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

“Ready For The Win” – Jeffrey Hipley

ANNCR: April 16th, “Ready For The Win.” Have you ever seen a child learning to walk? Time and again, their legs give out or they lose their balance and fall to the ground. Maybe your life feels like this...learning to walk, falling down time and time again. Maybe you’ve been through a series of failures, be they bad choices or unfortunate circumstances, and you’ve almost given up on the win. Today we’ll hear from a man who failed many times in his life. He’s here to share his true story on this UNSHACKLED Daily Devotional.

JEFF: Feeling worthless is easy when other kids make fun of you. I’m Jeff Hipley, diagnosed with epilepsy at age five, and ridiculed from then on. After Dad started drinking hard a few years later, I rebelled. If he didn’t care, I didn’t either. I hung out with the drinkers and fighters, and my drinking led to accidents and wrecked relationships. No woman stayed with me for long.

I fell in love with a girl who wouldn’t marry me, but we lived together and bought a house. We fought constantly, so I went to rehab and

quit drinking. When I learned she was having an affair with my boss, I threatened to kill him. My grandmother begged me to forgive, and sent me tracts, encouraging me to give my life to Christ.

I tried to commit suicide with drugs and awoke in the hospital, ashamed of failing. Grandma brought a man from her church to sponsor and mentor me as I recovered. Mom poured out all my booze. Alone in my apartment, in desperation, I cried out to God to save me, and I felt the peace of Christ flow through me, giving me strength.

I began to grow in my faith, and the first time I gave my testimony, my dad was saved. I went to Bible college, and now serve in prison ministry. God gave me a beautiful wife and son, but most of all He gave me new life in Jesus Christ.

ANNCR: The Apostle Paul states in Romans chapter 8, verses 35 through 37, *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”* Friend, maybe you

feel like you've failed countless times, you're exhausted, and ready to give up. But let me remind you that we have a greater hope. God, the creator of the universe, is the one who gives the victory, and He is on our side! Through Jesus' sacrifice, we have been guaranteed not only eternal life with God, but his forgiveness, grace, and provision throughout this earthly life. We will face hardships, yes, but our relationship with Jesus Christ is the only guarantee we could ever have for final victory. Will you find hope 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 Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Steve Bayorgeon.

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