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

*“Pressed Out Of Measure” – Joyce Thurner*

ANNCR: June 16<sup>th</sup>, “Pressed Out Of Measure.” “God will not give you more than you can handle.” Is this hard to believe? I’m sure you’ve been through some difficult times where it felt like the world caved in on your shoulders. Were you supposed to carry it all? And if so, did God know the anguish you were going through? Today, we’ll hear from a woman who nearly gave up in the midst of her excruciating circumstances. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JOYCE: I’m Joyce Thurner, and I was born and raised in Scotland. When I was six, and my parents divorced, they each took one of my brothers and left me with an aunt and uncle. I grew up hungry for love and married the first man who said he loved me. He was a drunk who beat me even when I was pregnant with our two daughters; he was a thief who ended up in prison where he asked for a divorce. Except for my daughters I would have committed suicide.

About that time, my father called from America and urged me to move there. He turned out to be an alcoholic, too; and I, still hungry for love, became promiscuous and had my first abortion. They told me it was only a blob of tissue. Six months later, after a man broke into my apartment and sexually assaulted me, I had my second abortion. Too late, I realized it was more than a blob of tissue, and I cried and cried and cried.

Then I married a man I thought would fill my need for love; but we were both lost. In desperation I went to church, heard the gospel message, and gave my life to Christ, saving our marriage for about ten years, but in the end, drugs and other women lured him away. The Lord sustained me through every heartache while I raised our five children. Today I am the director of a crisis pregnancy center in Utah, helping other young girls avoid the mistakes I made. Don't ever take a life that God has given you. Through Christ you can solve any problem and be set free of all fear.

ANNCR: In 2 Corinthians chapter 1, verses 8 through 10, the apostle Paul describes one particular circumstance he endured as a follower of Christ. He says, ***"We were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God***

*which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;”* Friend, in this life, we will feel lost and overwhelmed – even as believers. But as believers, we also have hope. God himself is our deliverer, and he will strengthen us with a supernatural power we could never muster on our own. And through the fire, we can grow closer to him, as we learn to rely fully on his strength and provision. Will you fall on his mercies 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 Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Mickie O’Donnell.

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