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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“The Pride Antidote” – David Rowland

ANNCR: April 27th, “The Pride Antidote.” C.S Lewis once said, “pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.” It is true, pride is a destructive thing, but it can also be very subtle, and it can live in our life under many different disguises. So how are we to protect ourselves against this sly intruder? Today we’ll hear from a man who learned how. He’s here to share his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

DAVID: For many years I was addicted to myself. I’m Dave Rowland, and I had a driving need to be loved, to look good and to be admired. So I didn’t do drugs in college; I studied hard and played football. I even left the fraternity because of too many parties.

The war in Vietnam brought demonstrations to campus, and I began to doubt being in ROTC, so they discharged me. Then I faced the draft, so I worked at being a conscientious objector, which forced me to explore my beliefs. I took Old Testament

classes and counseled with the chaplain until I was classified 1-O.
But the Bible mystified me.

I fell in love with Susan, a pharmacy student, and we married after graduation. We set goals: to own our own pharmacy, restore an old house and have an indoor pool. Even after we achieved these dreams, I still felt empty inside, which left a pervasive anger within me. The birth of our daughter didn't change me, although I loved her. My wife and I fought all the time.

Well, we started going to church again, and I quickly became head deacon, even though I didn't know Christ. The deep emptiness remained. After several years, we tried a different church that taught from the Bible. And a friend suggested I read a book that explained how to have a personal relationship with Christ. I realized that Jesus Christ was God's provision for sin, and I saw myself for what I was: self-centered. I asked God's forgiveness, trusting Him as my Savior, and was born again. My wife was saved right after me. Today my eyes are no longer on myself.

ANNCR: The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17,
“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Friend, one of the surest indicators of pride is how we view the word of God. The Bible is entirely and singularly the word of truth. It is not an optional tool, and its purpose is not to support the things we want to believe...about ourselves, God, or the world around us. As Dave learned, Christian community with Bible-believing pastors and teachers helps us identify and guard against the “spiritual cancer” of pride. Because only when we defer strictly to the word of God can we be sure our faith has not become self-centered. 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 Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and John Green.

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