

Hearing From God - Godly Communication

by Philip H. Page, Jr.

A month ago I was writing an article about sports nuts and the women who love them. The idea was to use sports to show women how to appreciate the subtle nuances and nonverbal cues men make. I wanted to convince women that they would be inundated with conversation if they simply learned to pick up on the thousands of other ways that men communicate.

To prove my point, picture your brother, husband or father watching a football game. First of all, the mere fact that he's watching the game suggests that he prefers physical interaction to spoken words. The team that he roots for tells you whether he jumps on the bandwagon of whichever team is hot or whether he is loyal to his home team even though they haven't won any games yet. All of these are subtle cues that speak volumes.

Second, look at the players as they run plays. Notice the fearlessness and bodily sacrifice that is displayed as a 200 lb. running back darts into the 300 lb. linebacker that gets in his way. Notice the support and encouragement of the offensive lineman as they assist their running back by forging a lane for him to run in. Notice the cheerful accolades in the form of hugs, high fives and butt slaps as the entire team shares in the success a touchdown. Finally, notice the vindication in the endzone dance of a running back who may have been cut from his previous team or who was told he was too small to do

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anything meaningful. These motions are physical screams that communicate more real emotion and depth than a soap opera or a Broadway play.

As I wrote the article referred to above, I began to wonder why women were unable to see that men express their feelings all the time. The assertion that men should “talk more and share more” started to irritate me. In a fit of self-righteousness, I declared that women were ridiculously unfair and shortsighted. I imagined that my article would be a wake up call for females throughout the world. At that point, God reminded me of my persistent requests that He speak to me in a clear audible voice. In my recent prayers, I had suggested to God that since I talk to Him daily, it was rude and insensitive of Him not to talk back. In light of my aforementioned soliloquy, I realized that my great revelation was not for the women of the world but for me.

Once I repented of my accusation, God began to reveal the countless ways He articulates His mind to us by reminding me of His Word. I began to think of God speaking to Moses through a burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4). He spoke to Balaam through a donkey (Numbers 22:28). He spoke to Joseph through a dream (Matthew 1:20). He spoke to Noah through a rainbow (Genesis 9:13). He spoke to countless people through prophets and He speaks to us everyday through the Holy Bible (2 Timothy 3:16).

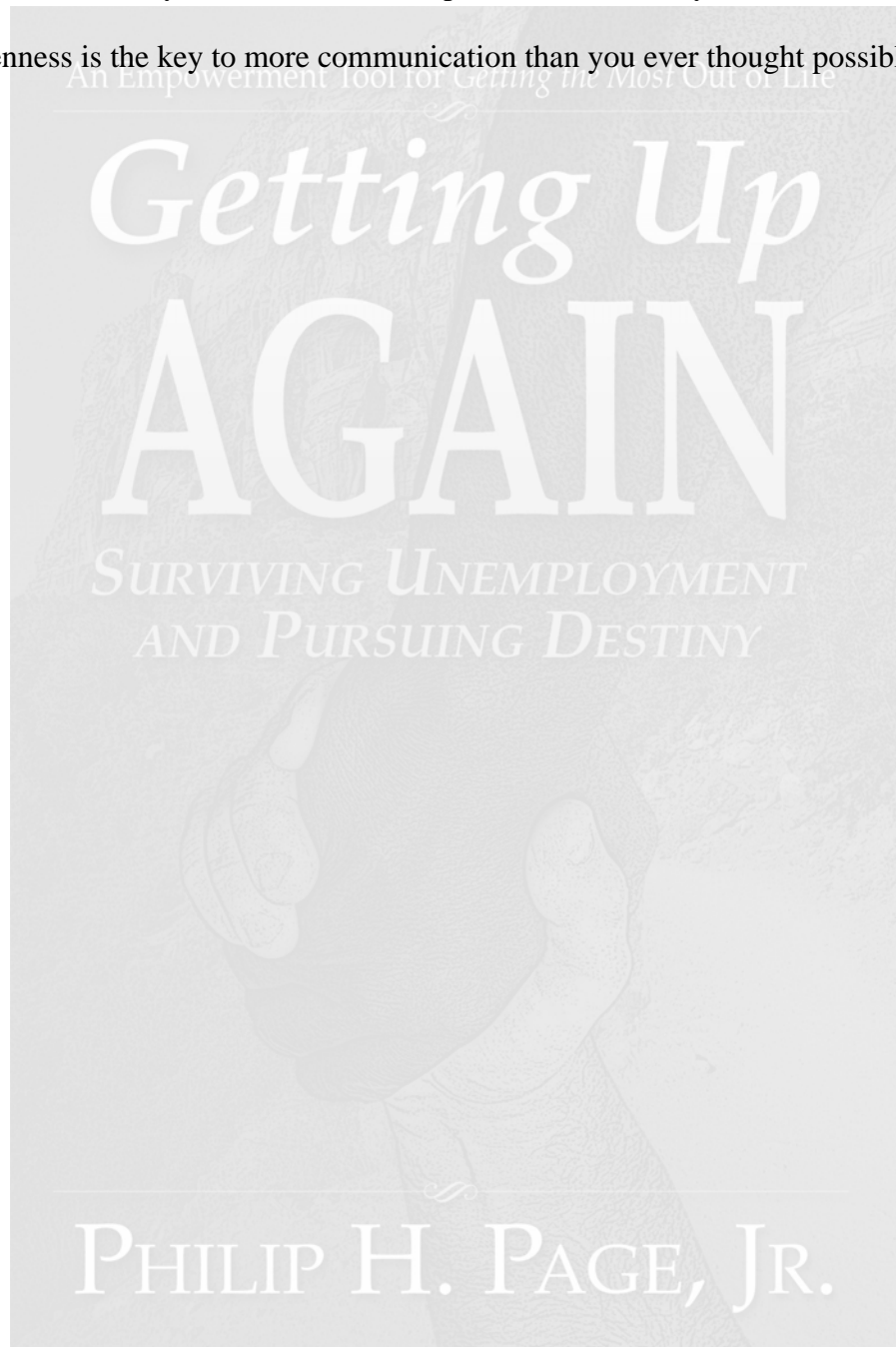
After studying God’s word regarding this matter, it is clear to me that He desires a close and intimate relationship with His children. What He does not want, however, is to force us to make decisions through some supernatural act. He could easily make a hand appear

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in your home and begin writing a message on your wall. But that is not the heart of God (and the mess would be impossible to clean). God's voice is accessible to anyone who wishes to hear it. All you need to do is be open to whatever way He chooses to speak. Your openness is the key to more communication than you ever thought possible.



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