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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“The Hard Road” – Robert Allport

ANNCR: June 26th, “The Hard Road.” I’m sure you’re familiar with stories of people who insist on learning things the hard way. Well this is not one of those stories. It is a story of a hard road, however – of a faithful Christian who wanted to honor God and surrender his life to Him, yet he found he was on a rocky road of financial, physical, and emotional strain...with little reward. The hard road, it seems, is not reserved for the rebel-hearted, but is a possible route even for the humble servant of Christ. And this rough ground may stretch across the very path we have been called to travel. So what exactly are we to do as Christians if we find ourselves on this road? Well, I’ll let Bob Allport offer some guidance, as he’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

ROBERT: When our first baby was born Hydrocephalic, my worst fears were realized. I was in Bible school at the time, and working for minimum wage. Not only was the financial burden heavy, with all the doctor and hospital bills, but the emotional weight was equally heavy, the pain and sadness as our daughter endured frequent seizures.

I had grown up on a farm where I learned to finish every job I started, no matter how difficult. There I had also learned to care for animals who were completely dependent on us but gave back little in return. I can see now that God was preparing me even then for the trial that lay ahead.

At the time I didn't understand why the Lord let us have a handicapped child. It seemed overwhelming. Now I know He was molding us, teaching us His ways. We learned to trust Him for every need, and we had many. We learned that nothing is too hard for God, and we learned to love unconditionally.

The only thing more difficult than having a handicapped child is losing one. Our little Chrissy lived only two and a half years. Hers was a difficult and painful life, so God took her home. Then he gave us a healthy son and daughter. My wife and I are eternally grateful that God gave us a chance to love *all* our children — a love made possible by His love for us, demonstrated at the cross of Jesus.

ANNCR: As a note of encouragement to suffering believers, James chapter 5, verse 11 says, "*Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*" Dear friend, we

might find ourselves on a rugged road similar to Bob's. But this is a different road than the one created by stubborn sinfulness. Here, God is at our side, and He is rich in mercy. So, hold onto Him in each moment. And in time, He may show you greater and sweeter depths of His understanding. 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 Kim Rasmussen.

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