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**“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission**  
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**Daily Devotional**

*“Fulfilling Expectations” – Rosa Ramirez*

ANNCR: February 6<sup>th</sup>, “Fulfilling Expectations.” Have you ever heard of a self-fulfilling prophecy? It’s a way of “predicting” the future by helping to control the outcome. Like this – imagine you’re in the thick of a heated basketball game, and with one second left on the clock, you take a foul. You stand at the free throw line. If you can just make this shot, you’ll win the game! But if you doubt your abilities and only picture missing the basket, you’re probably not going to pull it off. You see, what we believe has an effect on what we do...and what others do. Today, we’ll meet Rosa Ramirez, a woman who lived up to the hurtful expectations of others. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

ROSA: It began in childhood in Italy when my grandparents sent me to live with an aunt so I could get tutoring, and my tutor molested me. I told my aunt but she didn’t believe me. She said I would end up a tramp, just like my mother whom I never knew. I graduated from high school during World War Two. When my father accused me of

being like my mother, I left home and went to where the American camps were and where I lived down to his accusation.

In 1949 I married an American seaman who took me to America. But there I suffered mental problems and was put into the psych ward, ending that marriage. I went back to my old life, drinking, selling my body, destroying my soul. My second marriage to a seaman lasted three days. Then he was gone. For the next twenty years I lived a life of depravity. I worked as a desk clerk in a hotel which provided a room for me.

Then a new manager came and he was a born-again, transformed alcoholic. He talked to me about Jesus and gave me some books to read about people whom the Lord transformed. He talked about God's love, even for someone like me. On Christmas Eve in 1975, I decided to end my life. When I failed, I went to this man and asked him to help me. He took me to hear an evangelist, and I went forward to give my life to Christ. How Jesus changed my life! I never went back to that old sordid life. As a child of God, how could I? Jesus changed everything by His love.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul speaks to believers in Romans chapter 8, verse 15, saying, *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to*

*fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*” Friend, no matter what hurtful expectations you’ve had thrust upon you, God has given you a new standard. He’s given us a new identity as a child of the Creator God! So how could we ever give in to the world’s expectations again when God has given us so much? 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](http://unshackled.org).

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Mickie O’Donnell.

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