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

By Leighton Ford



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Your attention, please. That's what God wants, Leighton Ford discovered. It's the path to becoming like Christ. Distractions, fear and busyness were keeping Ford from seeing God's work in and around him. He was missing God. So he began a journey of longing and looking for God. And it started with paying attention. In these pages, he invites you to journey with him. Using the rich monastic tradition of praying the hours, Ford will walk with you, helping you pay attention to God's work in you and around you throughout each day and in different seasons of your life. If you're busy, distracted, rushing through each day, you might be feeling disconnected from God, unable to see how he's working. You might be missing him. But the way toward him starts with a pause and a prayer?with intention and attention?and becomes a way of life, awake and alive to the peaceful, powerful presence of God.



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

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Ford would seem an unlikely candidate to write a gentle, moving introduction to traditional monastic spirituality. As Billy Graham's brother-in-law and frequent stand-in, Ford's evangelical bona fides are unquestionable. Yet he describes the details of life at Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery in South Carolina, with the eye of the avid amateur painter he also is. Reading this book you'll find yourself scribbling down prayers from obscure medieval figures like a certain St. Fursey. Ford is also appealing as he describes odd gestures he's willing to make in search of the God who's present in the everyday: hugging a tree, hugging himself in an airport with passersby all around, revealing his own struggles with his image and how to pursue God rather than his own self-aggrandizement. He does make a distinctly Protestant addition to the tradition of monastic spirituality, insisting that the most rigorous of spiritual practices are for all believers. The few missteps are slight: Ford's references to his heavy travel schedule and frequent vacations do threaten to make this feel like a spirituality for the upper-middle class only, and his readings of scripture tend to the emotive and literal. (May)

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Review

Ford examines how distractions of our post-modern world rob us of the time we spend with God. Through this easy-flowing book, he leads one into the practice of attentiveness, pointing out that the best and deepest things of life come through attentive waiting. Appropriate for both new Christians and those of long-time faith. (LW, Libraries Alive, Winter 2009)

This book will take more than one reading to absorb its richness. Personal illustrations, an abundance of thought-provoking quotes, and memorable object lessons make this a book that may become a contemporary classic. (JZ, Church Libraries, Fall 2008)

. . . A wonderfully compelling invitation to a life of prayer . . . Ford know how to share the "hours" with witful intelligence, charm and winsome conviction. This delightfully well-written book [will] provide any group with a host of insights, provocations, and layered viewpoints for discussion. (Praying Daily (prayingdaily.blogspot.com), August 11, 2008)

This book is special. It stretches the soul and makes "everything a prayer." (Lamplighter, August 2008)

Filled with examples of those who "paid attention," Ford's evangelical bona fides are unquestionable and well worth reading. (The Christian Courier, August 2008)

Using the richt tradition of praying the hours, Ford will walk with you, helping you pay attention to God's work in you and around you throughout each day and in different seasons of your life. (Alice Brasky on Book Bargains and Previews, June 1008)

The Attentive Life chronicles [Ford's] new desire to "be attentive" and more deeply nurture a viable set of practices that facilitate such spiritual intimacy with God. *The Attentive Life* is a perfect example of the kinds of things the Formatio line is about. We highly recommend it. (Byron Borger, Hearts & Minds Books, April 30, 2008)

"Those who appreciate contemplative, gentle, insightful focus into the spiritual life will enjoy this partly autobiographical work." (Anita Cain, CBA Retailers + Resources, May 2008)

"Ford expresses in an almost poetic manner the peace that comes with the continual observation of and attentiveness to the presence of God." (Heidi L. Ippolito, Christian Retailing, April 21, 2008)

"[A] distinctly Protestant addition to the tradition of monastic spirituality." (Publishers Weekly, March 10, 2008)

"A spirit of ecumenism informs Ford's gracefully written guide to thoughtful prayer and attentiveness to God's voice." (Library Journal, March 1, 2008)

"Leighton Ford writes with insight, faith and balance. This book, like Jesus, transcends all denominational lines. Drawing on the wisdom of many traditions, *The Attentive Life* is a warm invitation to wake up, not just to the reality of God but to what is deepest inside of us. This is a gold mine of wisdom and balance, a challenging thought on every page. I heartily recommend it to readers of all faiths." (Ronald Rolheiser, author of *The Holy Longing*)

"Awakening is a central metaphor for the spiritual life. In a compelling voice that comes from years of spiritual journeying, Leighton Ford shows us how to wake up and pay attention to the presence of God--through the hours of our days and the seasons of our lives." (Ruth Haley Barton, president of the Transforming Center and author of *Sacred Rhythms*)

"My heart sings when I realize that Leighton Ford's intelligent experience continues to look with longing for more. His attention keeps getting arrested by words, ideas, images, details of the natural and supernatural landscapes. . . . This book is a primer in how to respond actively to Jesus' challenge: 'Behold! Look! Listen! Take notice! There is still so much for you to discover.'" (Luci Shaw, poet and author of *Breath for the Bones* and *The Crime of Living Cautiously* and writer-in-residence, Regent College)

"I thank God for *The Attentive Life*. It provides an antidote to the primary spiritual problem of our day: distraction. *The Attentive Life* is the mature reflections of one who has spent a lifetime walking in the way of Jesus." (Richard J. Foster, author of *Celebration of Discipline and Life with God*)

"This is a book of such quiet beauty and deep simplicity it is difficult to describe. I was both pierced and healed by longing in the reading of it. The word *soul* is thrown around far too easily these days, but this book will touch the soul if you let it." (John Ortberg, pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, and author of *The Life You've Always Wanted*)

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Wilkerson:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby will be reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you should have this The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things.

Janice Saucier:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

Janice Martin:

The feeling that you get from The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things will be the more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having that The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things instantly.

Truman Gallagher:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

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