Live Like You Were Dying – Tim McGraw

Strumming Pattern: DDD, DU (loosely)

This is a rather tricky song once you reach the end of each verse. I tried to make it as simple as possible, but this is exactly how the song goes. As a “solo” guitar it won’t sound as full as the original song, but is accurate and after a few times not as challenging. I only included the “lesser known” chords on this page. Be sure that you have the “Chords Used” page for the other chords.

The progression of E5 – E5/Eb – E5/D – and into C5 really is based around piano chords, so the easiest way to play this is to form the E5 as a power chord, with your 1st finger on the seventh fret and your 3rd and 4th on the ninth frets. Then walk with your 1st finger to the Eb NOTE (6th fret A string) and then to the D NOTE (5th fret A string) all while keeping your 3rd and 4th fingers anchored. It is possible. It’s a bit of a stretch, but again – possible. There is also a key change here, and I’ve included the alternate (dual) names of the chords to help you.

E5:  x799xx
E/Eb: x699xx
E5/D: x599xx

Intro: G

(G) Cadd9
He said I was in my early forties with a lot of life before me
Em D Cadd9
and a moment came that stopped me on a dime
G Cadd9
I spent most of the next days, looking at the x-rays
Em D Cadd9
talking 'bout the options and talkin' 'bout sweet time
E5 E5/Eb
I asked him when it sank in if this might really be the real end
E5/D C5 (build C5 and then stop)
How's it hit 'cha when you get that kind of news, man what'cha do?
G
I went sky diving
Cadd9
I went rocky mountain climbing
Em D Cadd9
I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu
G B7 Em D Cadd9
And I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter and I gave forgiveness I’d been denying
D G
and he said some day I hope you get the chance to live like you were dying.
(G) Cadd9
He said I was finally the husband that most the time I wasn't
Em D Cadd9
And I became a friend a friend would like to have
And all the sudden going fishin' wasn't such an imposition
And I went three times that year I lost my dad.
Well I finally read the Good Book and I took a good long hard look
at what I'd do if I could do it all again and then...
I went sky diving
I went rocky mountain climbing
I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu
And I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter and I gave forgiveness I'd been denying
and he said some day I hope you get the chance to live like you were dying.
Like tomorrow was a gift and you got eternity to think about what you'd do with it
What could you do with it?

Sky diving
I went rocky mountain climbing
I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu
And I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter and I gave forgiveness I'd been denying
and he said some day I hope you get the chance to live like you were dying.