

## Chapter – 06

# Combined Prayers

(باجماعت نماز)

Quran:

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ

{And keep the (obligatory) prayer established, and pay the charity, and bow your heads with those who bow (in prayer). (02:43)}

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنِ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ

{Only those maintain the mosques of Allah who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer. (09:18)}

Hadith:

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

The Prophet said, "The prayer offered in congregation is twenty five times more superior in reward to the prayer offered alone in one's house or in a business center, because if one performs ablution and does it perfectly, and then proceeds to the mosque with the sole intention of praying, then for each step which he takes towards the mosque, Allah upgrades him a degree in reward and (forgives) crosses out one sin till he enters the mosque. When he enters the mosque he is considered in prayer as long as he is waiting for the prayer and the angels keep on asking for Allah's forgiveness for him. (Sahih Bukhari: 461)

Narrated 'Abdullah bin Umar, Abu Saeed Khudri, Abu Hurairah:

Allah's Prophet said, "The prayer in congregation is twenty seven times superior to the prayer offered by person alone." (Sahih Bukhari: 615to618)

Narrated Anas Bin Malik:

The Prophet said, "The people who get tremendous reward for the prayer are those who are farthest away from the mosque. For each step which they take towards the mosque, Allah upgrades them a degree in reward. (Sahih Bukhari: 622)

Narrated Malik bin Huwairth:

Allah's Prophet said that during journey when prayer time comes, one of you should pronounce the Adhan and then Iqama and the oldest of you should lead the prayer. (Sahih Bukhari: 650)

Narrated Abu Masood and Abu Hurairah:

The Noble Prophet said that if anyone of you leads the people in the prayer, he should shorten it because amongst them are the weak, the sick and the old and some people may go on work; however if anyone prays alone then he may prolong the prayer as much as he wishes. (Sahih Bukhari: 665and666)

### Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

#### Obligatory (فرض):

The Islamic Jurists do not consider the combined prayers as obligatory.

#### Essential (واجب):

(1) Few Islamic Jurists consider the combined prayers essential, because Quran says *وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ*.

*{Note: There are hadiths that give preference to pray in congregation, therefore it should be considered as 'Essential'.}*

(2) When Imam recites Quran, then one who performs Prayer behind an Imam should listen silently. It is because the recitation by Imam is equal to the recitation of the follower. Moreover, Quran says:

*وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا*

{And when the Quran is recited, listen to it attentively and keep silent, (07:204)}

#### Sunnah (سنة):

(1) Majority of the Islamic Jurists consider offering combined prayers as Confirmed Sunnah (مؤكدہ سنة). (2) In case of two men's combined prayers, one should be Imam and another should be follower and he should stand at the right side of Imam and a step behind. (3) When three or more persons are making a combined prayer, then Imam should stand in a leading position and the followers should stand behind him in row/rows. (4) The sequence of rows would be in the order of men, children and then women. (5) Women may come to join combined Friday prayers and Eidain prayers. (6) Imam should be an adult, having sufficient knowledge of Quran, knowing Tajweed (the rules of Quran's recitation), and the elder one who has high opinion as well. (7) If the combined prayer is being offered in home then the owner of the house has the right to lead the prayer. (8) Anyone of you who leads the people

in the prayer, he should avoid expanding the prayer. (9) The followers should pursue the Imam in all items of the prayer. (10) However, when Imam says:

سمع الله لمن حمده

the followers should respond with the words

ربنا ولك الحمد

**Desirable (مستحب):**

(1) There should be humbleness and full focus on worship during the prayers. (2) If lunch or dinner is fully ready to serve then it is preferable to eat first. (3) Similarly, to catch combined prayer, the demand of the nature (going to washroom) should not be delayed nor ablution be carried out in hurry.

