through having Parkinson's. I don't believe he gave it to me, but I believe put it this way. I don't think God makes bad things happen to us, but I do believe he sometimes uses the bad things that happen in order to allow us to become purified, to become a better version of who he wants us to be in the book of James chapter one, verse two, it says my brethren count it all joy.

[\(07:02\)](#):

When you fall into various trials, my wife and I have been quoting this to one another since March kind of as a joke, count it all joy. The economy's collapsing. Count it all. Joy, your shoulders, giving you trouble. Count it all joy. But what's the rest of us. Say my brother, count it all. Joy. When you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, but let patience have its perfect work. You may be perfect and complete lacking nothing. Now let me back up. Not at all Joy. When you fall into various trials, various trials mean health trials, persecution, monetary problems, your business going broke. You going bankrupt. You can't pay your bills. You'll lose your job. That's a trial. Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith, not the testing of your character and not the testing of your marketing ability, not the testing of your business knowledge, but to testing of your faith, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. Patience, not money, patience.

It produces patience, but let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing. Even if you're sick, even if you're persecuted, even if you are broke, you lack nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach. And it will be given to him. So you may be lacking a

perfect body, maybe lacking perfect vision. I wear glasses. I believe God heals disease that I wear glasses. I believe God heals shoulders. I just had mine operated on- Sometimes he heals through surgery. I don't know his timeline. I don't know his purposes. I don't know why he waits in certain cases and doesn't in others. I don't know. And that's okay. I trust in God with faith and that's what I recommend for you as well. So what does this have to do with the pandemic?

[\(09:08\)](#):

Well, there's another in the book of James in chapter four, verse 13 and 14, it says, "Come now you who say today or tomorrow, we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell and make a profit." That's us, people. That's us, entrepreneurs. That's who he's talking to And about. "Today or tomorrow, we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell and make a profit. Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow." Maybe there'll be a pandemic. Didn't see that coming, did you. "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." That's not to make us feel hopeless. It's to put things in perspective. We're only here for a little while. A short while in the lifetime of the universe, our lives are a blink of an eye.

Speaker 2 [\(09:58\)](#):

This life is a blink of an eye. It's like a vapor. It's here and it's blown away by the wind. That's to say value it for what's really important. This passage goes on to say, "instead of you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this with that, but now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil." Does this mean we don't have plans? Maybe don't have business plans. Does it mean we don't have goals? No. We have them in humility and trusting the wisdom that God gives us. We say if God wills, and if things go as we believe them, we will, this is what our business will do this year. But our faith is in God, not in our plan. So our strategy has God our tactic is when he tells us to do to the wisdom He gives us through learning through experience through people that we know through his word, through his direct impressions or voice to us.

[\(10:50\)](#):

So, I'm making it a real practice to say God willing today or tomorrow, and we will do this or that. And we'll make a profit. God-willing. regardless, we'll be blessed, we'll be prosperous because prosperity is not measured by your net worth or your bank balance. Now, do I believe that God blesses businesses and helps us be successful and wants us to be prosperous in dollars in profit So we can share that with others and we can do good to other people through the money we make? I do believe that he evenly distributes the wealth of the world to everyone. No, he doesn't why I don't know. I'm not God, but I know that my faith, because ultimately in him, not in my own skills, not, not in the market, none of my investments. Cause all that can go way. Can't it can't it?

[\(11:38\)](#):

Our health can go away. I mean, I had Parkinson's for nine years now, but I was doing pretty well. I could function pretty much on my own. I had to have help and have somebody with me most of the time, just because they needed help occasionally, but I could live a fairly normal life. I could afford to have an assistant. I could afford to have

the medicines I need. I can afford to stay in the kind of hotels that could accommodate my needs. Now I can't travel. I could, I guess, but I don't want to. During this pandemic and most travel has been shut down. Most of the events where I speak live and were shut down. So that was a great deal of where my money came from. That kind of shook me up a little bit and we had some cash reserves.

(12:14): but we didn't have cash reserves for eight months of the economy being shut down. Now we continue to make money. Not every business has. We've continued to bring in revenue, continue to bring in revenue. As I said, I believe we just surpassed a million dollars. I believe we just surpassed a million dollars in our business in revenue. Now it's cost us a lot of that to sustain the business, pay our salaries, to pay our rent, pay our bills and the extra money we're counting on for-profits is coming slower than expected. Now, as the slowdown continues, as the economy continues to slow down, we're moving to different strategies. We need different tactics and we're continuing to make money. We believe, Lord willing, We're going to make more money than we planned. That appears to be the case. It's the case for many of my peers, but it's interesting to me that I believe God has directed.

(13:05):

Most of us who are still profiting in this time to make our businesses even more directed at serving people more directly to getting the results in more focused on our customers, more than on ourselves. Perhaps there's a lesson in that. So my message this morning is one of hope- you can prosper even in the worst of times, even if your bank balance says you have \$0. Many of us are not in that situation but some of us are. Some people I know are in very dire straits financially. I'm certainly having to watch the dollars close to an I thought I would have in the past. I look back on the, on spending in the past thing. I maybe should've been a little more careful. Maybe I should have put a little bit more money and savings. Lesson learned that's profit. The lesson is profit. We came into the world with nothing. So everything we have is profit. It's all in the profit column. All of it. The guitar you see behind me, the furniture, the microphone on the table. Photograph my wife. This microphone here is all profit. I will leave the world with nothing. Everything I have right now is pure profit. The privilege of speaking with you is pure profit. So let us prosper in all things, and be in

(14:20):

good health. You can prosper even in times of crisis, even during coronavirus, there's prosperity for all of us. So I pray that you'll feel God's presence. You feel his faith you will allow Jesus to be the author and perfecter of your faith because he is, you'll be blessed, prosper in all things. Enjoy long life, good health, and remember, I love

Very much and not in a weird way. God bless you. I'll see you next time.

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