

Character Trait for September 9-15 is Attentiveness

Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"

CHARACTER: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Attentiveness: Showing the worth of a person or task by giving my undivided concentration.

Derivation: at •ten• tive •ness n 1: the state of being mindful or observant of what you are doing 2: being heedful of the comfort of others 3: offering attention to

The word **attentive** comes from the French attendre, meaning "to wait; to stay; to hold; to expect." The Latin background for this term is the phrase ad tendo, "to stretch," in reference to a horse turning its ears or a bird cocking its head to listen.

Weekly Verse: Hebrews 2:1 "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."

Bible Story: I Samuel 3:1-21 tells the story of Samuel listening to God.

Quote: "Pay attention to what matters, and let go of what doesn't"

Application:

Undivided Concentration: Being attentive requires effort. It can be difficult to minimize distractions and tune in to what is important. The word concentrate means to "bring or draw to a common center, to focus." When we concentrate our focus, we reduce distractions and turn our full attention to what is important.

Person or task: Some of the most important things we need to focus on are our work (tasks) and our relationships (people). Both profoundly affect our quality of life. When we focus on the person who is speaking or listening to us, we communicate that we value, and are interested in, not only what is being said, but the person as well.

Worth: When we demonstrate humility by paying greater attention to someone else over ourselves, we communicate value for that person. And when we perform our duties with dedication, the outcome is a job well done and the satisfaction that we did our best.

Discussion Questions:

What difference does it make to you when people give you their full attention—with eyes and ears?

Can you remember a time you know you were not being attentive to another during a conversation?