



TEILHARD: A Visionary for Our Time

Teaching by Cynthia Bourgeault

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Holy Isle, Scotland, UK
9 CD set (approx. 10:50 hours)

As this is a LIVE recording you may notice some audio variability and background noise.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was a Jesuit priest, a mystic, and a well-known paleontologist. He devoted his life to bridging the scientific and spiritual dimensions of human existence. In this recording, Cynthia presents Teilhard's vision in a way that provides us with direction and hope for engaging with today's local and global concerns.

First Cynthia discusses Teilhard's way of seeing, which draws together the evolutionary and contemplative perspectives. She then guides us through the key concepts of Teilhard's vision: cosmogenesis, complexification-consciousness, convergence, and Christ Omega. We come to understand evolution not as being random and chaotic but as having an inherent purposeful trajectory. The overall movement of creation is toward more and more complex structures that can manifest higher and higher levels of consciousness until culminating at a Christ Omega point—that is, unity through differentiation and the personal.

While Teilhard's language and ideas can be daunting, Cynthia's teaching makes them understandable and relevant. From his concepts, she identifies three resources for anchoring deep hope and faith today:

- Trusting the cosmic trajectory
- Trusting evolution's progression toward a higher form of collectivity
- Trusting the Spirit is present

Cynthia leaves us with three pragmatic challenges: moving beyond individual self-realization, facing our fear of convergence, and overcoming our fear of embodiment. By the end of this recording, Cynthia has honored Teilhard's effort to reconcile the secular and the sacred and in the process has recognized Teilhard as a visionary for our time.

References for this recorded teaching:

Bejan, Adrian, and J. Peder Zane. *Design in Nature*. 2012.

Bergson, Henri. *Creative Evolution*. 1907.

Bruteau, Beatrice. *The Grand Option: Personal Transformation and a New Creation*. 2001.

Daumal, Rene. *Mount Analogue*. 1952.

Delio, Ilia. "Teilhard de Chardin and World Religions: Ultra Catholic or Ultra Human?" Talk at the American Teilhard Association Annual General Meeting. May 14, 2016.

Primack, Joel, and Nancy Ellen Abrams. *The View from the Center of the Universe*. 2006.

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre. *The Human Phenomenon*. Ed. and trans. Sarah Appleton-Weber.

Ibid. *The Heart of Matter: An Essay of the Interior Life*.

Ibid. *The Christic*.

Ibid. *Writings in Time of War*.

Ibid. *The Divine Milieu*.

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Disc & Track Titles

Disc 1 (1:10:07)

Track 1	Background on Teilhard	(3:18)
Track 2	Responses to his work	(5:26)
Track 3	Bringing science and mysticism together	(4:44)
Track 4	Cynthia's approach to Teilhard	(5:28)
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Track 6	Teilhard and Einstein parallels	(2:57)
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Track 10	Evolution as a universal condition of development	(3:22)
Track 11	Accounting for the different scales of creation	(5:35)
Track 12	The need to expand our sense perceptions	(7:47)
Track 13	The progressive layers of scale	(6:15)

Disc 3 (1:10:31)

Track 1	Introduction to the purposeful course of evolution	(5:37)
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Track 7	Transformation vs regaining something lost	(4:44)
Track 8	The talents parable: Embracing our creative work	(4:04)
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Track 16	The Paul/Teilhard connection	(2:25)

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We hope you find this an enriching and beneficial teaching series.

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