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**“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission**  
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**Daily Devotional**

*“Fearfulness” – Laureice Maheux*

ANNCR: January 30<sup>th</sup>, “Fearfulness.” As a child, were you forbidden from watching scary movies? Parents want to protect their children from unhealthy and gratuitous entertainment. But did you manage to sneak a peek at a couple anyway? This always feels like a very grown-up and rebellious act of independence...until every footstep, every thump, and even darkness itself sends you screaming in fear. And you realize your parents simply wanted to save you from this torture. There are a lot of things in this life that can make us fearful – legitimate threats, as well as some imaginary ones. When we’ve seen danger first-hand, we tend to live with an enormous burden. But is this God’s plan for us? Today, we’ll meet a woman who spent her life in fear, and her personal experiences seemed to validate it. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

LAUREICE: My fears began in early childhood when Mom left me with baby-sitters while she worked. Dad was killed in a fall from a building where he worked as a carpenter, so I have no memory of him. Somehow I had the idea that God was mean and would take me to

hell, so I had a fear of him, too. As I got older, I was afraid Mom would die and I'd be left alone. When I was twelve, she died of cancer. My relatives put me in an orphanage where I remained until I was eighteen. I vowed I would never love or need anyone because it hurt too much.

I found a job in Chicago and roomed with two other girls. My drinking began then with them and soon accelerated to excess. Just before I got married at nineteen, I became hooked on amphetamines, trying to lose weight. I cared about the babies I gave birth to, but I had no feelings for anything else. For the next twelve years I was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. My marriage failed. Finally, I went to Alcoholics Anonymous and quit drinking.

There I met a friend whose inner peace was anchored in Jesus. She helped me pray for salvation, but I had many battles ahead because of my fears. I learned through the Bible that "perfect love casts out fear," and Jesus helped me overcome each fear, one at a time by memorizing scripture and trusting Him. I'm Laureice Maheux.

ANNCR: King David wrote in Psalm chapter 27, verse 1, *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”* Friend, if we know one thing for certain, David didn’t have an easy life. For much of his youth, he was alone in a field with wild animals or fleeing from murderous King Saul. Yet, even he can say he has nothing to fear. Why? Because we have God! The truth is, trouble and danger will come our way, giving us reason to fear, unless we trust the one who is in charge, who cradles us in His hand and protects and provides for us. Will you receive this truth today?

CREDITS: Unshackled Daily Devotionals are produced by Pacific Garden Mission along with our Unshackled Audio Dramas. To find even more true stories of God’s saving, transforming power, visit our website, [unshackled.org](http://unshackled.org).

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Camilla Hawk.

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