

# Nehemiah 4:9

by Chuck Smith

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer and responsibility, highlighting the need to balance prayer with action and common sense.*

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 4:9, Philippians 4:6, James 5:16

**Topics:** "The Power of Prayer", "Faith and Action"

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## Description

Chuck Smith emphasizes the vital role of prayer in the life of a believer, using Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem as a backdrop. He highlights that great leaders in the Bible were men of prayer, aware of their limitations and the infinite resources available through God. Smith points out the mystery of why people often neglect prayer, despite its power, and stresses that prayer should not be an excuse for irresponsibility or laziness. Instead, he encourages believers to pray and then act responsibly, trusting God to guide their actions. Ultimately, prayer is a means to acknowledge our dependence on God while taking prudent steps in our lives.

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## Transcript

"PRAYER"

Intro: Nehemiah has returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. After a secret midnight sortie examining the rubble which was once a wall he announced his plan to rebuild the wall.

This brought immediate repercussions from the Palestinians.

I. "WE MADE OUR PRAYER UNTO GOD."

A. All of the great leaders of the Bible were men of prayer.

1. Men who were conscious of their limitations.
2. Men who knew the source of unlimited help and strength.

B. Lack of prayer one of the mysteries of heaven.

1. As the angels watch us in our struggles.

- a. They see our futile efforts as we try one thing after another.
  - b. They watch our frustration and despair.
  - c. Why doesn't that dum-dum pray.
2. When God has made His infinite resources available, why don't we use them?

C. Some things I think I don't need to pray about.

- 1. They are simple matters I can easily handle or.
- 2. The answer is so obvious I know what to do.
- 3. It's amazing how complex simple things can become or.
- 4. How wrong I can be in my estimate of a situation.
- 5. "Oh what needless pain we bear."

II. "AND SET A WATCH AGAINST THEM."

A. Prayer is no excuse for irresponsibility.

- 1. We are to pray yes.
- 2. Then we must act in a responsible way.
  - a. God will guide us in our actions.
  - b. God will help us in our actions.
- 3. "I prayed that God would pay my bills so I bought a new car and quit my job.

Why did God let them repossess my 280Z."

B. Prayer is not an excuse for laziness.

- 1. I pray every morning that God will get me a job if he wants me to work.
  - a. Then what do you do?
    - b. I go surfing.
    - c. No employer is going to come swimming out through the surf to offer you a job.
    - d. You must go out and knock on doors.

C. Prayer does not negate common sense.

- 1. It does not preclude prudent actions.

2. We ask God to help us then we do what we can.
    - a. Expecting Him to guide us.
    - b. Knowing we are dependent on Him.
    - c. Giving Him the praise and glory when the task is successfully completed.
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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/nehemiah-49/>

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