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

*“Refusing Help” – Dan Gilmore*

ANNCR: July 9<sup>th</sup>, “Refusing Help.” Imagine you’ve fallen and are hanging from a tall cliff when a rope is lowered down to you. You scoff and push the rope aside, reaching for jutting rocks and roots to pull yourself up. After an hour, however, your hands are bruised and sore. You’re ready to give up. Then you notice the rope again, still there, waiting for you to grab hold. While it seems crazy that someone would refuse such obvious help, the truth is, we do it all the time. God is the one who provides, yet we often turn to Him as a last resort. Today we’ll meet a man who held out as long as he possibly could. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

DAN: My troubles began with Dad, who had such a violent temper we hid when he came home. Then he vanished from our lives, and at age six, I was put in a foster home because Mom couldn’t feed us. The next eight years my brother and I suffered physical and sexual abuse. When my brother left, the pain in my heart was unbearable. I had lost everyone in my family.

Two years later I saw my brother for the last time. He gave me LSD and said Mom was a paranoid schizophrenic in a mental hospital. That summer I began setting fires in an empty field. I quit when I almost burned a house, but I still vandalized other people's property. Depression, ulcers and alcoholism settled over me by age sixteen. I joined the army at twenty, thinking my foster father would approve. When he condemned my decision, I had my first nervous breakdown and was hospitalized three months. After that he totally rejected me.

I turned on to every drug I could find and hid out in my room. Then I met Mary Ann. She loved me and we were married. She believed in Jesus but I dragged her away from her faith. As I slid deeper into darkness, her only hope was Christ. One night she read Ephesians six-twelve to me – how demons were keeping me in chains, but Jesus would set me free. What a revelation! I prayed, asking Christ into my heart and my depression lifted. I quit drugs, then alcohol, and we moved back to Mary Ann's hometown where the church helped us grow in faith. I went to Bible college so we could help others know the Lord.

ANNCR: The prophet Isaiah spoke to the hard-headed nation of Judah in Isaiah chapter 59, verses 1 and 2, *“Surely the arm of the LORD is not*

*too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*” Friend, when we insist on our own way, we are pushing ourselves away from God...we’re not taking the rope. But the promise of His help is still present. If we would humbly seek His Lordship over every area of our life, He will readily come to our aid. 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 Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Dave Kappas.

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