

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim

SALAH

Salah is the Prayer for worshipping Allah (S.W.T). In the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, Allah (S.W.T) says that He did not create mankind and jinn except to worship Him. Allah's beloved Messenger Muhammad (S.A.W) said that Salah distinguishes a Muslim from a non-Muslim.

The gift of Salah was given by Allah (S.W.T) for Muslims during our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)'s miraculous journey, Isra wal Miraj.

Salah is important because it is the second pillar of Islam and therefore obligatory for every Muslim. It is also a means of doing dhikr of Allah (S.W.T). Remembering Allah (S.W.T) is very important because He is the One who created us. Hadrat Mughira (R.A.A) narrated that the Prophet (S.A.W) prayed for so long at night in standing position that his feet got swollen up. His Companions said to him, "O Prophet of Allah! Why do you exert so much when Allah (S.W.T) has forgiven you everything?" The Prophet (S.A.W) replied, "Should I not be a grateful servant of Allah?" (al-Bukhari, Muslim).

The five daily prayers are called the Fard, or the obligatory Salah. These are: Salat al-Fajr (the dawn Prayer before sunrise, also called Salat as-Subh with two raka'at), Salat az-Zuhr (the noon Prayer with four raka'at), Salat al-'Asr (the late afternoon Prayer with four raka'at), Salat al-Maghrib (the Prayer after sunset with three raka'at) and Salat al-'Isha' (the night Prayer with four raka'at). The last Prayer for the night with three raka'at is Salat al-Witr and is wajib (necessary).

Another obligatory Salah is Salat al-Jumu'ah which is prayed on Friday at noon. It replaces Zuhr Salah, and has two raka'at, and a khutba (sermon) which is wajib. It is twenty five times more meritorious to perform the fard (obligatory) Prayer in jama'ah (congregation) than alone.

Allah (S.W.T) says in Chapter 62, verse 9 of the Qur'an:

O you who have believed, when [the adhan] is called for the Prayer on the day of Jumu'ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah (S.W.T) and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew.

Alongside Fard Salah and Wajib Salah, there is Sunnah Salah. Sunnah Salah are the additional optional prayers to worship Allah (S.W.T) that Allah's beloved Messenger Muhammad (S.A.W) prayed. Salat as-Sunnah Mu'akkadah are the emphasized Sunnah which the blessed Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) never missed and we should never miss them too, mainly because of our love for our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

There are many other types of Salah, such as: Salat-an-nawafil, salat-at-tahajjud, as-salat tahiyat al-masjid. It is important to remember that while some may not be compulsory, we should always do our best to remember Allah (S.W.T) through Salah.

Praying Salah in the three most holy masjids of Islam (Masjidul Haram in Makkah and Masjid Nabawi in Madinah and Masjid Aqsa in Jerusalem) have their own special virtues. Praying Salah in Masjidul Haram is equal to one hundred thousand prayers in any other masjid. Praying in Masjid Nabawi in Madinah is equal to 1000 prayers in any other masjid, and praying in Masjidul Aqsa is equal to 500 prayers in any other masjid. This includes both the Fard, and Nawafil (voluntary) prayers.

Salah is very important in the life of a Muslim. We should try our best never to miss any Salah.

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