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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Anchored In The Truth” – Tim Lawlor

ANNCR: June 24th, “Anchored In The Truth.” Have you ever lost hold of a light object on a windy day? If so, you know how difficult it can be to try and get it back. The object races ahead of you, skipping across the ground and darting in all different directions. It has nothing to hold it down and is completely at the mercy of the wind. A similar phenomenon takes place in our belief system. When we are without a firm grasp of the truth, we’re vulnerable to being pushed and pulled in every direction. Various philosophies call to us, and we become taken in by their appeal. Today we’ll hear from a man who was tossed about amidst nearly every teaching he encountered. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

TIM: I’m Tim Lawlor, and my parents let me quit going to church; but I played on the church basketball team where I heard the gospel and prayed for salvation. My mom and dad showed no interest in my decision, so I quit reading the Bible, and I turned to parties and drugs. I made the Dean’s List in college, but I also almost OD’d on angel dust.

After that I spent a year free of drugs; but as soon as I went home to Maine, my friends lured me into smoking pot. To get away, I hitchhiked to Vermont and worked as a ranger with the Forest Service. Vegetarianism became my religion. Christians, including a fellow ranger, tried to tell me about Jesus, but I scorned God. After I lost my job for getting a DUI, I took a bus to California where I tried Buddhism and New Age stuff. Back in Vermont again, I was a bartender until I got fed up with my aimless life, and I went to a gospel concert. There I prayed with a counselor who told me to read the Bible and go to a Bible-teaching church. God heard my prayer, forgave my sin and gave my life purpose. I attended Bible college, and when I went back to tell the ranger I was following Christ, he was amazed. He thought I was too far gone to save. So don't ever give up on anyone.

Today I'm married with seven children, and I pastor a church.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul wrote to early believers in Ephesians chapter 4, encouraging them to grow in spiritual maturity. He says in verse 14, ***“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.”*** Friend,

spiritual maturity is a choice. If we are not continually growing in the truth, we are sure to be drug into harmful philosophies. Then, like Tim, we will begin to embrace every good-sounding ideology, oblivious to the lies that support it. So let's determine to know God's word, and anchor ourselves against the manipulative voices in the wind. 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 Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Dale Inghram.

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