

Q: I am very much impressed by the life that you have lived. I would like to ask an important question: How did you maintain a balance between the intellectual and the spiritual life?

A: God gave us our minds and He desires us to use them as fully as possible. Yet we should always ~~remember~~^{realize} that our thoughts fall far short of the marvelous knowledge of God. It is always a foolish display of petty pride when one looks down on someone else who may have received less natural intellectual ability. As Paul said, "What do you have that you have not received?" God has given each of us a certain amount of intellectual power. He has provided each of us with situations in our background and upbringing that affect us in many ways. It is foolish pride for us to think ourselves superior to others, or to become concerned or upset if they prove superior to us. In relation to God's greatness, power and wisdom, whatever any of us may have is very slight. If we constantly remember what Jesus did for us we will be overcome with feelings of gratitude and praise to Him and will have no room in our hearts for petty feelings toward other human beings.

Q: Many people seem to magnify intellectual ability very greatly and this has led some to desert the cause of Christ and others to serve Him in a way that accomplishes little.

A: God wants us to do our best to gather all possible information bearing upon the type of work that He lays before us. He wants us to endeavor to develop our minds so that we can think things through properly. If we realize that it is only through His grace that we have any ability or training we will see how foolish and petty it is to feel any sort of intellectual pride. Second-rate scholars often exhibit false pride of intellect. The greater a scholar is the more he must realize how small his knowledge is in comparison to all the facts of the Lord's creation and purpose.

It was pride that led Satan to fall. The devil often leads men astray through pride of intellect. Yet no one has a right to discard intellect and fail to use the abilities that God has given. If we realize what Christ has done for us we will desire to consecrate fully whatever talents or abilities He may have given.