

Three movements in ministry - Henri Nouwen

from temptation to vocation

- **From Relevance to Prayer**
 - The temptation to be relevant 'turn stones into bread'
 - "Do You Love Me?"
 - The prayer - Contemplative Prayer
- **From Popularity to Ministry -**
 - The temptation to be spectacular - throw yourself from the pinnacle of the temple
 - "Feed My Sheep"
 - The prayer - Confession and forgiveness
- **From Leading to Being Led**
 - The temptation to be powerful - have power over all these kingdoms
 - "Somebody Else Will Take You"
 - The prayer - theological reflection – discernment

Five approaches to prayer in ministry:

Prayer of the Office – Communal faithfulness

Prayer of intercession – Global need – bringing the needs of the world to the foot of the cross

Prayer of Confession and forgiveness – own one's own and other's fallibility – depending on God's grace

Prayer of Silent Contemplation – utter God centredness – intention that nothing gets in the way of our attention to God

Prayer of Discernment – finding God in all things

Four movements of discernment

1. **Desire for God** – and for God to be the centre
2. **Need for freedom** from 'attachments' (that which draws us away from God) to have 'indifference' in order to respond to God's movement/call
3. **Recognition of the tension** in the particular
4. **Choosing life** over death, freedom over slavery – moving with the fruit of the Spirit

Six steps in the prayer of Discernment

– The Examen of Consciousness (Review of the Day)

1. Ask for God's perspective
2. Look back for the life giving
3. Give thanks
4. Look back for the life draining
5. Seek light and grace
6. Look ahead - ask for what you need

"The Prayer Life of a Priest: juggling prayer and action" Nick Helm May 2023