



From Harlem to Hollywood—Living Your Dream with God

Doug Addison with Edwina Findley Dickerson [Episode 36]

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Hey, everybody! Doug Addison. Welcome to another *Spirit Connection Podcast*. You know, there are things going on in the world right now. Have you noticed? There is an amazing amount of injustices being exposed everywhere. There is an amazing opportunity in the spiritual realm right now to be repaid for all those areas of your pain. It started, it seemed to anyway, in Hollywood just a couple of months ago right after Yom Kippur, that Jewish holiday, and the day of atonement and we started seeing the enemy exposing attacks. There has just been an increase, increase. It seems like it is not going to end.

But I want to tell you these are the areas. Wherever you get attacked in your life—no matter what it is. Wherever it is, it is actually exposing what God wants to bless and do in your life. And I want to encourage you that if you're looking for a breakthrough in your life over the next few months you're going to see something. Things are going to shift dramatically over you. Don't get caught up in all of the hoopla going on out there. Don't get caught up in the negativity. And the Lord is going to release something that is going to really blow things away.

So, one of the areas that the enemy tends to attack you is the very area of your greatest authority. One of the areas we have been seeing is the attack of women but now those injustices against women are being exposed with the purposes of one of the greatest movements I believe that we're going to see on Earth. It is going to be coming to the forefront. It is not going to be just women. I'm just saying we're going to see some anointed women come to the forefront. We're going to see men and women, boys, girls, children. I tell you, the Lord is moving on all flesh right now and there is a repayment that's going to come. It doesn't mean it's going to be in finances. We're going to see anointing, we're going to see blessings on your finances, on your children. We're going to see blessings happening everywhere.

So, this week I have a special guest on the podcast. She is a well-known actress here in Hollywood, and she is a powerful woman of God. Edwina Findley Dickerson made her primetime debut as Toshia on HBO's *The Wire*. I watched that. She was followed by four seasons on another HBO show. But many of you might recognize her on *Veep* with

Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Edwina is a cofounder of a nonprofit organization, AbundantLifeU, and regularly travels around the country speaking and teaching, inspiring millennials, women, leaders to uncover their purpose and their life dreams. This is one powerful woman of God. She is also very funny and anointed. And she is prophetic.

Doug: Welcome to the show, Edwina.

Edwina: Thank you so much, Doug. Thank you so much for having me.

Doug: Yes. Wow! I am so, so excited. We were having a good time just praying ahead of time, and the Lord began to move. So, I have a feeling, boy, this is going to open up for people who really need a breakthrough in their life right now. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Edwina: Amen! Well, sure. I'm originally from DC, from Washington, DC. I live in Los Angeles now. It's funny because, pretty much all my life has been prophesied by God in advance: that I would become an actress, that I would speak all over, that I would go to college in New York, that I would live in Hollywood, that I would work with Tyler Perry, that I would work with Oprah, All of these things, who exactly I would marry, and that I would have a little girl and her name. You know, so many of the elements, you know, the significant elements of my life were prophesied by God before they ever happened.

Doug: Wow! That's amazing.

Edwina: Yes, and so that's why, you know, when it comes to the prophetic I'm just so excited. In fact, right now, most people don't know this because it's still under wraps, but I'm actually producing a television series around the prophetic.

Doug: Wow!

Edwina: Yes.

Doug: This anointing that you have to know who you're going to marry, I bet there're women who want you to pray for them right now and give them that.

Edwina: All right. I just stretch my hand to this thing. In fact, it was because the New York Times got a hold of it—and they ended up doing a whole front-page story on it, and they came to our wedding, and they chronicled everything—because they were just so moved by the fact that it was all foretold.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: You know, and that it happened just the way that God said it would. So, you know, one thing I realize is that the prophetic is such an incredible evangelistic tool, you know, in just the same way that Jesus came and did miracles and healed the sick and raised the dead in order that people would believe. You know, I have just seen how the prophetic even in my own life has stirred up faith in my heart that, “Wow, there’s a God. And God loves each and every one of us. And God sees each and every one of us, and He has a very specific plan for all of our lives. And if we can just tap into His voice that, you know, the road is just absolutely amazing.

Doug: Oh, yeah. You’re talking about my, this is my ... you know, I was one of the forerunners in prophetic evangelism.

Edwina: Wow!

Doug: And using this, you know, the prophetic—using the gifts, the prophecy and dreams and things like that—people are saying today ... right? They’re saying, “I’m spiritual but I’m not religious.”

