

Prayer - الصلاة

Prayer is the second pillar of Islam, and it is the fundamental act of worship that directly and uniquely connects a Muslim to Allah. Prayer is one of the greatest acts of worship in Islam, as it represents submission and servitude to Allah, and serves as a means of spiritual communication with Him. Allah has prescribed prayer



for Muslims five times a day as a constant reminder of His existence and greatness, and as an opportunity to purify the soul from sins and wrongdoings.

The importance of prayer lies in the fact that it is a distinction between Muslims and others and is the first thing for which a person will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment. Prayer teaches the Muslim discipline and organization, instills tranquility and peace in their heart, strengthens the bond between the servant and their Lord, and keeps them in a continuous state of remembrance and orientation towards Allah. Therefore, committing to and maintaining prayer is one of the greatest deeds a Muslim can perform in their life.

In the previous book, "My Islam: Part Two," you learned about the importance and methodology of prayer, and in this lesson, you will learn even more about prayer.

The Conditions of Salah شُرُوطُ صِحَّةِ الصَّلَاةِ

The Conditions of Salah

These are the requirements that a Muslim must meet before performing prayer to ensure its validity. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the prayer is considered invalid.

1. Islam: The person performing the prayer must be a Muslim; the prayer is not valid from a non-Muslim or disbeliever.
2. Sanity: The person must be sane; the prayer is invalid from someone who is insane or has lost their sanity for any reason.
3. Maturity is the age at which a child can distinguish between right and wrong, typically around seven years old.
4. Purity (Taharah): The person performing the prayer must be in a state of purity for their prayer to be valid.
5. Purity of Clothing, Body, and Place: The clothing of the person performing the prayer, their body, and the place where they are praying must be free from impurities.
6. Covering the Awrah: The person must cover their Awrah during prayer. For men, this is from the navel to the knee, and for women, it is the entire body except for the face and hands.
7. Entering the Time of Prayer: The Muslim must perform the prayer within its legally prescribed time. The prayer is not valid if performed before its time or after it has ended without a legitimate excuse.
8. Facing the Qiblah: The Muslim must face the Qiblah during the prayer, except in certain cases such as fear or when traveling on a riding animal.

The obligatory acts of prayer - فَرَائِضُ الصَّلَاةِ

The obligatory acts of prayer are the essential actions and statements without which the prayer is invalid. These are the requirements that a Muslim must perform during prayer to ensure it is correct and valid. The basic obligatory acts of prayer are as follows:

- 1- Intention (Niyyah):** The person praying must internally intend to perform the specific prayer before beginning.
- 2- Takbiratul Ihram (Opening Takbir):** This is the declaration of "Allahu Akbar" at the beginning of the prayer. This Takbir serves as the entry into prayer and must immediately follow the intention.
- 3- Standing if Able:** The person praying must stand while praying if they can do so. Standing is waived for those who are ill or unable.
- 4- Recitation of Al-Fatihah:** Surah Al-Fatihah must be recited in every unit (rak'ah) of the prayer.
- 5- Ruku' (Bowing):** The person praying must bow down so that their hands reach their knees, with their back straight.
- 6- Rising from Ruku' and Standing Upright:** After bowing, the person praying must rise and stand upright before proceeding to prostrate.
- 7- Sujood (Prostration):** The person praying must perform two prostrations in each unit of prayer, ensuring their forehead touches the ground.
- 8- Sitting between the Two Prostrations (Jalsah):** The person praying must sit calmly between the two prostrations.
- 9- Tranquility in All Pillars:** There must be calmness and tranquility in all the pillars of prayer (standing, bowing, prostration, and sitting between the two prostrations).
- 10- Final Tashahhud:** The final testimony of faith must be recited in the last sitting of the prayer after the final rak'ah.

11- Sitting (Jalsah) for the Final Tashahhud: The person praying must sit calmly for the final Tashahhud.

12- Sending Prayers upon the Prophet ﷺ: In the final Tashahhud, prayers must be sent upon Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

13- Tasleem (Salutation of Peace): The person praying must conclude their prayer by saying "As-salamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah" on both sides.

14- Sequence of the Pillars: The obligatory acts must be performed in the correct order. The prayer is not valid if this order is altered without a valid excuse.

The Sunnan of Prayer - سُنُنُ الصَّلَاةِ

The Sunnan of Prayer are the actions and sayings that are recommended in prayer but are not obligatory or required. Performing them earns the Muslims additional rewards, but neglecting them does not invalidate the prayer. Here are the basic Sunnah acts of prayer:

- 1- Raising the hands at the Takbiratul Ihram (the opening takbir), when bowing for ruku, when rising from ruku, and when standing up from the second rak'ah to the third rak'ah.
- 2- Reciting the opening supplication (Dua al-Istiftah) after Takbiratul Ihram. It is the supplication recited before starting Surah Al-Fatihah.
- 3- Isti'aadhah (Seeking refuge with Allah from the accursed devil) before reciting Surah Al-Fatihah in the first rak'ah.
- 4- Saying "Ameen" after finishing the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah.
- 5- Reciting a surah or verses from the Qur'an after Al-Fatihah in the first two rak'ahs of every prayer.
- 6- Reciting aloud in the prayers of Fajr, Maghrib, and Isha in the first two rak'ahs, and silently in the silent prayers (Dhuhr and Asr).
- 7- Saying the takbir (Allahu Akbar) when moving between the pillars, such as the takbir of bowing and the takbir of prostration.
- 8- Saying "Subhana Rabbiyal Adheem" (Glory be to my Lord, the Most Great) three times in ruku, and "Subhana Rabbiyal A'la" (Glory be to my Lord, the Most High) three times in sujood.
- 9- Supplicating between the two prostrations, such as saying "Rabbi ighfir li, Rabbi ighfir li" (My Lord, forgive me, my Lord, forgive me).
- 10- Placing the right hand over the left under the chest while standing.

