

On The Road To Emmaus

I recently came across these words in *Nehemiah 4:9*: “*And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night*”

It is possible to make prayer a substitute for taking action. We seek to roll everything over and on to God giving him the responsibility of doing things for us while we sit and do nothing.

When we pray to be delivered from temptation—we must at the same time stay out of the way of temptation. We must guard against temptation, resist the Devil, and stand steadfast in obedience and faith.

When we pray for health, we also at the same time must do our best to improve our health.

When we ask God for wisdom, we must use our brains and think. We must search for wisdom in the area in which we have a need. We must remember that wisdom is a hidden treasure.

When we ask God to help us break a bad habit, we at the same time praying must also work to overcome that habit that bedevils us.

Prayer is not a magical incantation so that when we say the right words with the right attitude that we will no longer have to struggle, work or take responsibility in the matter at hand. When our human power is inadequate to meet the need, God may indeed work without us and help us. However, ordinarily God works in and through us so we will experience the blessing of faithful obedience. The apostle Paul put it this way in *Colossians 1:29*: “*For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*”

How have you been using prayer in your daily life?

A Fellow Traveler