Edwina: Yes.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: Yes. All the time, you know ... And it’s interesting because, especially being in Hollywood. You know, part of my calling before I ever got there—because God was speaking to me so much before ever moving to Hollywood, and before ever being on TV, you know—and He was just really laying out for me just the path and, spiritually, the path. He let me know pretty early that I would be a bridge.

You know, I think some people come to Hollywood and just want to transform it, you know, or some people come to Hollywood, you know, specifically to deliver a message, you know, and then leave. But He let me know that I would be a resident representative. That I would be an ambassador, and what that looks like when you’re living among the people. Where you’re not just sent on one assignment and leave, but when you really become a part of a culture.

Sometimes being a part of a culture can be hard because, you know, just like with the children of Israel when they came, you know, into the promised land. It required that they maintained the 10 Commandments and that they maintained, you know, these different rules that God gave them, and that God cultivated in them for 40 years. You know, He took them that way for a reason, and also to prepare them for entering into this land. It was difficult for them and ultimately, unfortunately, I don’t know that they were fully

successful in staying true to God’s heart even while being in the midst of a secular landscape.

So, when you have a calling like that, it’s so important that you really do contend for the things of God while also being relatable, and while also developing connections in the new place where you are.

Doug: Exactly. You know, I think that’s called, the official term is “incarnational missions.”

Edwina: Oh, interesting.

Doug: Where you actually become a missionary, and you live among the people in that sense. It’s something that’s lost these days, and I’m so glad because I’m in Hollywood as well, the same type of thing. The Lord gave me a calling. He said, “I want you to come in and speak behind the scenes. I want you to come in and prophesy, but not at the microphone. And go share all these stories about, you know, who I talk to but ... This is amazing. So, I guess, what brought you to Hollywood originally?

Edwina: Yes. Well, it’s funny because, I guess before we got started on the podcast, you prophesied to me that God was redeeming some things from 12 years ago. I mean from ... No, what did you say? Did you say 13 years ago?

Doug: I said 13 years ago on one of them, and then on another one I said from when you were 12.

Edwina: Yes, and I was doing the math on my 13 years, and I remembered that it was about 13 years ago when I first went to Hollywood. When I first went there, it was to screen test for a new show at the time, and it was on a cable network. I saw God move in all these different ways. Like just the offer, and the deal, and the money, and all these things—but it came with it a nudity clause. They wanted me to sign that I would be willing to do nudity, and that was something that for me, you know, was off limits, right?

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: And I just remembered really contending with God because I’m like, “Wow, God, how could you open up this huge opportunity, you know, but then have this caveat that I, you know, where I have to make a decision, or I have to make a choice?” It was interesting because I had to wait, right?

So, after that I had to kind of go back into a waiting season. And 3 years later I went back to Hollywood again. And this time, I knew it was a very prophetic trip. This time I was kind of equipped with all the things that God had shown

me and taught me and revealed to me in that 3 years, and I was invited to come back again. This time it wasn't for acting, it was for ministry.

And, while I was on the plane, I had my notebook and God was just speaking, and I knew that I was supposed to chronicle this trip. Anyway, a long story short, my second-to-last day in town, a friend took me up to Runyon Canyon. I had never heard of Runyon Canyon. I didn't know what it was, but it was kind of like this big hill. It felt almost like a mountain right in the middle of Hollywood. We were climbing all the way to the top, and when we got to the top it was like I was overlooking the Promised Land.

Doug: Wow!

Edwina: And all of a sudden, in the distance this one, you know ... sign—kind of like a billboard—was catching my attention. I didn't understand why this, of all the different billboards and signs and all kinds of things that were around in my purview, but this was just calling me. I was just pulling my friend almost to the edge of the cliff trying to read it, you know, trying to read all the words, and we couldn't make it all out.

Finally, he said, "Edwina, let's go. We're spending all this time trying to read the sign." I'm like, "Okay, fine," and we get to the bottom of the hill and he says, "You know, have you given any thought to coming out here?" Because I was living in New York at the time. I said, "This has been a great trip." And he said, "You know, I just feel like you would do so well out here in Hollywood." I said, "Well, you know, this has been a wonderful, wonderful trip. But my agents aren't supportive of me coming to Hollywood. They want me to stay in New York, and God hasn't spoken to me about making a big leap like that across the country, you know, moving here.

I said, "I guess, if God told me I needed to, that it was time to go that, you know, that I would do it without having anything." I said, "But right now those two things are what are really holding me back."