- 11- Glorifying Allah in ruku and sujud, and consistently remembering and supplicating to Allah in sujud.
- 12- Sitting for the first tashahhud after the first two rak'ahs in prayers that have more than two rak'ahs (such as Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha).
- 13- Reciting the first tashahhud while sitting after the first two rak'ahs in four-unit or three-unit prayers.
- 14- Sending blessings on the Prophet ﷺ after the final tashahhud.
- 15- Supplicating after the final tashahhud before saying the salam.

The invalidators of prayer - مُبْطِلَاتُ الصَّلَاةِ

The invalidators of prayer are actions or matters that invalidate the prayer and render it incorrect, necessitating the Muslim to repeat it. Among the invalidators are:

1- Deliberately skipping a fard: Such as, not performing the bowing (ruku'), the prostration (sujood), or skipping the recitation of Al-Fatihah. If a fundamental part of the prayer is deliberately omitted, the prayer becomes invalid.

2- Speaking intentionally with words other than the remembrance of Allah: If the person praying intentionally speaks with words that are not from the remembrances or supplications of the prayer, their prayer becomes invalid.

3- Laughing out loud: If the person praying laughs out loud, their prayer becomes invalid, unlike smiling.

4- Eating or drinking: If the person praying eats or drinks intentionally during the prayer, their prayer becomes invalid.

5- Exposing the private parts: If part of the person's private parts becomes uncovered during the prayer and is not immediately covered, the prayer becomes invalid.

6- Changing the intention of the prayer: If the person praying changes their intention from one prayer to another during the prayer or interrupts their intention, their prayer becomes invalid.

7- Breaking the ablution (wudu': If the ablution is nullified during the prayer, the prayer becomes invalid.

8- Significant deviation from the direction of the Qiblah: If the person praying intentionally turns significantly away from the direction of the Qiblah, their prayer becomes invalid.

9- Intentionally adding extra obligatory actions: If the person praying intentionally adds an extra obligatory action, such as prostrating three times instead of twice, their prayer becomes invalid.

10- Excessive movement: Performing excessive movements that are not part of the prayer and indicate abandonment or neglect of the prayer invalidates it.

11- Loss of consciousness: Such as through insanity, fainting, or deep sleep, invalidates the prayer.

QUIZ

Multiple Choice Questions

1- What is the second pillar of Islam?

- A. Shahada
- B. Salah
- C. Zakat
- D. Hajj

2- How many daily prayers are required for Muslims?

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 7
- D. 10

3- What is the term for the ritual purification required before Salah?

- A. Niyah
- B. Wudu
- C. Qiblah
- D. Sujood

4- Which Surah is mandatory to recite in every rak'ah of Salah?

- A. Surah Al-Baqarah
- B. Surah Al-Fatihah
- C. Surah Al-Ikhlās
- D. Surah An-Nas

5- What direction must Muslims face during Salah?

- A. Towards the east
- B. Towards the Qiblah
- C. Towards the sun
- D. Towards their home

6- What is the opening Takbir in Salah?

- A. Reciting Surah Al-Fatihah
- B. Saying "Bismillah"
- C. Declaring "Allahu Akbar"
- D. Raising the hands in prayer

7- What must be covered during Salah?

- A. Hair only
- B. Arms and legs
- C. The Awrah
- D. Entire body including face

8- What is the final salutation that concludes the prayer?

- A. Ruku
- B. Sujood
- C. Salam
- D. Tashahhud

9- What is Sujood?

- A. Standing during prayer
- B. Bowing during prayer
- C. Prostrating with forehead on the ground
- D. Reciting the Quran

QUIZ

Answer the Questions

What are the conditions of Salah?

What are the invalidators of prayer?

What are the Sunnan of Prayer?

What are the obligatory acts of Prayer?

QUIZ

True or False

1. Muslims can skip Salah if they are busy.
2. Facing the Qiblah in fard prayer is not required if traveling on a riding animal.
3. Salah is only valid if performed in a state of purity.
4. The final Tashahhud is optional in prayer.
5. The opening Takbir (Allahu Akbar) is required to start Salah.
6. It is permissible to delay prayer beyond its prescribed time without a valid excuse.
7. Covering the Awrah during Salah is required for both men and women.
8. Surah Al-Fatihah must be recited in every rak'ah for the prayer to be valid.
9. Muslims are excused from Salah if they are traveling.
10. Calmness and tranquility in all movements are necessary for Salah.

Fill-in-the-Blank

1. Salah is the _____ pillar of Islam.
2. A Muslim must pray _____ times a day.
3. The condition of _____ ensures a Muslim prays within the prescribed time.
4. The recitation of _____ is mandatory in every rak'ah of Salah.
5. The person praying must face the _____ during Salah.
6. The opening declaration of prayer is called _____.
7. _____ refers to the state of cleanliness required for Salah.
8. During Sujood, the _____ must touch the ground.
9. The act of bowing in prayer is called _____.
10. Salah concludes with the salutation of _____.