

Salah

Salah is the second Pillar of Islam, so it is very important in Islam. Salah are the five daily prayers that are mandatory for Muslims to pray. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) was given the five prayers by Allah (S.W.T) on his journey, Miraj. The first Salah is Fajr, the second is Zuhr, the third is Asr, the fourth is Maghrib, and the fifth is Isha.

Doing wudu is necessary before one prays Salah. After wudu is done, men should wear a prayer cap. Women must wear a hijab and a long dress. Before we pray, our clothes, body and the place we pray must be clean. Salah should be performed on a prayer mat and facing the direction of the Kaaba.

There are different number of rakats for each Salah. There may be two rakats, three rakats or four rakats. A rakat is performed as follows: You make niyyah, then raise your hands to your ears and say Allahu Akbar, then recite al-Fatiha. After this, you pray another Surah or some verses from the Qur'an, then bend down so your hands touch your knees and recite Subhana Rabbiyal-Azim three times. Next, you stand up and say Sami Allahu liman hamidah Rabbana wa Lakal-Hamdu. After this, you prostrate to Allah (S.W.T) and say Subhana Rabbiyal-A'la three times. After two rakats, one then sits down and recites Attahiyyat and then salat Ibrahimiyah. The last thing you do is turn your head to your right shoulder and say As-salamu 'alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh and then repeat to your left shoulder. If you are praying four rakats recite Attahiyyat after two rakats, then pray two more rakats (without reciting a Surah after al-Fatiha) and finish your Salah with Attahiyyat and salat Ibrahimiyah.

We pray both Fard Salah and Sunnah Salah. Fard is mandatory to pray and Sunnah is recommended to receive additional blessings. You can also pray Nafl, which is an additional prayer. It is very good to pray both Sunnah and Nafl Salah. Fajr Salah has two rakat Sunnah and two rakat Fard in this order. Zuhr salah has four rakat Sunnah, four rakat Fard and two rakat Sunnah. Asr has four rakat Sunnah and four rakat Fard. Maghrib has three rakat Fard and two rakat Sunnah, and Isha has four rakat Sunnah, four rakat Fard, two rakat Sunnah and three rakat Witr. In the last rakat of Witr Salah, you must raise your hands to your ears to say Allahu Akbar and recite dua Qunut. Witr Salah is the last Salah of the day, so any Nafl must be prayed before Witr.

When we pray together we get twenty five times more reward from Allah (S.W.T). When we pray in congregation, the Imam leads and everyone else follows. We pray Salatul Jumu'a on Fridays. In Ramadan we pray 20 rakat Taraweh Salah. On the day of Eid, we pray Eid Salah, which takes place in the morning. Salatul Janaza is prayed when someone passes away and we ask Allah (S.W.T) to forgive the person who passed away and bless them with a high place in Jannah.

When we pray Salah, we must concentrate and be humble. We pray Salah so we can be good Muslims and go to heaven. Praying Salah keeps us away from bad deeds. We only think of Allah (S.W.T) when we pray. Praying Salah brings us closer to Allah (S.W.T).

By: Aayat Sidik