He kind of rolled his eyes, you know. "Why do you have to make stuff so deep? You know, it's not that deep." But finally, you know, we parted ways. And then my last night in town I was walking with another friend, and it was like pitch black outside. We were walking down the street, and all of a sudden, Doug, my camera takes a picture by itself and it just flashes.

Doug: Wow!

Edwina: And I'm looking at her and she's looking at me, and we're just stunned. And finally, I turned the camera over to see, "Well, what did it take a picture of?"

And, Doug, it was the sign that I saw at the top of Runyon Canyon two days prior.

Doug: Wow!

Edwina: And it was up close and perfectly framed. I almost passed out.

Doug: Yes. Now, there's a sign from the Lord. You know, this is what people are asking. That is amazing.

Edwina: It said, "From Harlem to Hollywood You're a Star. Congratulations!"

Doug: Wow! There's no way you can make these things up.

Edwina: You know, Doug, here I am about to pass out. And it's crazy because where I was standing, I was standing on a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. That's where I was standing. I looked down and what was funny, and most people don't know, is that just about 5 minutes before that all happened, I went into a souvenir shop and I bought a keychain. And the keychain had a star on it, and on the back, it said "Hollywood" and in the middle, it said "Esther."

With my friend there she said, "Why did you buy this keychain? I don't understand why. Your name isn't Esther." You know, "I don't see why you bought this keychain." What she did not realize is that for those three years—those three years before, you know, between me coming out to do the screen test and this moment— God had spoken to me so much about Esther in the Bible. And I was just devouring this book, *Esther*, and it wasn't until towards the end that I found out that Esther's name meant "star."

Doug: Oh, boy.

Edwina: And so, it was so significant to me to go into this shop and see this keychain with the star, and the name Esther on the front and on the back, say Hollywood. So, I bought it and I put it in my purse. And then 5 minutes later, you know, my camera captures this picture, "From Harlem to Hollywood You're a Star. Congratulations!" It was just amazing, from that time to this, what God has done.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: You know, as far acting, as far as nominations, as far as producing, as far as, you know, just really going to some heights in my industry that, really, I had only envisioned. That I had only seen from a far distance, and that I knew to have faith for just because God said it. You know, sometimes God is

speaking something and saying something, whether it is to your own heart or whether it is prophetically, you know, encouraging us. A lot of times it is to really expand our vision, you know, to let us know how He sees us. Because how He sees us is normally so much greater than how we see ourselves.

Doug: That's right.

Edwina: We receive these prophetic words from strangers. You know, "You're going to work with Tyler Perry." And "You're going to be filming in Georgia." And "You're going to be filming on Tyler Perry Studios." And "You're going to know Oprah, and you're going to be working with Oprah." And all these things ... and all of them have now manifested. It is funny because, right now, I'm in Georgia filming a show and talking to you.

But, you know, sometimes I just feel like when you're on the other side of some things—especially things that God spoke—that is a part of the whole journey for you to come back and testify, right? It's a part of the journey for you to come back and share with others who are still waiting and who are still contending. Who are still praying, still hoping, who are still seeing things from afar off, and just let them know, "Listen, what God has shown you is real. It doesn't matter how far off it seems. It doesn't matter how great and how grand it may feel. These things are true, and at the appointed time God will manifest the things that He has spoken over your life. Just wait on it. It will be to pass."

Doug: So, you know, a lot of people receive prophetic words, just like you're talking about. Most people don't ... for the average people ... they don't see things come about. So, I assume there was something that happened between the time that you got the word and when everything started to manifest. Did that happen to you?

Edwina: Yes, absolutely. You know, I'm really passionate about ... you know ... When people are standing in faith for something, just really having a balanced view as far as, yes, the spiritual, right, the spiritual realm—which is a very potent and very real world, and a very real realm—but also understanding that it is parallel universe to the natural realm as well.

So, you know, books like *Proverbs*, for instance, talk a lot about wisdom and talk a lot about practical things that sometimes, you know—especially for a lot of people who are super-duper, duper, duper spiritual—sometimes you can cast off restraints, so to speak, when it comes to the natural things. So, you know, for instance, you know ... When God said I was going to go to Hollywood it was like, "Okay, so that means" you know ... and said, "Okay, you're going to be working in film and television and all that."

