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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Each Person’s Choice” – Candy

ANNCR: July 7th, “Each Person’s Choice.” Have you ever wanted to help someone by giving them the answers to a test? Maybe you were the straight-A student in school, and your friends just needed a little assistance. But what does “help” like this really mean? The true test in life will be whether your friend knows the information.

Understanding has to be a personal accomplishment, and no one can step in and claim it for someone else. Likewise, salvation is a personal decision, and even our enthusiasm cannot be transmitted to – and may not be received by – those around us. Today we’ll hear from a woman who lived through this experience. She’s here to share with us her true story, beginning with how she met her husband, on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

CANDY: I’m Candy, and we went to the same church. Although I adored him, we never dated. He came home from basic training, kissed me and asked me to marry him. Two months later we married without ever having dated because he was based two hundred miles away. At our wedding reception, he gave me a ball and chain.

What a rude awakening! On our honeymoon I learned he was twisted by pornography. His compulsion required that I do bizarre and humiliating things. I had to dress provocatively and go to topless joints with him. I began drinking to cope with the misery. Three daughters were born to us, so we looked like the perfect family.

After my brother committed suicide and my best friend died, I no longer had any desire for sex. My husband's abuse increased and we separated. I hadn't been to church since we were married, but one day I went to see the pastor and poured my heart out to him. He led me in a prayer of salvation. As I began to experience God, my life changed and I asked my husband to come home again. For six years I learned to be a real wife without seductive dress; I gave up alcohol.

But my husband became more violent, and I saw his perversion toward our daughters. One day a woman called to say that she had been lovers with him for six years, so I finally left with my daughters. I still pray for my husband. Today I have a ministry reaching out to victims of pornography and abuse for whom Jesus died to set free.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 1, verse 18, *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”* Friend, even when we find the hope of Jesus, we often discover that those around us are still hardened to its message. But do not let that shake you. Like Candy, continue to pray for those who are lost, and hold tight to the truth. It must be each person’s decision to follow Jesus, but we can continue to ask that God would grant them the grace to know Him, as He has done for us. And whatever they decide, we still rejoice for our peace and joy is in Him. 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 Liz Zweifler.

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