

Hearing From God - God Doesn't Repeat

by Philip H. Page, Jr.

Growing up with two older sisters made my early life pretty interesting. I was often the only male among 3 females (including my mother) and I usually had a different view than everybody else. As a result, I found that the women in my life did things that didn't make much sense to me. Sometimes it was a comment or an action. Other times it was just an attitude or a belief.

One of those strange things came from my older sister, Cleo. Normally, she was very patient and loving and we had fun playing together. But sometimes I think I would hang on her last nerve and it was more than she could stand. The strange thing is that I never received any warning that I was running out of nerves. For example, we would be talking and playing and she would tell me to do something. Sometimes I wouldn't hear her or I would just want her to repeat it. At these times she would focus her eyes at me, put her hand on her hip and say, "I don't repeat myself!". Now, she wasn't as exaggerated as the many comedians who imitate the attitude of black women. She didn't snap her fingers or roll her neck, she would just say, "I don't repeat myself!" in a very matter-of-fact way.

At the time, I didn't know what bothered her so much. I figured that since she was older than I was, she had the right to speak once and if I wanted to play with her, I had to do a better job of listening. Now that we've grown up, I think back on those times and laugh.

From the Author of *Getting Up Again – Surviving Unemployment and Pursuing Destiny*

Lately, however, I've been thinking of those times in relation to hearing from God and I've been wondering if God repeats Himself.

There are many ways that we miss hearing from God. For me, the main way is through disobedience. God will speak to me in His trademarked “still small voice” and, due to my desire to pursue more interesting things, I will fail to follow His instructions. I'll put it in my PDA with full intentions on doing it later, but it usually sits there. Later, when I feel distant from God, I'll cry out to Him for direction or instruction and He will answer with a loud and disturbing silence. After much prayer and fasting I finally realize that God's silence is His way of saying, “I don't repeat myself!”

To be accurate, I must say that God does repeat Himself. In 2 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV) Paul is urged by God to say, “*I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent:*” In fact, we have all benefited from His endless mercy and grace in times of our disobedience. But when it comes to hearing the voice of God, we must be diligent and quick to obey. His silence is often a reminder that we are in disobedience, meaning we have heard instruction from God and chose to do something else. Through His silence, He trains us to respect and revere His voice.

From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with

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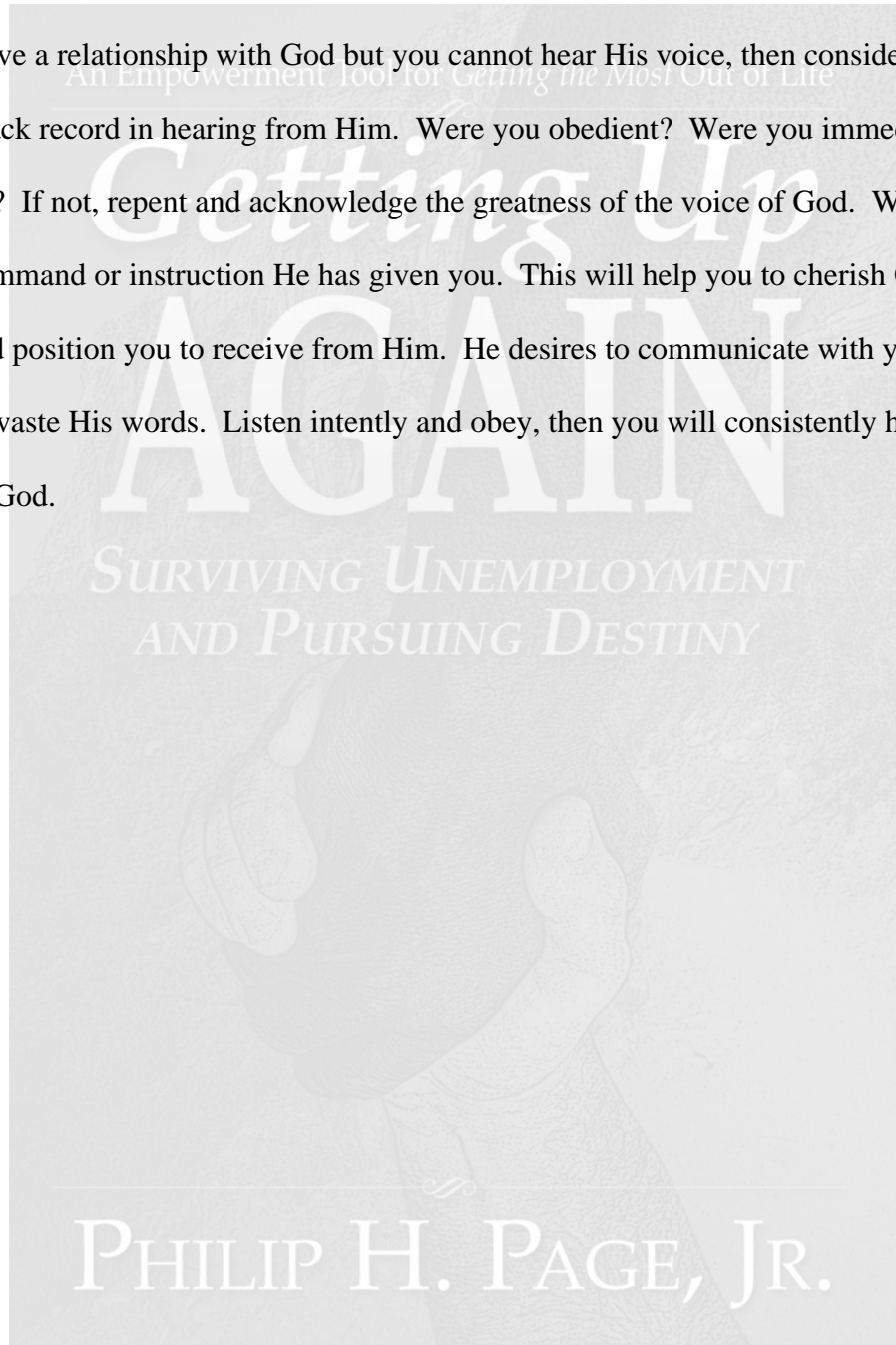
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you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 4: 36, 39-40

If you have a relationship with God but you cannot hear His voice, then consider your recent track record in hearing from Him. Were you obedient? Were you immediately obedient? If not, repent and acknowledge the greatness of the voice of God. Write down every command or instruction He has given you. This will help you to cherish God's voice and position you to receive from Him. He desires to communicate with you but He will not waste His words. Listen intently and obey, then you will consistently hear the voice of God.



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