

Week 44

10/26/09

Announcer: Next on LIFE Today, popular recording artist and personal spiritual trainer, Edward John challenges us to "Real Living."

Edward: You will create such a momentum in your life that you'll become unstoppable. And the Word of God is our foundation -- that is life! If we can get the Word of God inside of us, it's going to change everything about us.

Announcer: Conquer your fear and live your dreams with "Real Living" -- next!

Music

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on LIFE Today. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: I know that I'm getting older. I said to our friends here that I feel like my black shirt really helps you notice the gray.

Betty: It's very nice though.

James: It's really hard to find the dark hair. But we've got a guest today, you talk about making you feel sometimes like here's a good looking -- here's somebody that is dynamic. You kind of feel like maybe a dud because this -- the guest I'm going to introduce you to, I'm being honest with you, he is a good-looking guy and he sings really well. But he's really got the touch of God on his life in such a way that when he walks in the room, it is like the presence of God. I'm sure he is sitting there actually to some degree embarrassed that I'm saying all of this but it is simply the truth. Let me tell you something, he did a teaching series, which he builds the music, an incredible gift God has given him that we've been really sharing with you now for more than ten years. He started with a song, "What If?" He talked about what happens if you really loved people and you really cared enough to get involved and make a difference? It was just very powerful. But he did a series on "Fearless Living" and now he's come back because it impacted so many families and lives and churches, he came back with "Real Living" where he talks about conquering your fear and living your dreams, and those dreams happen to be the dreams God has for you -- the best. Edward John really has the touch of God on his life. Now he is Scandinavian; he is here from Norway and he is just impacting our country, but he's impacted the Scandinavian countries and all over Europe. I'm just thrilled to have him. Would you welcome our good friend, Edward John back to LIFE Today? Edward, good to see you.

Edward: James, thank you so much! Betty, thank you so much. I love you so much.

James: I want you because you put together another great series and you use the music and singing and we actually were able to capture the various messages in song and settings like a very high impact, enjoyable music video. The teaching is available and the DVD's are high impact. I want you to just tell our viewers a little bit of an overview of

what you're sharing because "Fearless Living" had a very positive impact on everyone who got it and continue to get it. But tell me about this series, "Real Living."

Edward: Well, let me take you back in time a little bit. I was a -- as you know, a professional soccer player, back in my days. [Chuckling]

James: Your days still look like they're upon us.

Edward: Back in my days -- that's when I could run. [Chuckling] Running down the field, the Lord called me very profoundly but very clear. It was with an audible voice, I didn't just hear it with my ears, I heard it with my whole body. He said, "Eddie, are you going to run after this ball the rest of your life or are you going to run after me like you run after that ball?" Right after that, of course, I didn't know what I was going to do. How do you serve the Lord? I didn't know much about how you could do ministry; like many of us, we don't know how to do ministry. I said, "Lord, but what do I do?" I played three chords on my guitar and I liked that. No one had really heard me sing except for my mom and my dad and my sisters. It didn't sound very good, let me tell you that. [Chuckling] But I sat down and I wrote a letter to the Lord. In that letter, I didn't realize what I was really doing, but I was pouring my heart out to him. I began to write down the things that I would like to do with my life and I opened my heart as I wrote this letter. In the letter I wrote, "And Eddie, you will sing the power of God over people's lives and they will be set free." And for years, James and Betty, I've been wondering how do I sing the power of God over people's lives? Well, the fact of the matter is, I don't know if you can do that, but I know that the Word of God can make a difference in people's lives and I know that when we praise the Lord we open up the doors for him to do his work because that's what the Psalmist David was so good at doing. When he praised the Lord, he said, "I enter his courts with thanksgiving in my heart." That's really what I was doing. But then I was beginning to think about how can I combine my pop music for the Lord in such a way that I can sing God's power over people's lives? And when we did "Fearless Living," when you guys came on board with me and said, "Let's do 'Fearless Living,'" those two rivers came together as one for the first time. So we created a product that had both the Word of God and it had my song for the first time. The impact of this message has been incredible. I'm humbled at all the e-mails I'm getting from people who have been set free from fear who e-mail me and say that, "Today we had a group of people, some were from Brazil, some were from Africa, some were from Europe and we were all sitting listening to 'Fearless Living.' We want to thank you for sharing this message." But the fact of the matter is, Eddie can't do anything, you and James can't do anything but God's Word can do everything. So when I'm doing this series, "Real Living" that I'm talking about, I'm talking to you at home. I'm trying to say something to you about how God has affected my life and trying to bring that ball, crossing that pass over to you so you can score the goal with your life. And that's really what God is doing with "Real Living," I believe, is taking us from moving us out of fear factors, making us aware that we've got to have a great attitude, we've got to do things with excellence, and we don't always have to think

too big but we need to think about the one because if we can reach the one, one soul, we've done more than the whole world put together. Jesus said that he would die for one soul alone -- just one.

