

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Basic Teachings of Islam

Salah – Prayer

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Obligations of prayer

- **Faraid (Obligatory actions)**
 - Fard elements of a worship must be performed.
 - If you miss a fard, whole act of worship is nullified.
 - A prayer has 6 Faraid.

Obligations of prayer

- **1. Tahrima (the first takbeer)**
 - This is saying “Allahu Akbar” at the start of the prayer.
 - The first takbeer of a prayer is called “Tahrima” since it makes all other things impermissible for the one praying during the prayer, such as speaking, eating and drinking.

Elements of prayer

- The follower should say the Takbeer after the Imam has said his Takbeer.
- If he does it before him then his prayer is invalid.
- The Takbeer must be pronounced so that one can hear it himself.

Obligations of prayer

- **2. Qiyaam (Standing up)**
 - Standing up in Fard and Waajib prayers is obligatory if one is able to stand.
 - Holy Prophet has said:
 - "Pray standing, if you can't then sitting, if you can't do that then laying on the side."
 - Whoever is unable to stand up should maintain that posture which is easy for him. His reward does not diminish.
 - Allah Almighty says, "Allah doesn't burden anyone more than his capacity."

Obligations of prayer

- Holy Prophet has said, "When a person is doing something good and he falls ill. His guardian angel is ordered to write for him the full reward he would get if he was healthy."
- For Sunnah and Nawafil prayers it is permissible to pray sitting, however the reward is reduced to half.
- Holy Prophet has said:
 - "The prayer of a sitting person is half in reward to that of a standing one."

Obligations of prayer

- **3. Qiraa'ah (Recitation of the Quran)**
 - It is obligatory to recite any part of the Glorious Quran.
 - It does not need to be Surah Fatiha.
 - Allah Almighty says:
 - "Read whatever is possible from the Qur an."(Quran: 20: 73)

Obligations of prayer

- And the Blessed Prophet has said:
 - "When you are standing for the prayer,
 - say the Takbeer,
 - then read whatever is possible from the Qur'an,
 - then bow properly,
 - then rise until you are standing straight
 - then prostrate properly
 - then rise and sit up straight and do so in all your prayers." (Muslim)

Obligations of prayer

- Recitation is obligatory only in the first two units of the Fard Prayers,
- and it is obligatory in all the units of Waajib, Sunnah and Nawafil Prayers.
- The minimum amount of recitation that is obligatory is three short verses or one long verse of the Qur'an.

Obligations of prayer

- The recitation of the Imam is enough for the follower.
- He does not need to recite behind the Imam.
The Blessed Prophet has said:
 - "Whoever follows an Imam, the Imam's recitation is his recitation." (Ibn Maajah)

Obligations of prayer

- **4. Ruku (Bowling)**

- Ruku is obligatory in every rakah, for everyone who is capable of doing it.
- At minimum, a person should bow down such that his hands could reach his knees
- The perfect state of Ruku is to bow down such that the head and the back can make a horizontal straight line.
- If one is sitting and praying, the bowing is done by lowering the head and bending the back slightly.

Obligations of prayer

- **5. Sujood (Prostration)**
 - Sajdah is obligatory twice in each unit.
 - The prostration must be done on a firm place like a mat and not on soft cushion where the forehead cannot be placed firmly.
 - In correct prostration, one should place:
 - all of the forehead and nose on the ground as well as both hands, both knees and the tips of both feet.

Obligations of prayer

- **6. Qa'ada Aakhir (last sitting)**
- For a prayer, the very last sitting is also obligatory.
- The length of the sitting is as long as it takes to read the Tashah-hud.
- The Prophet has said:
 - "When you have raised your head from the last prostration and you have sat as long as Tashah-hud your prayer has been completed."

Obligations of prayer

