



The Attentive Life

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The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things By Leighton Ford

“This book is about attentiveness, not simply as a path to self-fulfillment but as the very essence of our journey to the Center—as the way home to our own heart, the way of making our heart a home for God. So I am writing for myself, to identify waymarks for my own second journey but also for others who are walking the path with Christ, or searching for the path to Christ, so we may walk it together.

“I have noticed in my own experience how the vocational journey and the personal journey intertwine. What God is doing in both is similar, very much like the interweaving of the intricate strands in a Celtic cord, a work of art designed to show how God is at work weaving the inner and outer parts of our lives into a unified pattern.

“In this ‘second journey’ I have sensed a strong call to be an artist of the soul and a friend on the journey, especially to younger men and women, and others, who seek to be led by Jesus, to lead like him and to lead to him, and who have a hunger to be whole people.

“Each of us is called to a life patterned by Christ. A life not shaped by inner compulsions, or captive to outer expectations, but drawn by the inner voice of love. To listen to this voice, we need to pay careful attention to where our inner and outer selves disconnect and where they need to come together in a beautiful pattern that reflects Jesus, whose inner life with his Father and outer life of ministering to others were very much one.

“To walk this path home, and to be a companion to others on the journey, I need to learn both to be still and to go (or grow) deeper. T. S. Eliot wrote that ‘old men need to be still and still moving.’ I do not feel old yet! But I do realize that this life stage requires not so much *doing for God as paying attention to what God is doing.*

“There are periods in which we are mostly active and outwardly focused. And there are times in which we become more reflective, when we move more from action to being acted upon. The latter time may well come as we get older. But this is not a book about aging; it is about learning how we may become more attuned to the still, small voice of God in all the seasons of our lives.”