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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Our Belief” – Richard Emery

ANNCR: December 18th “Our Belief.” Do you believe in God? The fact that you’re listening to this devotional just might mean you do, but there are actually two different ways of looking at this question. One is to understand the question to ask, “Do you believe that God is real?” The other is to say, “Do you trust Him?” You see, these two questions are not the same. We can know that the Bible is true, we can be certain that God is our living Creator, we can even acknowledge that Jesus’ death is the only way to be cleansed of our sins...but if we are not trusting God enough to surrender ourselves to Him, our belief means nothing. This is what Richard learned. He came to know that God is real, and he even went through the motions of other Christians, but soon realized he hadn’t trusted in the God he met. It all began with a horrific car accident and near-death experience. But Richard’s here now to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

RICHARD: How I lived is a miracle. Why I’m not paralyzed or a vegetable is another miracle. Doctors thought many times I wouldn’t survive as

one crisis after another developed. When I *did* live, they said I would be a different person. They were right.

As I came out of the coma, I told my dad that I'd seen God. He was shocked because I had always described myself as an atheist. I spent eight months in hospitals, six months in casts and a year in physical therapy. But after that I went to church every Sunday, enrolled in college and considered myself a friend of God.

But church attendance hadn't given me the love, joy and peace that some of my friends had. I went to a retreat with them and learned that I needed to place my complete trust in Christ. When I arrived home, I sat in my room and thought about my life. When a man "sees God", his only response should be fear and shame at his own wretchedness before a Holy and righteous God. I prayed and confessed my sin to Him.

I'm Richard Emery, and Jesus set me free of so many things — most of all selfishness — and today I serve Him gladly. I urge you to look at your life and see the ways God is trying to reach you.

ANNCR: James commands Christians to match our faith with action. To make his point, he writes in James chapter 2, verse 19, "*Thou*

believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” Friend, this verse compares us to the very antagonists of God and explains that even they have faith. But if we’re to be different from them, our knowledge of God has to change us! Our faith must result in action, inwardly as well as outwardly. We need to respond to our knowledge of God by emptying ourselves and placing all trust squarely in Him. Otherwise, our belief has fallen short. 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 Steve Bayorgeon.

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