James: When I preach to 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 at a time, from the beginning of my ministry, even as we went in the crusades, I started by witnessing to the one or two very directly. Then when I went to 10,000, the 10,000 felt -- each of them -- I was talking to them. There was a personal sense of communication directly. I think had I only thought of the masses or the crowds, I would have totally missed the personal direct communication that actually Jesus not only communicated whether it was Nicodemus or the woman at the well, but in the small group settings, he invited the whole world into that setting to hear him. And I think, really and truly, that's not only the mission he sent you on but it's the mission you're trying to help others begin to, let's say, fulfill in their life where they notice the one, they're available to God to release the river of life flowing toward that person.

Edward: Here's what I discovered, which was revolutionizing to me. I traveled for 17 years full-time into small churches, large churches, youth groups, secular events and most of the time, I would ask the audience a question. I said, "How many of you love Jesus?" Pretty much everybody, "We love Jesus." I said, "Oh, that's great. But how many of you have read the Bible through and through?" You know what I found? Three percent -- three percent of the church, in all of the churches I've been to can say with a clean heart and conscience that "I've read the Word of God through and through." And then, I began to think to myself, no wonder they come up to me all of the time and say, "This doesn't happen for me the way it happens for you. I can't do what you're doing." I say, "No, you won't because you don't have the foundation." And the Word of God is our foundation. That's life! If we can get the Word of God inside of us, it's going to change everything about us. And for me now, if I get up in the morning and don't read my word and have my cup of coffee, I don't feel like I'm living the life I need to live. There is something about that moment where I get to be alone with the Lord and just find the word for the day that has changed everything, about me anyways. "Real Living" is based upon that. I'll tell you a funny story, if you don't mind. I bought a DVD workout set the other day. I wanted to change up my workouts. I've been doing the same workout for how many years -- nothing changes -- just staying in the same rut. So I got this DVD workout set and I had my friend in there, my buddy is here, he was actually working out with me. We put on this set and these powerful guys come on there and they look really fit. So I'm putting this screen on and I'm in my garage and I'm looking at those guys and I'm jumping around with them. My legs are up, I'm kicking and then I take my eyes off of the video screen and I look at myself and I go, "Man, you're an old dud. You can't even lift your legs up." I look fat and ugly. But I was thinking, as I'm looking at those guys that I'm one of them. You know? Feeling good until I looked at myself and I go, "This ain't going to work!" [Chuckling] But you know, it is the same thing with the Word of God. When we read the Word of God,

we see ourselves as one of the disciples. We see ourselves living like Jesus said we were supposed to live. We see ourselves do miracles. But as soon as we take our eyes off of the word and on to ourselves, we say, "I can't do that! I can't be like James. I can't be like Eddie, I'm so far behind." The truth is, we're not that far behind because all we've got to do is keep on going.

Betty: You're talking, I feel like I'm hearing you say, it is a journey that we're on. We can determine by the choices that we make what kind of journey it is going to be. Don't you believe that? I know as a young Christian, I used to think, I'm a Christian now but what now? I'll just hang in there until Jesus comes back. Well, there is not much joy in just that if you don't allow God to grow you through his Word and to give you opportunities to show you what a joy you can be to others by expressing him; allowing him to be expressed through your life.

Edward: Yeah! And this is what I realized through this little DVD that I had on the TV. Now see this is my DVD for those guys out there to grow spiritually. But what I realized was that that coach would look at me and say, "Think quality over quantity -- think quality over quantity." And when we read the Word of God, we come to church and we see that big old thick book, it is not exactly an attractive read when you're seeing -- you start reading it and you get like to one chapter and you feel like you've spent 30-40 minutes getting through one little chapter. But what we've got to think is quality over quantity. So what we've got to do is make up our minds that we -- I might not get through this book today but I'm going to sit this year or the next two years and I'm going to get through it and I'm going to do it a little bit every day. It is just like working out, every time we do it, we do more and we want more and we want more. Soon, you look at yourself and you see, you mirror yourself and you're living it.

James: You talk about in your teaching how the word renews the mind. It is really interesting that when Betty and I were dating -- and really and truly we knew Jesus was to be before either one of us were even in the relationship, he was the center. And we didn't understand, even though we wanted that to be reality, we didn't understand the importance and power of the word to renew our minds. But it is the power of his Word that actually renews our mind so that we think the way he thinks, we know his thoughts, not what the world's imposing on us, and all the influences that distract us; but the power of the word so renews our mind that he says we are no longer shaped by the influences the world but we're basically reshaped through the renewing of our mind that we are able to know the good, acceptable and even the perfect will of God so that he begins to direct our steps. I feel like when people have their minds renewed, which you have to understand that there is a reprogramming process because this world's system and all of the influence, distractions and attractions in the world, are taking us away from the truth that to know sets us free, not just read it but know it, and know the person Jesus, the truth. So when you're talking about renewal and you're talking about this relationship building, I feel like you're actually seeking to inspire people to become who the word says they can

and should become.

