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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“The Power To End Fear” – Charles Orr

ANNCR: February 7th, “The Power To End Fear.” What would you say is the most majestic creature in the animal kingdom? A wolf, grizzly bear, lion? How about the enormous blue whale? The truth is, massive and ferocious creatures remind us how small and vulnerable we really are. And this sort of power creates in us a sense of awe. Wild beasts are a thing to behold, but they’re also a thing to be feared. The greater the creature, the more admiration and respect it demands. But now think about our God. He is not a creature in the created sense, but he possesses power and majesty beyond anything we’ve seen here on earth, beyond anything we can comprehend! And He is to be feared....right? Well, today, we’ll meet Charles, a man who encountered many powerful forces in his life, and rightly learned to fear them. Until he discovered the power that ends all fear. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

CHARLES: Why I went so wrong is hard to figure. My parents took me to church and Sunday school and wanted nothing but the best for me. I suppose it started with sports at which I excelled in high school,

earning me a scholarship to college. Popularity ushered in drinking, then drugs, as I experimented with every drug imaginable. Well, naturally, I dropped my athletic scholarship and became a drug head, dealing to support my addiction.

Hoping to reform, I moved back home after graduation where an old friend who had become a preacher tried to tell me about Jesus. I brushed him off and became even more immersed in the drug culture as a dealer. Trouble is, I was my own best customer, using cocaine until I came apart emotionally. I often cried myself to sleep, afraid of dying and what lay ahead.

Through cocaine I was drawn into a web of Satan worshippers, enticed by their promise of power even though I deeply feared the evil that surrounded them. When they betrayed me, I decided to end my life. I turned on the TV and heard a preacher talk about God's love and forgiveness no matter what we've done. I fell to the floor, weeping, and confessed my sins to a just and Holy God, asking Him to save me. Peace flooded my being.

Then I called my high-school-friend-turned-preacher, who let me stay with him while I grew in faith. I'm Charles Orr, and Jesus gave me victory over my addictions.

ANNCR: The author of Hebrews speaks of Jesus in chapter 9, verse 14, saying, *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* Friend, the holiness and unmatched glory of our God certainly demands reverence. And it should bring us to our knees each and every day! But the power of God has also granted us salvation through grace. So rather than causing dread, this power actually frees us from sin and allows us to enjoy, celebrate and live in awe of His majesty! Are you living in 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.

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Fred Stone.

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