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Daily Devotional

“Fostering Discontentment” – Jerry Endres

ANNCR: July 4th, “Fostering Discontentment.” When was the last time you felt discontent? This emotion’s not necessarily overt. Sometimes it shows up as quiet dissatisfaction or a restlessness we can’t really explain. But it tells us that something’s missing...even when it looks like we should be living the dream. This is a difficult place to be, especially as believers. Because yes, even as Christians, we can find ourselves here. But feeling discontent doesn’t take place in a vacuum. Rather, specific things in our life can actually feed discontentment, and knowing what they are can help us fix the problem. So, just how do we identify these things? Well, it boils down to anything that creates a disconnect between us and God. I’ll let Jerry tell you more, as he’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JERRY: I joined the Navy at seventeen, married my high school sweetheart and worked hard for promotions. We had two daughters by the time I took up target shooting. From then on I devoted most of my spare time to pistol shooting on the range, and I became very good.

Unfortunately, I ignored my family when I was home, and then sea duty kept me away as well.

I barely noticed when my oldest daughter began focusing on church. And when the pastor came to visit, I slammed the door in his face. But I never slammed the door on pistol competitions and I never lost in ten years. When I was made team captain, however, even I noticed my personality problems. I was aggressive and critical, and I didn't like myself very much. I began to wonder if there was anything that could bring me happiness.

All those years my daughters had been asking me to go to church, and I refused. The week before our oldest went away to college I decided to go. I didn't understand the sermon at all, but I knew those joyous people had something I didn't. The pastor came to visit, and this time I didn't slam the door on him. He told me I could seek the Lord anytime, anywhere, and God would hear. That night I surrendered my life to Christ. I can't describe the relief and joy I felt when my sins were washed away by the blood of Jesus. And now I share the good news as a pastor, myself. I'm Jerry Endres.

ANNCR: In John chapter 15, Jesus instructs his disciples to abide in Him. Then, He says in verse 11, *“These things have I spoken unto you, that*

my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” Friend, because God is our true satisfaction, discontentment grows as we’re disconnected from Him. And even as Christians, this is a danger. If we’re not careful, we can fill our time and mind with things that draw us away from God and that become idols in our life. So I encourage you to stop and examine where you may be fostering discontentment. 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.

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Tom Gaitsch.

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