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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“The Ending To Our Story” – Eric Tomasino

ANNCR: July 8th, “The Ending To Our Story.” Every fairytale concludes with the famous line, “And they lived happy ever after.” But in life, is this ever really the case? As Christians, if we are not careful, we can start to believe so. We can think our story is done. Think of it this way, when someone asks you for your testimony, does your story “resolve” at salvation, or does it continue right up through your current hardships, challenges, and victories in Christ? Well, today we’ll hear from a man who knows what it means to share his full testimony. Here he is with his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

ERIC: I’m Eric Tomasino, and all three of us kids had different names but the same environment –drunkenness and fighting. From the age of four I went to church with my step-dad who married Mom when I was ten. I was ashamed when I realized they had just been living together all those years.

I stuttered badly and started smoking at twelve, then moved into marijuana to feel accepted. Soon I tried other drugs. I would lie,

steal and fight for drugs, picking fights just to prove I was tough. Once I beat a kid so badly, he was hospitalized. The school sent me to a psychologist, but that didn't help. When the school suspended me for hurting a teacher, Mom signed the papers to let me quit. I worked at a restaurant earning enough to buy speed; but after I was arrested for assault and battery, my parents cracked down so hard I considered suicide.

Then a good friend gave his life to Christ and tried to share God's love with me. But I grew worse, threatened Mom and was high all the time. I wanted to overdose and end it all. Finally, I agreed to go to church with my friend, raised my hand and went forward to ask Jesus into my life. But even so, life wasn't easy. I gave in to the cravings and used drugs. The pastor suggested a Christian drug treatment center. I completed the program and stayed on as an intern. After I married at 21, my stutter gradually disappeared. Today I serve the Lord as the executive director of the same ministry that helped get me off drugs.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul says of himself in Philippians chapter 3, verse 12, *“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”* Friend, our road after salvation is still part of our journey.

We are now in the process of sanctification, and we have the hope of heaven as our finish line. So do not let your story end too soon. We will never reach the “goal” while we toil here on earth, but with each step, we have the opportunity to give glory to God and help to those around us. Will you live in 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 Roger Mueller.

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