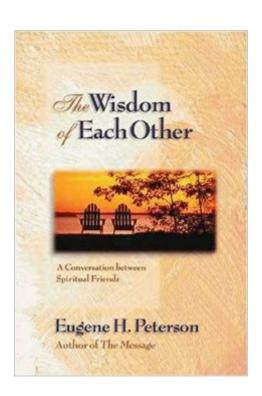
## The book was found

# Wisdom Of Each Other, The





### Synopsis

This is a book that provides practical spiritual counsel for everyday life.

#### **Book Information**

Series: Spiritual Directions

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (January 1, 1998)

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Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #954,117 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Christian Books

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#### **Customer Reviews**

The Wisdom of Each Other is highly readable and packed with gems of insight into the work of the Spirit and the silliness of what often passes for spirituality. In fact, Peterson differentiates penetratingly simply between Religion, what we do and Spirituality, what the Spirit does in us. He affirms the laity in their importance and gives their vocations equal status with clergy. In a series of letters from a long time friend and Christian to a mate who has rediscovered faith in Jesus, the author refreshingly takes a lot of the hype out of modern religion and points the reader towards the originator and sustainer of the life of Christ within. Friends, Peterson maintains. have much to offer each other in pressing on to maturity. Highly recommended. A good gift.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and interaction with the mind of Eugene Peterson. The Wisdom of Each Other: A Conversation between Spiritual Friends is a collection of letters, actually responses in the form of letters from Peterson to a "fictional friend" named Gunnar Thorkildsson. Peterson explains in his introduction that "Gunnar" is not an actual person, but he is "real." Nothing has been "made up" and all the details found in the responses come from actual encounters with men and women. Gunnar, I believe, serves as a vehicle with which to share these stories and encounters... and a means by which the reader can share a glimpse into the world of this conversation between

spiritual friends. This is a brilliant platform in my opinion and provided me an opportunity to be a "fly on the wall" for these interchanges. In this context, I was able to glean a wealth of insight and wisdom from the bountiful pastoral experience of Eugene Peterson. I think one thing I particularly enjoyed was learning how meaningful and insightful succinct responses can be. Time and again, Peterson's responses to Gunnar were very to-the-point, and seemingly, were suggestively aimed at answering issues that were likely much deeper than what the original letter may have hinted at. Another thing I appreciated very much about this book and style of writing was its earthiness. I've been a reader of works by Peterson for a number of years now and this little book was of a different tone than any other I've read to date. It really did seem "organic" and natural as the conversation played out. It was very believable to me and I must admit that I felt as though I were seeing a different side to Peterson than I have experienced in other books by him. This is a short book at just over one hundred pages. It is not a difficult read, but it is loaded with insight and the way it is written naturally leads the reader to a reflective posture. It is a great addition to my library of Peterson titles and I can only wish it had been in my library sooner. A great read, I recommend it highly.

An excellent book. Exposing the deep need we have for each other. Addressing the critical issue of relationship over religion. Profound theology in simple terms. Get it!

The Wisdom of Each Other: A Conversation Between Spiritual Friends (1998) by Eugene Peterson is a unique, though beneficial, book. It is unique because it contains a series of letters addressed to Gunnar Thorkildsson, whom Peterson described as "not an actual person with an existence documented by birth certificate and social security number", though Peterson insists that the details were grounded in actual encounters he had over the years. In each of the several dozen letters Peterson penned, he responded to some actual circumstance of Gunnar's life--return to the faith, the poor quality of too much Christian literature, church politics, and the tranquility of canoeing. The unifying theme, as far as I am concerned, is a spirituality that does not exist above everyday life but rather enters into it and moves around in it. Peterson wisely showed us that. Although not my favorite book by Peterson, it is a welcome addition to my collection.

This book is a conversation between two friends who have been reconnected. One has been walking with Christ for all of his life, the other just returned to his faith after a lengthy season away. But it doesn't matter whether you are one of these people or not, the book speaks eloquently about how we learn from one another through the medium of a letter (an almost lost and forgotten means

of communication). There is time to think between comments for both persons - and the wisdom that surfaces is transforming.

Peterson has insights that make reading his books, a reflective experience. The issues he raises are timely, the argument thought-provoking. I find myself saying, 'I hadn't thought of that' more often with his work, than with many others. I highly recommend this one!

Eugene Peterson writes with such a thoughtful poetic style that even the simplest discussion becomes a chapter of memorable phrases. He does not write for the christian self-help genre. He explores deep themes without getting caught up in programmatic answers.

Peterson is always wise, always to the point, and a great read. Wish I could sit at chat for hours. He is one of my favorite authors and this book does not disappoint.

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Timeline

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