

June 2022: Being Attentive

June Museletter



Thoughts from Jeanne Porter, Founder and Steward of Women in Christian Leadership

Being Attentive

The theme for this month is **being attentive**. So what does it mean to be attentive? Being observant, listening intently, or being mindful; making sure we notice the matters of others.

I believe God speaks to us in many ways, but we won't hear him unless we're paying attention. To me, that is spiritual attentiveness. What does it mean to keep our attention on God?

I'll give you a bit of an example of something that happened to me. In 2016 I left the business world to spend time with my husband, Mike. Some use the word retirement; my preference is the word re-direction. I knew when I left my passion for encouraging and supporting women that I would want to do something again. I was excited to spend the summer to doing fun things we both enjoyed and, by the fall, I expected to head back to creating something new in my life that included encouraging and serving women. That's where it all began. After the summer of 2016, I began praying, *ok, God, I'm ready to do something again. Show me what you want me to do. I'm here to serve where you want me.* This almost makes me giggle today, knowing what was ahead. All I could receive from Him was *Be Still and Know that I am God.* Be still. Each time I went to Him in prayer, it was, *Be Still.* I have to be honest; I was so disappointed that God wasn't ready to give me the desires of my heart. But there was a reason why that I was not aware of at the time.

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That went on for nearly five years. And then, something happened. God brought people back into my life that I hadn't seen or spoken to in four years. He sent confirmation after confirmation that He was working and I was ready to serve. That is a meaningful and exciting story I want to share with you, and I will take different opportunities in the future to share what He did after I became very attentive to Him.

But today, I want us to be cognitive of the word attentive in a mindful way.

We often think of mindfulness as something we do when we sit still and close our eyes. But mindfulness is more like a trusty backpack — something we carry around with us and continually use. And mindfulness is certainly worth unpacking in our relationships.

"By being more fully attentive to each other, we can love and understand each other more completely."

Bringing attention and awareness to our relationships can take various forms and have multiple benefits. Perhaps one of the most heartfelt is that by being more fully attentive to each other, we can love and understand each other more completely.

Mindfulness also is incredibly useful when we're not so loving. We can take a step back and reflect on our behavior, such as when we aim to repair a mishap or hurt with a child, a friend, or a spouse, and allow it to guide us into a heartfelt conversation. As a result of practicing mindfulness in general, we might find it spontaneously showing up in our relationships.

Being mindfully attentive to others might be fulfilling that commitment that you made to someone, making sure people are feeling appreciated, meeting a need in someone's life, or maybe it's simply sending a "Thinking of You" card. If we keep our eyes and ears open and always practicing being attentive to others, we will find a way to find something in that backpack worth unpacking.

Blessings,

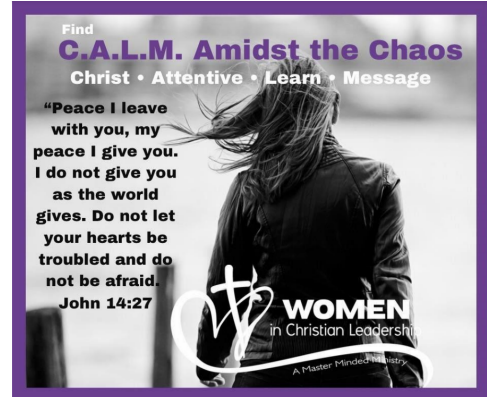
jeanne porter



Being Attentive in Scripture

Earlier this year, we shared a focus for 2022 on Finding C.A.L.M. amid the Chaos. As a reminder, we defined C.A.L.M. as:

- **C**: Calmness always begins with **Christ**.
- **A**: We must be **Attentive** to our emotions and how we respond.
- **L**: What can we **Learn** to calm the chaos?
- **M**: What's the **Message** we need to focus on to get through the chaos?



