

"ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER"

Destinations, Part 4

February 28th, 2010

This principle, like every other principle, will impact your life, whether you believe it or not, whether you embrace it or not

Direction determines destination, but often it is the things or the people that get our attention that influence our direction

When something grabs your attention, there is a sense in which you turn in that direction, and the things that capture your attention influence the direction of your entire life

Attention influences our direction and ultimately our destination

A person chooses paths of destruction because there is something very powerful and emotionally engaging on those paths

"Grabbing our attention" is all about emotion

"Paying attention or giving attention" to something is all about intentionality

The things that grab or capture my attention are often dangerous

The things I generally chose to pay attention to are generally the things that are better for me and set me up for success in the future

The cost of disentangling ourselves from unhealthy relationships and activities seems too high

At the same time, the benefits associated with paying attention to the right things seem too distant

A ttention → D irection → D estination

Throughout the Bible God reminds us over & over that the things you pay attention to directs your life

Deuteronomy 7:12 (NIV) "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."

What the nation chose to give their attention to would ultimately determine which path they chose

Psalms 119:35,37 (NIV) "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."

If I focus on worthless things, I'm drawn in the direction of worthless things

You don't want to end up at some stage in life & think, "how in the world did I get here?"

Proverbs 4:25,27 (NIV) "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."

Don't allow yourself to be distracted by things that have the potential to capture your attention from those things to which your attention would be fastened

Decide ahead of time to pay attention to those things that need & deserve your attention

Matthew 6:22-23 (NIV) "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

The things you give your attention to function as the directional beacon for your life

Hebrews 2:1 (NIV) "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."

The only way to keep from drifting away from what we know is true & right is to make the decision to pay attention

This principle is so easy to see in the life of others and almost impossible to see in our own life

You respond to where you are; your parents & friends respond to where they are afraid you will go

God cares about the direction of your life & reacts and responds to where you're headed

Question #1: What has captured your attention?

Many get distracted by a good thing which shifts the direction of their priorities

You don't break the principle of the path, you break yourself against it

Question #2: What do you need to begin giving attention to?

Pay attention to the things that have our attention because they are influencing our future

Pay attention to the things need to give attention to because they are impacting your future & those around

My Next Step Today Is:

- This week I will examine what has captured my attention
- There are things I know I need to begin giving attention to & will start this week
- I will memorize Proverbs 4:25,27
- I will be an Upward Prayer Partner & regularly pray for the league through mid-May