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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Following Through” - Stephen McPherson

ANNCR: May 16th, “Following Through.” How many things have you left undone? Too many to count? The truth is, we all have goals we want to accomplish – or a do-list we simply want to get done – but our ambitions often prove greater than our resolve. As life unfolds, we get distracted, other obligations crowd into our schedule, we become worn down, and before we know it, we’ve given up. Maybe we’re hoping for that next “big win,” yet we seem to only leave behind a trail of loose ends. This is a difficult place to be, but as flawed human beings, it’s not uncommon. Even as believers, we may find ourselves feeling this way about our spiritual walk. But there is hope. Today we’ll meet Stephen, a man who seemed incapable of sticking with, well, pretty much anything. Stephen’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

STEPHEN: I had a rocky start in life. My dad left Mom right after I was born, so we lived with my grandparents. Grandpa drank so much, I witnessed a lot of domestic violence. We moved out, but returned when Grandpa died. Grandma was saved by then and she told me

how to receive Jesus as Savior. I prayed, but my commitment ended with my friends' mockery.

In high school the coach noticed my ability in track and field. I won races and varsity letters and hoped for a college scholarship, which I didn't get. My beginning was always better than my finish, and I was more disappointed at my failure to win big.

I nearly lost my hand in an accident at my summer job. Then my car was stolen. I began smoking pot and drinking too much, so my grades slipped. One day as I sat in the student lounge, a guy with a Bible sat down, and we talked. He described the high calling of God in Jesus Christ and said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I needed to become new because, in spite of my speed at running, I had gone nowhere.

When I received Jesus Christ as my Savior, the urge for drugs disappeared. I'm Stephen McPherson, and Christ has given me new life!

ANNCR: The apostle Paul says in Romans chapter 5, verse 10, "***For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,***

much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” Friend,
here’s the good news -- God has already accomplished what we
cannot. He has rescued us from sin and brought us into relationship
with Himself. And as our living Savior, He will continue, hand-in-
hand, with us through our journey of sanctification. He has led the
way for us, and He will continue leading us until we reach glory with
Him. So when we fall short, praise God for His enduring
faithfulness, and that we can lean on Him to help us follow through!
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 Ryan Priestler.

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