Well, my main background was in theater. I would go on auditions. And it was so funny, Doug, because when I was younger—you know, both spiritually and naturally age-wise, you know—when I was younger I would just kind of feel almost entitled. Like, “Well, God said this, so it’s going to happen.” You know, and that’s it—period. “God said it, it’s going to happen, so let me just ... you know ... Let me just wait and let me just believe. And that’s that, you know, and it’s going to happen.

It was funny because I started going on auditions, and I wasn’t booking anything, you know ... Or I wouldn’t get close to it, or I wouldn’t get a call back. I’m like, “Hey, that’s not how this is supposed to happen.” You know, like “That’s not the story,” right? Like, “I’m auditioning. I’m supposed to be getting cast and everything because God has a great destiny over my life.”

So, I started realizing, “Wait a minute. Like, that doesn’t mean that I don’t have to perfect my skill, that doesn’t mean that I don’t have to do everything that a person ... you know ... would need to do in the natural to make sure that I’m a faithful steward over this gift that God has given me.”

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: So, I enrolled in dance classes. And I enrolled in music classes. And I enrolled in ... You know, I went back to acting coaching, even though my pride was like, “Wait a minute, I’ve got degrees in acting and I teach acting. And why would I need to, you know, get a coach in acting? Like, I’m the expert, right? But it’s like, “Daughter, humble yourself, thank you.” So, what God has for you, you have to have a teachable spirit and you have to be willing to be excellent.

That’s one of the things that, you know, I really get out of Daniel’s story. And even Esther’s story and people, Joseph’s story, and really being prepared for this place, right? They didn’t just wake up and become king, or wake up and become second in command, or wake up and become queen, right? They had to go through a process. and God made sure that each of them went through a process. I said, okay, well then, I have to yield myself to my process.

So, a part of that process was absolutely spiritual. You know, was absolutely reading the Word and praying and contending. But the other part of it was you need to be excellent at your skill and excellent at your craft. Especially if you think you’re going to win an Oscar, and you’re going to get nominated for all these things, and God’s going to do all these wonderful things in your career. Okay. Get ready for it, you know, and deliver when it comes to these auditions.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: Deliver when it comes to these roles, you know. And so that's what I did, Doug. You know, I just really pressed in. and I'm still pressing in, you know, as far as the quality of my gift, right? and I have a variety of gifts. So, you know, I feel like training and honing, and spending time developing those things, is really of value. You know, and the other thing was, okay, being sensitive to when these opportunities arrive, right? and making sure that you're being obedient.

So, for instance, I remember being in my apartment in New York. This is around the time God, you know, did that whole signs and wonders as far as the, the camera. After that, I started receiving prophetic words and everything, that God was about to transition me to Hollywood. But, you know, a part of it too was just being obedient. I remember one day God saying, "Okay, I want you to get up." (It was already nighttime.) "I want you to get up, catch two buses and a train into Manhattan, and I want you to go to this Bible study tonight." And I'm thinking, "By the time I do all that, the Bible study is going to be over," you know? But I knew that God was calling me to go.

So, I did. I got up. It was like 7 o'clock at night but I'm like, "All right, fine," you know? I got on the bus, got on the subway, made it to the place and, sure enough, it was almost over. They were wrapping up. I'm like, "God, see, why did I do all this? They're done," you know? But it was funny because, at the very end of the Bible study, there was this one woman who really caught my attention, and I just started praying for her. She was weeping and, you know, and I was like, "Wow, God. Okay, thank You for showing me why I was here. I was sent here for this woman," you know? This woman clearly needed a word. And I gave her a word, you know, and that was that.

So, we walked to the subway together, and we finally exchanged names. And when she said her name I'm like, "Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Are you, are you a writer and do you create shows?" She said, "Yes, I do." And I was like, "Okay, you'll never believe this. I have been trying to get an audition for your show for the last three months and couldn't. I couldn't even get in the room." She said, "Really?" I said, "Yes." She said, "Okay, well I'll fix that." And, sure enough, she got me an audition for her show and a booking for the role. And don't you know, that's the show that ended up bringing me to Hollywood.

Doug: Wow! Wow! Now, the amazing thing is you get the prophetic word, right? You get the promise, you're standing on the promise. Then you did something practical to activate it.

Edwina: Yes.

Doug: You got some training, you were talking about the physical and the spiritual. And then the spiritual even took you to the Bible study, and that Bible study was the doorway to your destiny. Wow! Wow!

Edwina: Right? It was like the Bible study was the doorway, but I wasn't offered the role. I still had to audition. Right?

Doug: Exactly.

