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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Altered Consciousness” – John Tobin

ANNCR: January 31st, “Altered Consciousness.” Have you ever played an immersion-style video game? The headset feeds you new sights and sounds that seem to change your whole reality. Your senses perceive something other than what’s truly around you, and this can be fun and exciting! But the world around you doesn’t change. And you better keep that in mind or you might get hurt. You see, while this make-believe reality transports you to incredible places, it also fails to tell you where the corner of the coffee table is...or the cat. We can imagine we’re somewhere else as much as we want, but it doesn’t change our actual existence. Instead, it can leave us vulnerable to our actual existence. Today, we’ll hear from John Tobin, a man who struggled with altered reality, but on a much deeper level. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JOHN: Being a drug dealer made me very popular—something I craved — and I became a party animal. Even though I was arrested for possession with intent to sell, even though I had a blackout and nearly drove my car off a bridge, even though I lived with anger,

fear and depression, I didn't try to change my life because I didn't know how. No matter where I went or what I did, life was void of meaning and full of foreboding.

Then one night I unwittingly took PCP with alcohol and became an alien in my state of "altered consciousness." Paranoid delusions in a restaurant led me to threaten and yell until the manager called police who battled me into submission. I stood before the judge with a cracked head and blood from head to toe. He put me in the mental hospital where doctors were uncertain that I would recover from my drug experience.

My cousin came to see me and talked about Jesus, how He was beaten far worse than I and nailed to a cross for my sins. I was too unstable to understand, but when I was released, my cousin once again patiently explained the gospel — "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." He said I could have peace with God, forgiveness and eternal life simply by believing that Christ paid the penalty for my sin and by receiving Him as Lord and Savior. I did and He altered my consciousness forever.

ANNCR: God says of Himself in Numbers chapter 23, verse 19, *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”* Friend, in a world of lies where self-destruction is perceived as freedom, we need the Truth more than ever. Despite what the world calls “reality,” as believers, we have the one who never changes! We have the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever! And we must let Him inform our consciousness. 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 Dave Leffel.

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