

*In the Name of Jesus* book by Henri Nouwen  
April 12, 2005, Skip Bell, ChMn 747

Nouwen allowed Bill to become a part of the emotional healing and give him validation.

Why is the desire for relevance a temptation for a leader?

Cry of my own soul to be authentic of myself.  
Don't have to change myself in order to be relevant.

It seems to me that I'm tempted to be different to be accepted by them.

When you are trying to be relevant, you are taking a circuit around who you are.

Being aware of who we are, allows a comfort level in our behavior.

Our relevance is attached to what we can do rather than who we are.

Why are we pastors? Isn't it possible that we are pastors because we need the blessing.

*Life of the Beloved* by H. Nouwen

How have we responded to that temptation?

A contemplative life of prayer and do I love Jesus?

*A Tale of 3 Kings* by Gene Edwards

Why is interest in doing something spectacular a temptation for the leader?

How do we respond to that temptation?

Why is power a temptation for a leader?

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Why is power a temptation for a leader?

We first thought of Jesus Christ and the power He had.

Must have been a great temptation for Jesus Christ when He came to earth. Go ahead, change the stones to bread, jump off the temple, bow down before me, come down off the cross—if you are the Son of God.

Became jobless for 4 months. Had offer for 4 months, but all were to work on Sabbath.

One of temptations of power is compromise.

To show off: especially where you are in a position where you are pressuring people.

Jesus' temptation: He had the power, but didn't use it.

**When you lose power you enter into an unpredictable climate**—Like Saddam Hussein.

**Quote:** *Ministry of Healing* Just as Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit; so, we can experience the same surrender to the Holy Spirit.

Let go of self and ego. **Fear** can take over.

In book Nouwen compares the power-centered Christian history which led to the crusades, which were defined by personal power rather than divine power.

Power gives you the opportunity to **abuse** it or allow it to be facilitated by Christ. You can use it positively or negatively. You must choose as to how to use that power.

Surrender...

**Quote:** In the close of the chapter: **The temptation of power is the greatest when intimacy is a threat.**

We don't want to get close. We don't want to admit I need you to give me power. I don't want to be vulnerable.

Often a fact that power suggests an absence of all those needs.

We think of money, homes, cars, job, etc.

**Jesus had power, but also allowed Himself to be intimate.**

**Quote:** "Much Christian leadership is exercised by people who don't know how to develop healthy, intimate relationships. They've opted for power and control.

Sometimes power tends to distance.

How power can be a temptation?

**Self-glorification and pride.**

Some of the elements are:

Self-glorification  
Compromise  
Tyranny...

**Solution:** be intentional in creating healthy, intimate relationships—with Christ and peers.

**Personal experience:** Completed masters at LLU and became CEO. Hospital pressured Yat to work on the Sabbath and break it. Whether I want to follow God or continue in the powerful position. Should I leave the job?

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How do we respond?