

# SPIRITUAL WISDOM



What a great feeling to arrive at the high plateau of spiritual wisdom!

And what a disappointment when I try to share my wisdom with others!

I get blank faces.

How can I bring people up to speed, if they won't listen?

One day an old man took me aside and said, "Brother you have a lot to learn."

I was incensed.

Who was he to tell me what I had to learn?

I brushed him aside and forgot about him.

But he was right. I did have a lot to learn---the hard way!

One setback after another brought me down from those lofty heights....

...until I discovered that my "spiritual wisdom" was spiritual vanity.

It was the wisdom of this world wrapped in fancy spiritual robes.

***Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, "He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness." And again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise; he knows they are worthless."*** (1 Corinthians 3:18-20)

**Spiritual wisdom is a fragile gift.  
It evaporates the instant I look down on a single soul.**

*Prayer: Lord, we confess, we do have a lot to learn when it comes to spiritual wisdom. Convict us when we fall into the trap of spiritual vanity, when our views, beliefs, and ways cause us to look down on and to sneer at others. Oh Lord, open our hearts to the futility of our wisdom and spiritual pride. Help us take off the worldly spiritual robes we wrap ourselves in. Lift us from self-deception. Open our hearts to know we are greatly in need of mercy ourselves and all our supposed wisdom pales in the face of your wisdom and holiness. Each day, we are all in equal and great need of steering from our own foolishness. We are all in need of your presence, your guidance, and your mercy. And in our gratefulness for your mercy towards our own foolishness, may we treat others with the mercy you treat us and stop looking down on anyone. Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2019

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