



Quotes re Teilhard de Chardin and the Bible for Philip Roderick's workshop at the Quiet Garden gathering, 21st May 2016 in Sheffield

1. "I can feel God, touch God, live God in the deep biological current that runs through my soul."
2. "You, Lord Jesus, the centre at which all things meet and which stretches out over all things so as to draw them back into itself: I love you for the extensions of your body and soul to the farthest corners of creation through grace, through life and through matter."
3. "Christ invests himself organically with the very majesty of his creation. And it is in no way metaphorical to say that we find ourselves capable of experiencing and discovering God in the whole length, breadth and depth of the world in movement." *The Phenomenon of Man*, 297
4. "There is a sense in which Christ is at the tip of my pen, my spade, my brush, my needle - of my heart and of my thought. By pressing the stroke, the line, or the stitch, on which I am engaged, to its ultimate finish, I shall lay hold of that last end towards which my innermost will tends. This helps make perfect Christ in his mystical totality." (*Divine Milieu* p 62, 64)
5. In Ilia Delio's words, Teilhard de Chardin "described the human species in evolution toward the fullness of unity in love. . . . [He said] the way forward is a new spirituality by which humans around the globe can unite to become one mind and one heart in love, a new *ultrahumanity* united only by love." Ilia Delio, *Compassion: Living in the Spirit of St. Francis* (Franciscan Media: 2011), xiv.
6. In 'Science and Christ' p159: "All around us, Christ is physically active. From the ultimate vibration of the atom to the loftiest mystical contemplation; from the lightest breeze that ruffles the air to the broadest currents of life and thought, he ceaselessly animates, without disturbing, all the earth's processes."
7. "Throughout my whole life, during every moment I have lived, the world has gradually been taking on light and fire for me, until it has come to envelop me in one mass of luminosity, glowing from within... the divine radiating from the depths of matter a-flame."
8. A new perception begins for Teilhard when a limpid sound arises out of the silence, or a trail of pure colour shimmers in a glass, or a light glows in the depths of someone's eyes. Such fleeting perceptions seem to draw Teilhard out of himself and into a wider reality: "I melted away in it, lost in a strange yearning to attain some individuality vaster and simpler than mine – as though I had become pure light." (*Writings in Time of War*, p118)
9. "Life is a universal reality: all matter is essentially vitalised. (HM, p34)." Once the world is lit by the vision of faith, Christ becomes present everywhere. Now it is possible "to love with real love, with a true love, the universe in process of formation." (*Toward the Future*, p204). One can embrace the lowliest task with devotion, for everything one handles is a touch and a caress from God. In everything one encounters, one encounters his personal Lord; the believer "can give himself boundlessly to everything he does." Every event is different now. (HE, p148)

10. Teilhard would speak of a special way of seeing: “an effort at perception is indispensable” (*The Phenomenon of Man*, p91); “we must first educate our eyes” (*Human Energy*, p 95). “But we have to do more than open our eyes” (*Activation of Energy*, p24); there must be a “special quality and training in the observer” (HE, p119; *Heart of the Matter*, p214)
11. Teilhard was always puzzled when others were insensitive to what he was experiencing: “how has psychology been able so consistently to ignore this fundamental vibration whose ring can be heard by every practiced ear at the basis, or rather at the summit, of every great emotion? Resonance to the All – the keynote of pure poetry and pure religion.” (*The Phenomenon of Man*, p266).
12. He advises: one must “carefully foster in oneself the feeling for, the perception of, the zest for the Omnipresence which haloes everything in nature.” (*Writings in Time of War* p121)
13. “The flame has lit up the whole world from within. All things individually and collectively are penetrated and flooded by it, from the inmost core of the tiniest atom to the mighty sweep of the most universal laws of being.” (From *The Mass on the World in Hymn of the Universe* p23)
14. Teilhard’s close Jesuit friend, Pierre Leroy, tells of their final meeting; it was in New York City in December of 1954. They were walking together down a busy street and Teilhard seemed troubled and yet strangely at peace. Teilhard stopped and turned to Fr Leroy and putting a hand on Fr Leroy’s shoulder said, “My dear, I can tell you now that I am continually conscious of being in the presence of God.” The two went on walking and entered a restaurant where Teilhard was well known. The waiter brought him his customary sandwich and coffee and took Fr Leroy’s order. The two ate in silence and then walked back to where they were staying without saying another word.
15. “The joy and strength of my life,” Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) wrote a month before his death, “will have lain in the realisation that when the two ingredients – God and the world – were brought together they set up an endless mutual reaction, producing a sudden blaze of such intense brilliance that all the depths of the world were lit up for me”. (From *Le Milieu Divin* p37)

Biblical passages that inspired and invited Teilhard de Chardin include:

“So that God may be all in all.”

1 Corinthians 15:28

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now.”

Romans 8:22

“(When it says, ‘He ascended’, what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4: 9 – 10

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” Col 1:15-20

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