



Attention Deficit Disorder

Proverbs 22:3; Deuteronomy 7:12; Psalm 119:35,37;

Proverbs 4:25,27 Matthew 6:22; Hebrews 2:1

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Idea: Attention influences direction.

Attention → Direction → Destination

Introduction:

Proverbs 22:3, “The prudent see danger and take refuge. But the simple keep going and suffer for it.”

Direction, not intention, not motivation, determines destination.

Every choice, every path has an outcome/destination/consequence/reward.

Then, we talked about a prayer: *Lord, help me to see trouble long before it gets here, and give me the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it.*

Last week, we said information is not enough. We need God. We must acknowledge Him in all our ways. This requires surrender.

The things that capture your attention often influences our direction.

When something captures your attention, it captures you.

Some people captured your attention that you wish you had never met.

Your life would be completely different if you had never met those people.

Some opportunities and things captured your attention that ate up time and resources.

Attention influenced direction.

There are things that capture our attention, and there are things we must *choose* to give our attention to.

Our terminology is great: Pay Attention. Give Attention.

This requires effort and intentionality.

Everyone can think of things we wish we had paid more attention to like education, character, faith, health, money, marriage.

“Capture” is often a distraction that can lead to destruction.

“Choose” is always a decision that more than likely leads to a desired destination.

What has captured or grabbed your attention?

Attention influences direction.

Attention → Direction → Destination

What would you expect your heavenly Father to say?

What would your heavenly Father say needs your attention?

Deuteronomy 7:12, “If you pay **attention** to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers.”

Psalms 119:35, 37, “Direct me in the **path** of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my **eyes** away from worthless things; **preserve** my life according to your word.”

Proverbs 4:25, 27, “Let your eyes look straight ahead, **fix** your gaze directly before you. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.”

Matthew 6:22, “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good,

TWO WEEKS (OCTOBER 22)

Climate Change: Dealing with Stormy & Icy Relationships

Every relationship has a climate—sunny, stormy, or even icy, and the current climate dictates the forecast. The problem is that many of us are unaware of the emotional climates we carry around with us. In this series, we will discover how we affect the emotional climate when we arrive home or step into a meeting at work, and we will look at three of the most significant climate shapers in any relationship.

your whole body will be full of light.”

Hebrews 2:1, “We must pay more careful **attention**, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”

We’ve all seen other people affected by this dynamic.

Friends, family, children whose attention was captured and slowly drifted down a path they never would have chosen.

It’s difficult to see this in the mirror.

What do you need to give more attention to?

Who do you need to give/pay more attention to?

Where do you need to be more intentional?

Marriage doesn’t do well on autopilot. Faith doesn’t do well without attention. Relationship with God doesn’t do well when we’re not intentional. Your kid’s faith and your health are the same.

Conclusion:

Something has your attention. Attention determines direction.

Attention → Direction → Destination

Something has either captured your attention, or you’ve chosen to give something your attention.

We live in a world where it’s easy to disconnect our desired destination from the paths we choose. I hope you won’t make that mistake. Pay attention to what/who is attempting to capture your attention. It may determine the direction of your life.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Proverbs 4:25, 27.**
- Meditate: What/Who do you need to give more attention to?**
- Meditate: Where do you need to be more intentional?**
- What are you going to do about it?**
- Return for Climate Change-Starting October 22.**