

Chapter – 05

Prayers

(نماز)

Quran:

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ

{And keep the (obligatory) prayer established.

(02:43 02:83, 02:110, 04:77, 06:72,10:87,22:78, 24:56, 30:31, 58:13 & 73:20)}

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

{O People who believe! Bow and prostrate yourselves, and worship your Lord, and do good deeds in the hope of attaining salvation.

(22:77)}

Hadith:

- On the event of Prophet Muhammad's Divine Journey a long hadith has been told to Anas Bin Malik by Ghifari. This hadith specifically mentions all about the number of prayers.

Narrated by Abu Dhār Ghifari:

Allah's Prophet said, "While I was in Mecca the roof of my house was opened and Gabriel descended, and he hold my hand and ascended with me to the nearest heaven. On the way I met Adam, Idris, Moses, Jesus and Abraham. Then Gabriel took me to the highest heaven where I heard the creaking of the pens of angles. At this stage Allah had imposed 50 prayers a day on me and on my followers. When I was on the way back I met Moses once again. He asked how many prayers have been ordered for your followers. I said 50 prayers. Moses said, Go back to the Lord and appeal for reduction as your followers will not be able to bear it. So I went back to Allah and requested for the reduction and He reduced it to five prayers and said these are all equal to fifty in reward as My words does not change. Quran says:

{لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ} (10:64). (Sahih Bukhari: 340)

Narrated 'Aisha:

In the beginning, Allah had instructed the prayers for two Rakats only, both in residence or on journey. Then the prayers offered on journey remained the same, but the prayers for non-travellers were increased. (Sahih Bukhari: 341)

Narrated Jabir:

Allah's Prophet used to pray (optional, non-obligatory prayer) while riding on his ride (camel/horse) wherever it turned. And whenever he wanted to pray the compulsory prayer he came down from the riding and prayed facing the actual Qiblah. (Sahih Bukhari: 389)

Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Umar:

While the people were offering the Fajr prayer at Quba (near Medina), someone came to them and said: "It has been revealed to Allah's Prophet tonight, and he has been ordered to pray facing the Ka'bah." So turn your faces to the Ka'bah. Those people were facing Sham (Jerusalem) so they turned their faces towards Ka'bah (Mecca). (Sahih Bukhari: 392)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

Allah's Prophet said, "The angels keep on asking Allah's forgiveness for anyone of you, as long as he is at his praying place. They say, 'O Allah! Forgive him, O Allah! Be Merciful to him.'" This pray continues until he does not pass gas (become without ablution). (Sahih Bukhari: 430)

Narrated Ibn Shahab and Abi Masood Al-Ansari:

Once Gabriel came and offered the prayer (Fajr prayer) and Allah's Prophet prayed too. Then he prayed again (Zohar prayer) and so did Allah's Prophet. Again he prayed ('Asr prayers) and Allah's Prophet did the same. Then he prayed (Maghrib-prayer) and so did Allah's Prophet. And then prayed ('Isha prayer) and so did Allah's Prophet. And then Gabriel said, 'I was ordered to do so and to demonstrate the prayers prescribed to you. (Sahih Bukhari: 495)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

It is the sayings of Allah's Prophet that, "If anyone of you who take a bath five times a day, would you notice any dirt on him?" They said, "No". The Prophet added, "That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah blots out all evil deeds." (Sahih Bukhari: 501)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

Allah's Prophet said, "Angels come to you in succession by night and day and all of them get together at the time of the Fajr and 'Asr prayers. Those who have passed the night with you (or stayed with you) ascend

(to the Heaven) and Allah asks them, though He knows everything about you well, "In what state did you leave my slaves?" The angels reply: "When we left them they were praying and when we reached them, they were praying." (Sahih Bukhari: 526)

Narrated Ibn Abbas and Abu Saeed Al-Khudri:

It is Allah's Prophet saying, "There is no prayer after the Morning Prayer till the sun rises, and there is no prayer after the Asr prayer till the sun sets." (Sahih Bukhari: 552 to 554)

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Obligatory (فرض):

- In Quran prayers for five times a day has been mentioned:

أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِدُلُوكِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَى غَسَقِ اللَّيْلِ وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ، إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا

{ Keep the prayer established, from the declining of the sun until darkness of the night (Zohar, Asr, Maghrib and Isha), and the Quran (in Fajr prayer) at dawn, indeed the angels witness the reading of the Quran at dawn. (17:78) }

According to the Tafseer of Quran of Ibn Abbas:

فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ حِينَ تُمْسُونَ وَحِينَ تُصْبِحُونَ

{ And proclaim the Purity of Allah when you witness the night (this is Maghrib prayer) and the morning (this is Fajr prayer), (30:17) }

وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَعَشِيًّا وَحِينَ تُظْهِرُونَ

{ And only His is the heavens and the earth, and before the day ends (this is Asr prayer), and at noon (this is Zohar prayer), ((30:18)) }

وَمِن بَعْدِ صَلَاةِ الْعِشَاءِ

{ And after the night prayer (this is Isha Prayer). (24:58) }

Moreover, Refer to Hadith-340 quoted above.

- All the five prayers are to be offered at its prescribed timings.

Quran says:

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

{ Indeed prayers are a time bound duty upon the Muslims. (04:103) }

Note: There are two time spans in 24 hours when Salath is prohibited.

(See Hadith 552 to 554 mentioned above)

Preconditions (شرط):

(1) Be fully dressed. (2) Dress should be neat and clean. (3) Must have done ablution. (4) Facing towards Kaabah. (5) Prayers to be offered within time limits. (6) Intension for the specific prayer. (7) Telling Takbeer Tahreemah in the start of each prayer.

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) Telling Takbeer Tahreemah in the start of each prayer. (This item comes in precondition as well as in obligation). (2) Standing for reciting Quran. (3) Recitation of Quran. (4) Kneeling, keeping both hands on knees, keeping straight to the back. (5) Prostration; for this posture five parts of the body should be on floor, i.e. forehead, both hands, both knees, front parts of both the feet. (6) Lastly sitting.

{Note: In voluntary prayers one can opt for sitting position while recitation of Quran, but standing position is preferable. Perhaps scholars have given this option so that people should feel attraction for the voluntary prayers.}

Essential (واجب):

(1) Takbeer Tahreemah is the saying of الله اكبر. (2) Offering specified Rakats for different prayers. (3) While recitation in standing position, firstly recite Surah-al-Fatiha. (4) After recitation of Surah-al-Fatiha, recite minimum three verses from Quran or its equivalent. (5) Offering praises of Allah while kneeling and prostration. (6) Sitting for some time between the two prostrations. (7) After every two Rakats sitting for At-Tahiyyat (التحيات). (8) Offering each items of the prayers steadily (9) For coming out of the prayer, turn the head to the right and left and say "السلام". {Note: During prayers if any mistakes occur, offer two additional prostrations before ending the prayers}.

Sunnah (سنة):

(1) While performing Takbeer Tahreemah keeping up both the hands. (2) Keeping hand fingers open. (3) Keeping palms towards Qiblah (4) touching both hands to the ears while saying Takbeer Tahreemah. (5) In the standing position keeping right hand over the left hand. (6) Before Surah-al-Fatiha, reciting "Sana" (7) Before Quran reciting بسم الله and اعوذ (8) Saying آمين after Surah-al-Fatiha. (9) Telling الله اكبر while going down for kneeling and prostrations. (10) While coming up from kneeling position saying سمع الله لمن حمده. (11) In the kneeling position and in the prostration saying for three times minimum the praising words for Allah. (12) When offering prostration keeping both elbows high and do not touch to the ground. (13) Putting both hands over the legs when sitting for At-Tahiyyat. (14) After At-Tahiyyat reciting Durood-e-Ibrahim. (15) Before coming out from the prayers offer "Dua". (16) For coming out of the prayer, turn the head to the right and left and say both times "السلام عليكم ورحمة الله".

Desirable (مستحب):

(1) Reciting Quran in the sequence. (2) In first Rakat longer recitation as compared to the second Rakat. (3) Avoid unnecessary actions during prayers. (4) Keep eyes on the place of Prostration.

