





## **DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SENIORS**

"The plant has nothing to 'mind' now but the treasure it bears. Its aim has become absolutely simple . . . in the old carnal days there was the complexity of trying to carry on two lives at once, nourishing root and stem, leaf and flower and tendril, alongside the seed-vessel and seed. All that is over. It withdraws itself quietly into the inner shrine where God is working out that which is eternal."



In our elder years, how can we "withdraw... into the inner shrine where God is working out that which is eternal"?

"I am seeing more and more that we begin to learn what it is to walk by faith when we learn to spread out all that is against us: all our physical weakness, loss of mental power, spiritual inability – all that is against us inwardly and outwardly – as sails to the wind and expect them to be vehicles for the power of Christ to rest upon us. It is so simple and self-evident – but so long in the learning!"



What are some of the things we need to "spread out" to God and how can He use them as "vehicles for the power of Christ to rest upon u



Take the very hardest thing in your life – the place of difficulty, outward or inward, and expect God to triumph gloriously in that very spot. Just there He can bring your soul into blossom."



What are some of the hard things that come with age, and what does it mean that God "bring your soul into blossom" in those places?

"All these things are so wonderful to watch – all the more wonderful from the watching being from a quiet room full of flowers instead of from the dust and din of the battle field, good though that was when God gave it. Only now it is easier to trace the working out of these 'parts of His way' and to almost see the still unrevealed thought that links them."



Can you begin to "trace the working out" of God's work in your life in the past, leading to this point in your life?

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"The 'grand new independence of any earthly thing to satisfy, the liberty of those who have nothing to lose because they have nothing to keep.'"



How can loss bring a "grand new independence" of soul?