Edwina: So, I then got back in my car. I'm like, "Okay, are you ready for this? Are you going to be able to deliver on this?" You know? But I knew because the Spirit had already told me, you know, that so much about this project—it being in Hollywood and all that—to prepare. That, by the time the opportunity came, I was ready.

I feel that is one thing that we have to do as believers. If we're really going to walk by faith and not sight that, when the word comes or when the impression comes or even when the vision comes, that we really do what we need to do by faith. And that, by faith, can be so hard, Doug. Because sometimes we don't even just want to release our hearts over by faith. Because we don't want to be disappointed.

Doug: Exactly.

Edwina: It was the same way with me, getting a whole word about my husband and all that, and who I was going to marry. It was six years between the time that I got the word and the time we were actually walking down the aisle.

Doug: Wow!

Edwina: Those six years were hard. It's hard to have to hold onto a word while still having disappointments in between. Like, "Is this really going to happen? Did I hear right?" You know, "Does this even make sense? Maybe I should just go a different path?" You know, "Maybe I should just throw my hands up all together, because giving up on this feels like it would be so much better than having to hold on," you know? And these are just really very real things that we as believers don't always talk about, you know, or even questioning.

Doug: Right.

Edwina: "Is this really from God," you know? "Was this something that was just my flesh?" So, you know, I just feel like us being able to unpack these things truthfully and honestly and with vulnerability, you know, will bring about healing. And also, I think, take our faith to an even deeper level, you know, to be able to stake our claim somewhere and realize that ... Listen, faith is a

choice. And regardless of whether we're having faith for the negative—which is fear—or whether we're believing for the positive—which is faith—we have a choice, right? Either way, it's belief in something we haven't seen yet.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: So, the way that I look at it is really being able to stake my claim in the positive, and daring to believe things that God is showing me that will actually come to pass. And there are somethings even right now that I'm like, "Is this going to happen? Isn't this going to happen? Should I prepare for it? Shouldn't I prepare for it?" And I'm realizing, "you know what? If I prepare for it, what's the worst that can happen? If I choose to believe and choose to extend my faith that way, what's the worst that can happen?" You know? But what's also the best that can happen?

Doug: Exactly. Yes.

Edwina: What's the best that can happen? And sometimes I feel like, you know, we have to start asking ourselves, "What's the best that can happen?"

Doug: Exactly. I agree with that. So, there is so much that you're just overflowing with. These testimonies, not only just the testimonies, there is power behind your words because you've walked this. That gives you authority. So, you've had these words. You know, you've received all these blessings now over 13 years, I guess. That was part of the prophetic word that I gave you, that there is something going on right now.

The Lord has brought you, you know, a man in your life, you have a baby, you have this career, you're working with Tyler Perry and Oprah Winfrey. My goodness! You have these blessings flowing from you right now, and you can see now. It's like a connect-the-dots drawing. You're looking back and seeing this, how these things happen. So, I guess there is a connection then between the spiritual and the prophetic and the life empowerment.

Edwina: Oh, there absolutely is. There absolutely is. I mean, my husband and I have an organization called Abundant Life University—we call it Abundant Life U. And we travel to a lot of different places and do workshops and seminars and conferences, you know, and speak at different organizations and ministries and colleges and universities. Some are secular, and some are spiritual.

A lot of times when you're speaking in a secular context, you have to be able to take things that are deeply spiritual and be able to kind of be that bridge, right? And be able to communicate things in a very tangible way. And I feel like that's really valuable, you know? Like there is a certain kind of methodology that we use when it comes to vision.

You know, a vision, obviously, is a very universal term, right? Before a lot of us who are in Christ and a lot of us who are receiving prophetic words, one thing they will come to realize is that a lot of times our vision is sparked by God. It's sparked by something that the Holy Spirit reveals to us. Just as far as methodology, you know, with regards to life empowerment and how we teach it.

Having vision boards ... Like a lot of people have vision boards. I have a vision *book*. My vision book is, I mean, *thick*. I created it, gosh, probably around that time, about 13 years ago. You know, I created it and really, I mean, from affirmations to different people who were role models, to different aspects of work that I really wanted to be involved in, you know, speaking. At the time, I was just out of college, you know, so none of these things had transpired yet. You know, it was just a dream.

Doug: Right.

Edwina: It was just a vision. It was just a word. But it's like each and every page, whether it's how much I wanted to be paid, you know, I had it on there, you know? Where I wanted to travel. I had it on there. You know, my wedding and marriage, I had it on there. A child, I had it on there, right? So, it is very, very, very vivid. And I do encourage people, you know, as far as life empowerment, have that vision board, have that vision book like I do. You know, really keep these things before you.

