

Waiting on the Lord - Waiting Like A Waiter

by Philip H. Page, Jr.

Waiting is probably the thing I least like to do. I think it is because you're not really doing anything. Waiting is the absence of doing. It is the antithesis of action. It is the enemy of efficiency. It contradicts everything I've been taught since birth and I simply hate to do it.

I realize that we have to wait at times but this doesn't mean that I'll do it quietly. If I'm in a traffic jam, I'll turn up my music and praise the Lord. If I'm on hold, I'll put the telephone on speaker and stay busy until the person I'm waiting for returns. If I'm waiting in line, I'll ponder some deep philosophical question until I reach the front. I'll do anything I can possibly think of to avoid waiting quietly and helplessly while some circumstance steals my time.

Of course, there are still situations when I feel like God forces me to wait. It's as if He sticks me in a situation for a preordained time where my attempts at productivity are futile. When I run into these situations, I try to accept that this is God's plan for me. Even though I don't understand it, I try to convince myself that waiting is good. I meditate on scriptures like Isaiah 41:30 *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

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

Even as I meditated on scriptures, I never understood why I had to wait. I just accepted that it was one of life's unavoidable necessities that I would ask God about when I got to heaven. Then the Lord revealed to me that the reason I hated to wait was because I never correctly understood what waiting meant. I always took Webster's first definition to heart, "to wait in expectation". The full meaning didn't become clear until I read the third definition, "to serve as a waiter".

Anyone who has ever been to a five-star restaurant knows that waiters don't stand around doing nothing. Their job, and tips, depends on constant action. Even when they're not moving, they're anticipating their next move based on the request of their customers. I witnessed this first hand when I visited Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in Houston, TX. Aside from having a very attentive and knowledgeable waiter, we had a secondary waiter that stood in the corner of the dining room. He held water in one hand and tea in the other and his eyes constantly scanned the glasses in the room. When my water went below an imaginary line on the glass, he darted across to fill it up then went back to his post and started scanning the room again. He did this all night and was the most active example of waiting that I have ever seen.

After seeing an example of 'active waiting', I finally realize that waiting is not a sign of complacency or inefficiency. Isaiah 41:30 is really telling us that 'waiting on the Lord' is the act of renewing your strength in anticipation of a future event. When God makes us wait, it simply means He is still preparing us for the next stage of our life. Psalm 27:14

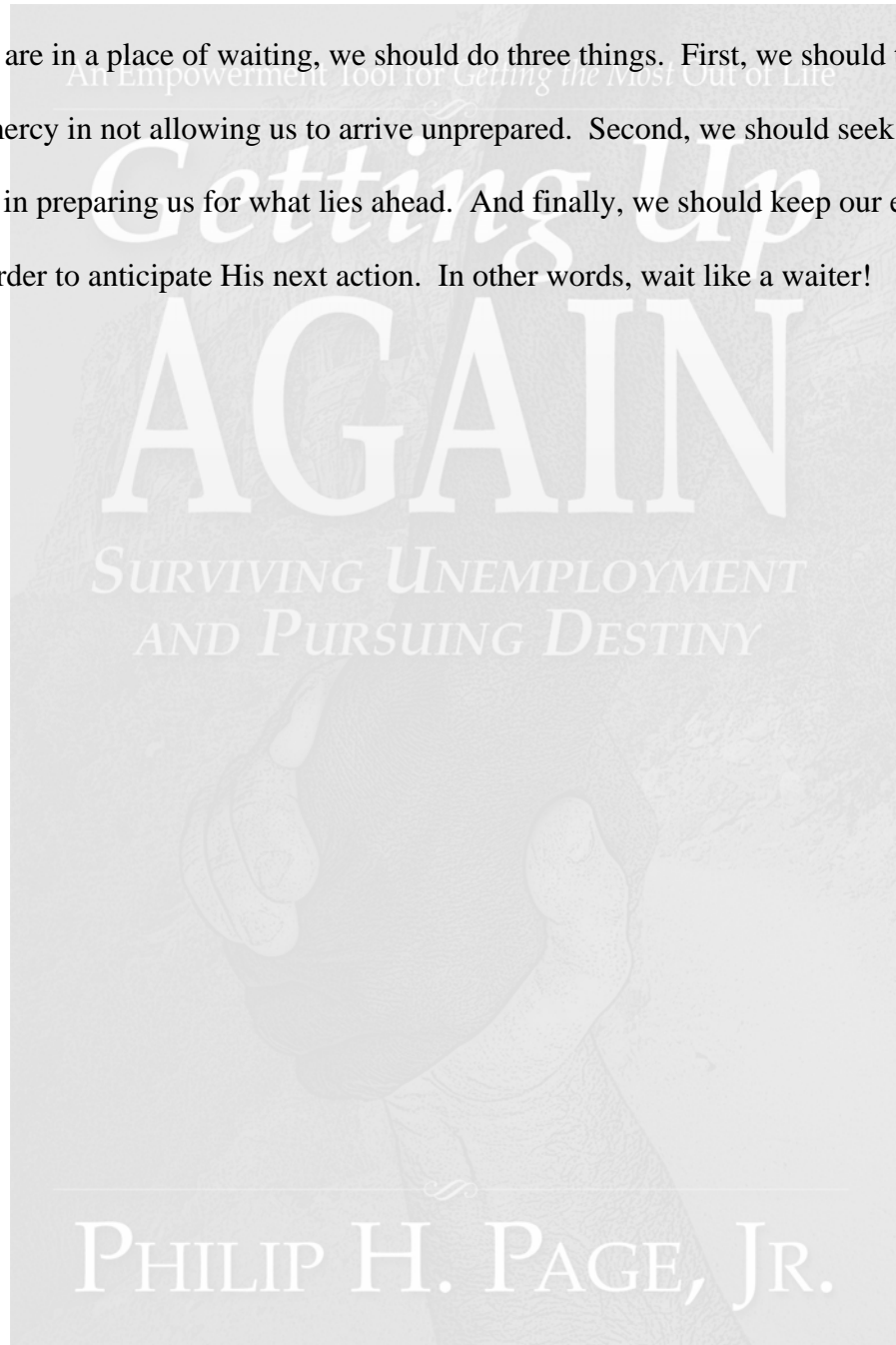
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says “*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*”

So, if we are in a place of waiting, we should do three things. First, we should thank God for His mercy in not allowing us to arrive unprepared. Second, we should seek His direction in preparing us for what lies ahead. And finally, we should keep our eyes on Him in order to anticipate His next action. In other words, wait like a waiter!



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