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

*“The Light Of A New Day” – Paul Silva*

ANNCR: March 14<sup>th</sup>, “The Light Of A New Day.” We’ve made it a couple months into the new year now, so I have to ask – how are your “resolutions” holding up? Still going strong? Or have you found yourself in some of the same unhealthy patterns you were hoping to break? The truth is, we love the idea of a clean slate, and we often look to external things – a new location, job, or time of year – to create this feeling of newness in us. But what happens when we realize we’re still flawed? Do we keep running after the next reason to feel new? The man we’ll meet today did a lot of running, until he encountered the Light that truly transformed him. Paul’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

PAUL: Drinking and drugs dominated my high school years, and I flunked out of college, so I went to work managing one of Dad’s parking lots. I skimmed money every day to support my drinking at night. I hated myself and wanted to get a fresh start, and the opportunity came after an accident that brought a hefty insurance settlement. I found a new job in a new state, but the same old me was fired for drinking.

I moved to Boston where my efforts to turn over a new leaf failed when I started skimming at my *new* job. My cousin and I shared an apartment. I didn't share her spiritual quest for God, but I went along with her on several visits to gurus. Then — in what I can only call a fit of drug-induced insanity — a friend and I began skydiving. We spent weekends jumping out of airplanes, sometimes when we were high on hallucinogenic drugs. One night, my mind began slipping on the drugs, and I ran frantically to get away from the evil pursuing me.

I ran toward a light at the airport that I thought was the cross of Jesus, and I fell on my face crying, "I surrender! Jesus, help me!" The light turned out to be a lighted windsock, but that's where my old life came to an end. Later that night, as I walked the street, I sat on the steps of a locked church and prayed, and God's power and love became real to me. I'm Paul Silva, and drugs and thievery are in the past now.

ANNCR: Hebrews chapter 4, verse 16 says, "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" Friend, finding newness begins at the feet of Jesus, each and every day. There is no reason to run. Rather, as

His children, we can approach Him and be cleansed with His forgiveness. And it is His strength that will help us overcome the sins and unhealthy practices we so desperately want to break. 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 Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Thompson Howell.

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