I think a lot of people wonder, "Is that spiritual or is that natural?" But I'm telling you, you know, there's something about the law of sympathetic resonance, you know, and a lot of these things are deeply spiritual, right? Like being able to set these things before you. And even God talks about visions and dreams and all of that, right?

So, for me it was cutting out images. You know, going through all kinds of magazines that really aligned themselves with what I felt like God was speaking over my life. Some things were initiated by God and some things were just, "Lord, I would love to live in a big house, so let me put that on there," you know?

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: I just desire, right? And then my heart desires, and then the Word talks about that too. Hey, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." So not being afraid of really conceiving what are the desires of my heart, right? So, in companion to that vision book for me was also this big

book of goals, right? So, for me it looked like planning out my life for like 50 years, Doug.

So, at first, I was really ... You know, when I was in college, my last year of college I had, and I went to NYU and studied drama. I went to Tisch School of the Arts and all that. It was a great program. You know, at the very end I was doing this course called *Preparing for the Profession*.

And now I teach a lot of that same stuff. But, you know, for my final paper they wanted us to plan our goals for the next 20 years. And I just couldn't do it. I could not do it. And I didn't understand why. Why I was so blocked? I finally went back to my teacher. I was like, "Well, can I just do 5 instead of 20?"

Doug, I went back, and I still couldn't do it. And I didn't understand what the block was. In fact, the school counselor suggested that I, nicely suggested, that I go to the school psychologist and figure out what is blocking me. I'm like, "Really? Is it that bad?" You know? But as God would have it, I went to church that Sunday. And the pastor, Dr. A.R. Bernard in New York City, he was preaching on visions and dreams and destiny.

And in that message, he started speaking about goals. He said, "You know the top reasons why people don't set goals?" And the number 1 reason was fear of failure, and after that was fear of success. And then it had to do with not being sold that goals actually have any kind of power, right? That anything will become of it. For me, I realized that I had a real fear of failure; that I was afraid to fail and therefore I didn't want to get specific about what it was that my heart really wanted.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: Because I didn't know what I would do if it didn't come to pass. And here I have made it so specific, and now I have articulated it, and now I've put it out there to myself and to others, you know, that this is something that I really wanted. What would happen if it doesn't come to pass? Then I'll be a failure. That's how I really felt, and that was prohibiting me from dreaming—and dreaming big.

So once God identified that for me, that that was a big block for me, then He started showing me in the Word how, you know, it says, "Write the vision, make it plain, so that the herald can run with it."

Doug: Exactly.

Edwina: You know, or being specific. Like, “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God,” you know? and how powerful the Word is, and how powerful our words are. That it’s creative power. *Elohim* was the Creator God. You know, that everything doesn’t have to exist first. That sometimes it exists in vision form first, but that we would be remiss to send if we don’t send that word out, right? If we just lock it up in our heart and just be afraid to release it.

No, speak by faith. Speak, speak, speak. Release. Write it down. Get specific. So that was the breakthrough, Doug, that I needed, in my heart that I needed. And I’m telling you, God gave it to me. And you just couldn’t shut me up. I wrote a whole book about it and just went on, and another thing and another thing and another thing and another thing.

Doug: Wow!

Edwina: And, I’m telling you, I still carry that book with me to this day because I’ve been amazed by how many things I’ve been able to check off the list, and how many things that I spoke. You know, all of it wasn’t a prophetic word. Some of it was just, “This is what I hope for. This is what I long for. This is what I would love to see happen.”

Doug: Yes, those are heart’s desires. You can have those.

Edwina: Yes, right? Sometimes we don’t feel like we’re allowed to have that, right? But there’s so much freedom in just really getting in touch with, “What does my heart really, really want?” And being able to articulate it. So that is what I did. Then it’s like the stage after that—as far as our methodology, you know—going from that vision stage to the goal stage. It is now lining your life with what you say you want. And a part of that is the discipline of becoming, right?

So, if I say, “Hey, I want to be an award-winning actress,” then “Hey, I want to be a mother,” “I want to be a wife,” right? Now it’s about ... At that time, though, we’re talking about just coming out of school. I mean, I had a million things, right? I want to do a million things, and I wanted to do them all at the same time, Doug, and I wanted them all to manifest at the same time—which was *now*, right?

Doug: Quickly.