With each new month and program, we've been digging into a piece of the CALM. This month, our programs will focus on *being attentive*. You also can find inspiration in the following Bible verses:

"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

*"Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."
Hebrews 2:1*

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." Romans 12:1-21

*"Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance..."
Proverbs 1:5*

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism..." Ephesians 4:1-32

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

Won't You Join Us?

Take the journey with us and see how Women in Christian Leadership will **encourage** you through support and dialogue, **educate** you by offering leadership development opportunities, and **elevate** you by taking you to another level of growth in both your personal and professional life.

As a professional, a student, a friend, a mom, a minister, a volunteer - a leader, you'll be joining an elite, devoted and faithful group of women. We believe you'll find great community among these phenomenal women and encourage you to bring other believers with you.



Won't you **join us**?

Thank you for your continued support of Women in Christian Leadership.

We Want to Hear from You!



Share your voice in our annual membership survey.

We want to hear from you to help ensure we are fulfilling our mission - to encourage, educate, and elevate Christian leaders by building a network to collaborate, mentor, and develop leadership skills while supporting growth spiritually and personally.

Please share insights about your experience with Women in Christian Leadership and expectations of your membership in this survey. We appreciate your input.

NEW! Divine Table Talks

Women in Christian Leadership is pleased to offer **Divine Table Talks**, a monthly program to empower hurting women through divine transformation.

Divine Table Talks will tackle difficult situations and topics - from substance abuse and toxic relationships to trauma and incarceration - providing practical guidance and resources. Programs are geared to those suffering abuses and injustices as well as professionals who are helping those affected by these issues.



Divine
Table
Talk

Sessions are facilitated by Dr. Rhonda Smith, Director of Behavioral Health Support for Women in Christian Leadership.

The first Divine Table Talk launches July 11, with guest Connie Helmuth and Dr. Smith discussing the stigma of addiction and the impact on the family. Register today.

*"I don't look like what
I've been through,
and I have GOD to
thank for that."
- Dr. Rhonda Smith*

Coming Soon

Mark your calendars now! Stay tuned to Women in Christian Leadership; you won't want to miss out on new programs, events, resources, and swag.

Summer 2022

- Divine Table Talks | July 11
- Online Boutique | July 21
- Webinars | August

Fall 2022

- Bread of Life Bible Studies
- Covenant Creators Mentoring



Upcoming Events

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE **HE WENT TO THE ANSWERING PLACE**



WITH HOST CASSIE BARLOW
MONDAY, JUNE 20
7 - 8:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL

COFFEE & CONVERSATION **LOVING THOSE WE LEAD**



WITH HOST SIOBHAN TAYLOR
FRIDAY, JULY 1
9 - 10:30 A.M.
VIRTUAL

DIVINE TABLE TALK **STIGMA OF ADDICTION & IMPACT ON FAMILY**



WITH GUEST CONNIE HELMUTH
MONDAY, JULY 11
7 - 8:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL

MEMBER MEET & GREET **LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!**



WITH HOST CASSIE BARLOW
TUESDAY, JULY 12
4:30 - 6 P.M.
VIRTUAL

Prayer Support



Watchwomen on the Wall

Dear Friend, please know that we care about you and deeply desire God's best for you. He can redeem every single thing you've suffered, endured, or done. Nothing is beyond God's healing grasp.

We strongly believe in the power of prayer and are building a prayer schedule such that prayers are uplifted every hour of every day!

If you would like to become a watchwoman, please **complete this form** to secure a day and hour that you would like to pray every week. It will be your exclusive prayer hour!

It's Her Story.

It's Her Story Podcast

It's Her Story is a "collective call" to bring the heart, soul, and brilliance of women to the forefront by sharing their unique story of how God has moved in their lives. Let's talk about transparency, sharing real power and activating others to step into their greatness.

To share your story, **complete this form** and a member of the Women in Christian Leadership team will be in contact.

Did you know?

Since It's Her Story launched in January, Karen has hosted 21 episodes (and counting). Have you listened? It's always a great time to check one out on our [website](#)!



Women in Christian Leadership



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