Edward: Well, exactly and in my country, Norway, we're a great country, fantastic nation but you'll see the young kids, they have what they call "normal." It is normal to go party; it is normal to drink. So our norm is set by what people think and say. But that is not normal. The norm is the Word of God and if we can't find --

James: It is actually very subnormal. That's the reason they're trying to always get something to make them feel above or higher and they get higher to escape the misery, the mire of their own lifestyle. They don't realize that's what's happening. But God gives you a high that is higher than anything the world can give and it is a very legitimate -- not only necessary high but a very meaningful high.

Edward: So what I'm doing, I believe, with this "Real Living" and renewal of mind, you know "R" is renewal, "E" for excellence, "A" for abundance and "L" for legacy. But the two first, renewal of mind, I'm trying to reset -- you know in the car you reset the mileage button? We've got to reset to get started again and that begins with a choice. I believe that's what -- its one as well, it is a one day at a time choice, every day. It is like working out. I cannot say it any better to the people. When we work out, I don't feel like working out --

James: Really, to be honest with you, people spiritually look worse than they look physically because we're so out of condition. We're physically out of condition, of course, I'm not. [Laughter] I was one of those videos on the garage that you were looking at. That was actually me, see, without the black shirt.

James: The next program is James doing working out. [Chuckling]

Betty: Don't let him!

James: We're actually more out of shape spiritually than we even are obese or out of shape in the physical realm.

Edward: And that's the problem, so what we've got to do is reset this button, start again, start building up our mileage again and remember that being a Christian is a journey. It is not about things happening right now. It is going to be a process; it's going to take time. But it is going to take training. It is training. I know people don't like to hear that, to be trained but whether you're in a job or you're an athlete or you're a housewife, you're still training, it is the same thing with the Word of God. It's a thing you've got to feed yourself with.

James: I think the thing where God has blessed you is that people can look and your very countenance testifies of something going on in your life. You're a young active guy; you obviously love life but you've experienced something way beyond what the world offers and it comes out in every part of your being. That's why the people you get around are impacted by your testimony. The people who are attracted to you are actually attracted to the God that has impacted and changed your life. You are able to communicate in a way that people grasp it and then the music, which obviously, that's not a part of what I bring

to the table is the singing. But I can praise God; it is just that he does love the crow as much as he loves the mockingbird.

Edward: A joyful noise, right?

James: To me it is a joyful racket unto the Lord. But it really comes out of a heart of love. But with you, you've got a gift and music really does cross barriers. It really tears walls down and God has given you that gift. He has given you a true touch to help people get free. We are going to send real living, which is available for you personally or your family study or for your Bible study group or for your church because whatever John has done has blessed people wherever they are. It really communicates with people of all ages and you can hear someone who is on the journey, very similar and typical of a journey perhaps many of you are on and it will be a blessing to you. Edward, what we're doing is we want to send our viewers and the people who want it, we want to send them the truth and insight that will inspire them and help them. But we also want them to understand that a part of "Real Living" is getting beyond their world. Our viewers seem to be grasping that because I feel like the viewers of LIFE Today, although they may look in and say, "How can you help me?" And that's a good question because we want to draw help from above. But then we look out and then say, "How can we help others?" And even now, we're asking all of our viewers to help us feed a half million children in Africa. And I want to say to you from Betty and me and our viewers, thank you for going to the mission field. Thank you for your availability. I actually want our viewers and if you will, I want you to look in on Edward and Isak Pretorius. I want them to see, I believe, the very heart of God as the two of you are seeing a need, which is as much as you and Isak might have cared and prayed, without the viewers of LIFE Today, you would be totally empty-handed and in so many ways helpless to make a difference. I want you to watch this even as you hear these two, I believe, truly committed individuals communicating back and forth. Watch closely.

Edward: I'm so glad that I can see this momma smiling and her little kid holding around her alive and well, but you know, guys, this is not true for the rest of Africa.

Announcer: Thousands of children die each month due to the effects of malnutrition.

Edward: When I was in that clinic in Angola and I looked into the eyes of this mother that was crying out in desperation she said, with just her look, she said, "Could somebody please help my child?" You know there was nothing we could do but pray. Father, I pray for this little child that in your name, father, she will be strong and healthy.