Edwina: It’s all happening right now. So, for me a part of that discipline was, “Okay, I have to get focused. I have to get focused.” It’s not about just doing a million things. Sometimes it’s about doing two or three things exceptionally well.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: Versus being a jack-of-all-trades, trying to scatter yourself versus focus yourself. And that was really hard for me, I have to say, because I do music. I dance. I speak languages. You know, there were so many things. I write. You know, there were all these different things, and act ... And then, you know, within acting I was doing Shakespeare, and television, and film, you know, and plays and musicals, right? So, it's like with all of these different things in front of me, I had to really get specific about what is it that I'm really trying to see, see a harvest from in this season?

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: So now it's not just about scattering seed. It's about planting it strategically, and watering it strategically, and overseeing it strategically, right, so that I could see a very strategic and specific harvest in a certain area, right?

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: So that was hard for me. But that is one thing that we are able to really teach now, right? Helping people to get from like ... Okay, the macro is big when you first start out. But when you're implementing and executing, you have to start thinking micro. So, what are the things that you're thinking about in a micro level that you're willing to—day in and day out—water and see grow?

So, for me it boiled down to two things. In that season it was acting and abundant life. Those were the two things that God had spoken to me the most clearly about. Those were the things that I really felt, you know, in my heart that God was doing with me in that season and that I was called to perfect.

So, once you start narrowing that down, right? What are the few things that God is calling for in this season? It was encouraging for me that, okay, it's not always going to be this season, right? That, once these things grow, then I'll be able to add on other things. Right now, I'm in a season where I'm able to add on being a wife and adding on being a mother, adding on producing, right? So, God was faithful in that way.

But when it comes to "now," now you've minimized, right? And now you've decided, "I'm going to become an expert in certain areas versus the jack-of-all-trades." Now it's like, okay, the time management piece of, "How are you going set up your days so that everything you do is directed," right? So, you're not spending time—you're investing time.

So, we do this whole technique called “time mapping.” And really approaching time based upon your top—and we try not to go above 5, right? So, based upon your top 5 roles in your life. So, whether that’s as a prophet, you know ... as a speaker, as an entrepreneur, as a writer, you know ... and as a father, right? So those may be your top 5, right? For someone else it may be as a mother, as an entrepreneur or as an employee or whatever it is, as a wife, you know? So, depending upon how your life is set up and how you want your life to be set up.

Your top 5, you know, for some people, they are caretakers. There was a whole season in my life where I was a caretaker. Like that was one of my huge responsibilities within my family, and I had to rearrange things. I had to readjust my time map based around that being a huge role that I had to play.

So, we help people to identify those top roles as well as their top goals, right? What are you really, really trying to achieve in this season? Then we kind of do what is called “reverse engineering,” right? And so, we look at your time based upon your goals and based upon your roles, and start to develop a whole strategy for you on how to build your time each and every day, and create a time map. So that every day you’re moving the needle in these areas toward your goals, every single day, right? That you have structured your time ... Because we all have the same amount of time—24 hours in a day.

Sometimes we look at certain people and we’re like, “How in the world do they do it? They have 50 different books and travel all over the world? How in the world do they do it?” Right? And there are certain things that they have been able to master when it comes to time that some of us just either haven’t learned or haven’t committed to yet. So that is one of the things, just as far as that practical life strategy, that we help people to do.

And once we create that time map, then it’s about staying focused and actually having accountability, right? And having accountability partners, and people who you are sharing with who are going to walk with you hand-in-hand through this journey so that you can stay on it. So, it’s not just a plan, right? But that you’re really willing to work the plan.

Doug: Yes.

Edwina: Because that, you know ... and even, even, you know ... Jesus stayed focused, right? You know, He was, like He said no to a lot of different things. Or when people brought him things he said, “Umm, that’s not my assignment,” or “Umm, that may be a part of my assignment, but it’s not time yet.” So, He was very sensitive to the time. He was sensitive to the season. He was sensitive to the invitations, right? And He was very sensitive to His

purpose. He said, “Hey, I do what I see the Father doing. That’s what I do. You know, I don’t do a million things. I do the things that I see Him doing.”

Doug: That’s good.

Edwina: Yes, and so that’s really, you know, kind of a part of our natural methodology to come, you know, and walk hand in hand with that spiritual ... with these spiritual principles. We have just seen so much, you know, even with regard to people and finances. Whether it’s earning more income, you know, whether it’s getting out of debt.

