

SALAH IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PILLARS OF ISLAM.

It was the first act of worship that was made obligatory by Allah and it is the last thing to be taken away from the religion. When it perishes, Islam will perish. Its obligation was revealed directly to the Prophet ﷺ, during his ascension to the heaven and it was made obligatory upon every sane, adult Muslim.

Salah is the first action that a believer will be questioned about, for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

“The first act that the slave will be accountable for on the Day of Judgement will be prayer. If it is good, then the rest of his acts will be good. And if it is deficient, then the rest of his acts will be deficient”.

The importance of Salah is so great that one is ordered to observe it in all occasions, whether one is healthy or sick, whether one prays standing, sitting or lying down,

whether one is travelling or residing and whether one is safe or in fear.

Salah is our key to success in this world and in the hereafter. Allah ﷻ says in His Glorious Book, *“Successful indeed are the believers who are humble in their prayers”* and in another verse *“And who pay heed to their prayers. These are the heirs who will inherit Paradise. There will they abide”* (al-Mu’minun: 1-2, 9-11)

The main purpose of this booklet is to help you learn how to pray correctly as taught to us by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It provides a simplified, illustrated step-by-step guide to Salah and Wudu’ which we hope will get you up and running quickly.

For a more detailed and comprehensive explanation, please refer to your local masjid or islamic bookstore for an advanced book on Salah.

We ask Allah to accept from us our actions and forgive us for our shortcomings, and inshaAllah you will find the contents of this booklet beneficial.



DEFINITION OF SALAH

The Arabic word Salah originates from the word silah which means connection. The Islamic definition of Salah is the name given to the formal prayer of Islam. The prayer is one of the obligatory rites of the religion, to be performed five times a day by every obedient adult Muslim. It is a connection between the human and his Creator Allah ﷻ.

2ND PILLAR OF ISLAM

Salah is the second pillar of Islam. Performing Salah is the first priority after belief in the Oneness of Allah ﷻ and in the prophethood of Muhammad ﷺ.

It is such an important pillar, that Muslims are called upon to perform this act of worship in all circumstances without fail.

WHO MUST PRAY

Prayer is obligatory upon every sane adult Muslim. A person is considered an adult upon reaching puberty.

There are four signs of puberty (any one of these signs means the person has reached puberty):

1. Wet dreams
2. Pubic hair
3. Menstruation (for girls)
4. Reaching the age of 15 (lunar years)

THE NAMES AND TIMES OF THE 5 DAILY SALAH



2 UNITS

Fajr

The Dawn Prayer

is performed after dawn and before sunrise. It consists of 2 units (raka'ah).



4 UNITS

Dhuhr

The Noon Prayer

is performed when the sun begins to decline from the zenith point. It consists of 4 units (raka'ah).



4 UNITS

Asr

The Afternoon Prayer

is performed midway between noon and sunset. It consists of 4 units (raka'ah).



3 UNITS

Maghrib

The Sunset Prayer

is performed immediately after sunset. It consists of 3 units (raka'ah).



4 UNITS

Isha'

The Night Prayer

is performed after twilight up until fajr although it is preferred to be prayed before the middle of the night. It consists of 4 units (raka'ah).

PRAY ON TIME

Remember, it is best to perform each of the five obligatory prayers as soon as the time has commenced, as it is not permitted to delay them without a valid reason, and it must not be delayed beyond its permitted time.

MISSED PRAYERS

It is a major sin to miss a prayer deliberately; the missed prayer must be made up as soon as it is remembered. Any made-up prayer is performed in the exact manner it is prayed during its specified time.

PRAYER CALENDARS

It is advised that you refer to an Islamic prayer timetable published by one of the local Islamic centres in your city for exact prayer times throughout the year.

Allah says:

“Verily, the prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed times”

(Al-Nisaa 4:103)

THE COMPULSORY AND SUNNAH PRAYERS

The following are the number of compulsory and sunnah units associated with each prayer. The highlighted boxes are obligatory.

The sunnah prayers are highly recommended, and the person will receive great reward for performing them - but no sin is incurred for skipping them.

Prayer	Before (Sunnah)	Compulsory	After (Sunnah)
Fajr	2	2*	—————
Dhuhr	2 + 2	4	2 or (2 + 2)
Asr	2 + 2	4	—————
Maghrib	2	3*	2
Isha'	2	4*	2

* The Qur'anic recitation of the first two units of each of the prayers which have the asterisk besides them should be read aloud. All other units of these prayers and other prayers without an asterisk should be recited silently.

PURIFICATION AND CLEANLINESS - TAHAARAH

Purification is a very important matter in Islam. One must purify their intention for Allah alone and purify their bodies and clothes before beginning the Prayer.

Hygiene and cleanliness are very important aspects of a Muslim's life. One must ensure that their bodies, clothing and place of prayer is free from impurities such as urine, faeces and any other impure substances. After going to the toilet, it is recommended to wash the private parts with water if it is available and does not cause harm (due to injury for example).

It is obligatory to have a full shower known as Ghusl after intimate relations between the husband and wife, after ejaculation (due to a wet dream, for example), and upon completion of a woman's menses or post-natal bleeding.

INTENTION – NIYYAH

All actions in Islam require a clear intention before performing the act, with the action to be performed purely for the sake of Allah.

The place of the intention is the heart.

In the Glorious
Quran, Allah ﷻ
states

“Truly, Allah
loves those who
turn unto Him in
repentance and He
loves those who
purify themselves”
(Al-Baqarah: 222)

The Prophet ﷺ
said:

“Actions are only
by intentions and
every man has
only that which he
intended ...”