Isak: What I need you to know today is the reality that both Edward and I understand and that is that in countries like Sudan and Angola, other countries like Zimbabwe, there are children that are starving today. In fact, this month alone, more than 100,000 children will die because they just need food.

Edward: But today is a new day and today we can make a change in someone's life. Let's help these mothers and these children all across the continent of Africa with the mission feeding program.

James: You may have noticed that little... just part of a can, a little container and it was empty. If you understand what can fill it, you're able to see an emptiness that is far greater than that little container, it is an empty stomach. It is a life of hopelessness and futility, of pain and sadness. But that little child is actually holding that little container and it is a symbol of hope. Not only hope for something to go in it that that little child can eat but hope for a life to feel better. These little children, many of them don't understand what life is. We're asking you to help. We're asking you to dial the number because Betty, there are literally hundreds of thousands of little children that are like that one and you can look at one and I say, "pick up the one," but you know I always encourage people to pick up three or five. I sometimes have made it a point to try to sit down behind five children, sometimes just to be sure I've got three. And then sometimes a group where I know there are ten or more and I'm just saying, would you care for these? Because every person has the ability to put something in that container and care for one or three or five or ten, and \$30, \$50, or \$100 will do it. Betty, I'm believing with all my heart that our viewers will put something in the container. They won't just look away, but they'll help. I'm asking you to dial the number and help. My prayer is that everyone will.

Betty: I hope so, too. As I was watching and listening to Edward John and to Isak talking and saying right now all we can do is pray for these children that we're showing you, but now we know, we've seen, we've heard and we know how we can help. It is a very simple solution but a very desperate need. I hope you will join with us. Let's make the difference in the life and death of these children. They deserve a chance in life. Please join with us. I know we've asked you to do it before but there is still some needs out there. The children that we find that we go to that we seek out to know that they need an opportunity at life, too. So I hope you will help us. I know you will!

James: Well, I'm confident that you will. And just know this, that we're going to get them on their feet, we're going to stabilize their condition and then we're going to begin to teach them how to make a life; for their parents to be able to grow their own crops, to be able to work because they've got health. We don't keep them dependent. We teach them how to find life and even share it and it is beautiful to watch it take place. But what you're seeing right now are children and needs that must be met. Those of you who help, we're going to be so glad to be able to send you the incredible teaching on "Real Living" and a part of that "Real Living" is giving -- giving life and love to others. Please right now make that call. Make the very best gift you can. You can write a check, make it to LIFE or use your bankcard like a check or you can go online lifetoday.org. And many of you are doing that and we want to thank you for that because that is immediately put in place to help the missionaries and the outreach. So would you make that call right now? We want to bless

you with inspiration but you're going to give these children and their families a chance at life and they're going to see real love demonstrated. Thanks for making that call!

Announcer: In remote areas of Africa, people are suffering, facing death by starvation, and those hit the hardest are children. Life's mission workers are in place ready to feed and care for hundreds of thousands of children in Angola, Mozambique and famine areas of Sudan. Yet to save these children's lives, we urgently need your support. Previous food reserves are gone and we desperately need to replenish our supplies for the feeding programs immediately! Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months. With your gift to mission feeding, we'll send you this week only "Real Living" a powerful, new, inspirational series on four DVD's featuring recording artist and personal spiritual trainer Edward John. Shot in various locations that are sure to inspire your faith, "Real Living" provides a road map for conquering your fears and living your dreams. Through scripture, stories, song and his own personal experience, Edward shares the powerful secrets and proven life principles that will show you how to discover God's ultimate purpose for your life. Don't forsake your dreams or your heart's desires another day! Begin your new adventure with "Real Living." And remember, your gift will help save children's lives! Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

Feels like I'm walking on air tonight
So how can I deny a feeling so right?
When holding your hand is so easy
Knowing that you'll never leave me
Peace like a river
Joy inside

James: Well, we are anxious to send you "Real Living" because Edward John has a gift not only to communicate in what he is sharing to help you not only get in the word but get the word in your own life, live it out, but also in the music that God's given him. We want to thank you for helping us care for the children. Edward is going to be on more during this week and we're going to be talking to some of the friends and people that have been impacted by the wonderful truth he is sharing. Would you join me and Betty saying thanks to Edward? Edward, God bless you, buddy!

Edward: Thank you so much, James! Thank you, Betty!

James: Thanks for your help. Thank all of you for your support. Thank you so much for your prayers. Encourage your friends to join us on LIFE Today.

Holding your hand is so easy

Its so easy
Knowing you'll never -- never leave me
Peace like a river
Joy inside
Is what your love always provides
Oh, whoa
Peace like a river
Peace, love, and joy

That's all that you provide

Announcer: Tomorrow, a man is faced with a crisis of faith when his son is diagnosed with leukemia. See how he found love and healing with help from Edward John.