You know, like there’s been just really big, you know, transformations that people have had in the natural realm—building businesses, sustainable businesses— that we have seen by people really adopting, you know, a methodology that is both natural and spiritual.

Doug: Yes. Yes. This is an amazing testimony. I want to just recap it. Correct me if I’m wrong here. But what I was hearing you say, is you need to get clear on what you feel called to do, do something practical towards it, seek the Lord, and take action whenever He speaks to you.

Edwina: Absolutely.

Doug: Yes. This is powerful. You and I are cut from the same cloth. This is my whole day. I map out my time. Most people don’t know that prophets actually do that, or don’t know a prophet that does that.

Edwina: Yes.

Doug: Anyway. It’s so good. This is so rich. Everyone, we’re talking to Edwina Findley Dickerson: actress, motivator, woman of God. Well, I’m going to have you pray over us here and activate this on us. And then let us know how we can get a hold of you. But I know there are some people who just want to receive what you have right now.

Edwina: Wow! Amen.

Well, Father, in the Name of Jesus, we come to You humbly and boldly. Father God, Your Word says that we can approach Your throne of grace boldly. Lord God, we just thank You, that You are omniscient and omnipresent, Father God. That You sit high when you look low, Father God. That there is not one person under the sound of my voice that You are not looking at right now, and that You do not know every single step of their life.

Lord God, You know where they've been, You know where they are right now and You know exactly where they're going. And, more importantly, You know where Your plan is for them to go, and we realize that we have a choice. We don't all have to walk out the ordered steps that You've created for us, and just because You have this great plan doesn't mean that we're all going to get there. Some of us are just not willing to do what it takes to join You on the journey.

So, I ask for a release right now of willingness and a heart of belief, starting with faith, Lord God. Faith that You are God, and that Your plans for us are incredible. So, we start with faith and believing that, and not being shaken in that no matter the circumstance, no matter what we have to endure. There are people here who are enduring very real challenges, and I have been through very real challenges. Doug has been through very real challenges.

So, we know what that is to have to have opposition even on a path, but it just makes you stronger. I just want you all to know it makes you stronger—that the testing of your faith absolutely produces that perseverance, and that there is a crown on the other side of it. There's glory on the other side of it if you can just hold on.

Father, adding to our faith obedience, Lord, us just being willing to follow You and the things that You say. Whether it is to move across the country like I did, or whether it is to just go to a Bible study, whatever it is, Lord God, that we will have faith. and that we also, Father God, everyone within the sound of my voice, Lord God, that they would add to their faith—works.

Lord God. That they would add to their faith, Father God, that just belief, Lord God, that what You called them to do, that You will help ready to pass. But that it is also for us to be a faithful steward over finances, over education, over training, Lord God, over preparation, Lord God, and we just believe.

I just want to release now, Lord God, that this time next year, that the people who are listening to this podcast—the people who have been following Doug, the people who have been ultimately following You, Lord God—that they will see fruit and manifestation. And that they will see harvest in their lives that will cause them to look back and just celebrate and praise God for the wonderful, wonderful things that You have released, Lord God, into their lives, oh God.

So, we just speak that commitment, Father God. We speak that, that co-laboring, co-laboring with You, Father, and that our lives each and every day will be transformed. That we'll all be transformed, Lord God, and that there will be manifestation in our lives that will just blow our minds. Just help us to

be reminded that there is a God, that He loves us, and that He is with us every single day.

Thank You for Doug. I ask that You continue to bless this ministry, explode this ministry, Lord God, and just bring him good gifts, Lord God, that our 30, 60, and even 100-fold, that which he pours out each and every day to all of us, in Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Doug: Amen. This, I tell you, is powerful, powerful. I love this. We're going to look back a year later. I tell you this was such a ... There was something that got released in the Spirit that you're going to go back and say, "This was a turning point."

Edwina: Amen.

Doug: Listen to this a few times. Tell us how we can get in touch with you, follow you on the internet.

Edwina: Absolutely. So my website is EdwinaFindley.com. I'm on Twitter and Instagram @edwinafindley, and I'm on Facebook @edwinafindleydickerson .

Doug: All right. Well, thank you so much, Edwina. It was such a blessing.

Edwina: You are so welcome. For those who would like to invite me to come and speak or lead a workshop, they can email info@abundantlifeu.org or they can email matt@silverliningentertainment.com. I definitely enjoy serving and just empowering people.

Doug: Yes. It just flows from you. The word of the testimony is really powerful this week. All right, everybody. Love you all. See you next time.

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