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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Eruptions” – Jim Winberry

ANNCR: April 23rd, “Eruptions.” Volcanoes are powerful and terrifying forces of nature. They are like open wounds on the surface of the earth, direct arteries to the burning underbelly of our planet. It is here, deep underground, that the temperature becomes so intense, rocks melt. And as pressure builds, this boiling fire is brought to the surface and ferociously spewed at temperatures of more 2,000 degrees. While the images of a fire-breathing mountain may make you shudder, an even more common – but just a destructive – force is anger. Today we’ll meet a man who thought anger was just a way of life...until he learned something better. He’s here to share his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JIM: I’m Jim Winberry, and I grew up in New York. Our family was always fighting about something. Dad once told me I had to learn to fight or else. So I fought. But I also rescued kids that were being bullied.

After graduation, I worked in Florida as a guard in a prison for the criminally insane. The guys there scared even me, and I was glad

when Dad helped me get a job back home. My temper was still atrocious. I took up boxing and I was vicious. When my brother accidentally hit me in the face with a hockey stick, I yanked the banister off the wall and tried to bash his head in with it.

Nothing changed when I married Nadine. She became increasingly unhappy with my rough treatment. I even threatened the doctor when she had problems during pregnancy. Then an old friend invited me to Bible study, and I went again and again, drawn by the peace each one of them had. They loved me in spite of my cruel ways, and one day I prayed to receive Christ as my personal Savior. God gave me a new heart, and I began to change.

Now I love to hand out tracts and tell others about Jesus. My grandmother, my dad and my brother have all received Christ. Instead of hatred, He's given me a real love for others. What a change!

ANNCR: Psalm chapter 37, verses 8 and 9 says, *“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.”* Friend, while anger is a God-given emotion, it can be used for great evil. Like a volcano, it can become uncontrollable, carrying us into sin. We are to be self-controlled as believers, able to yield

our emotions in Christ-likeness. Many things can cause anger, but trust in the Lord is a sure antidote. Faith in God's sovereignty breaks us of any prideful expectations and violent disappointments. When we see ourselves as part of God's bigger, perfect plan, we will find peace instead of fury. Will you live 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 Howard Friedland.

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