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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Our Wit’s End” – Phil Thatcher

ANNCR: December 11th, “Our Wit’s End” Is now a bad time? What I mean is, are you having a bad time right now? We’re all vulnerable to the struggles of life, but maybe you’re weighed down by a different kind of challenge. Maybe you’ve been following the path of sin, and you’re now facing some difficult repercussions. Maybe you’re a Christian who’s fallen away, and each day seems filled with shame, bitterness, and depression. The truth is, sin can take us to our wit’s end. But is everything lost? Do you have to give up here, or can God still reach into this darkness? Phil’s got an answer for you. His sin landed him in literal darkness, where he finally recognized the Light. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

PHIL: I spent years in reformatories and prisons and yet — believe it or not, my dad was a preacher. He died when I was a kid, and Mom had to support six kids by cleaning houses. Left alone, I thought nobody cared, and I hung out on the street with other neglected kids. We broke into a storage place and stole a bunch of stuff,

and because Mom couldn't supervise me, the judge sent me to reformatory.

At thirteen I was arrested and sent to my second reform school. Finally, at fifteen I went home again. By then I was hardened, impervious to Mom's pleas and prayers. I worked some, drank a lot and burrowed deeper into crime, mostly burglaries. A multiple loser, I spent time in San Quentin, but it was in Folsom, facing years behind bars that I felt despair. Scripture Mother had taught me kept infiltrating my mind. I began reading the Bible.

Night after night I sat by the door where a sliver of light came through and read that Bible. Night after night, and the Light of the world penetrated the darkness in my soul. I cried out to God, asking Him to reveal Himself to me. God will answer a sincere prayer because He sure answered mine. I could see Jesus, bloody and hanging on the cross for me — for me, a thief. And I said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner and save me for Jesus' sake." And He set me free of my prison of selfishness. When I was released, I went back into prison to share God's love. I'm Phil Thatcher.

ANNCR: In the book of Daniel, we're told that King Nebuchadnezzar witnessed miracles, which revealed the one true God, yet he continued to live for himself. So, in Daniel chapter 4, God brought King Nebuchadnezzar to his wit's end, driving him from his kingdom to live like a wild animal. Yet, after seven years, verses 34 says, ***"...I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever."***

Friend, if sin has brought you to the end of yourself, please know that not all is lost. In fact, everything can be gained, right here and now. If you'll repent and surrender everything to our Savior, the Light of the world. 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 P.J. Byrnes.

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