

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ جَلَّ فِي عُلَاهُ، يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ،
خَيْرُ مَنْ دَعَا رَبَّهُ وَنَاجَاهُ،

فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ،
وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

PRAYER IS LIGHT - *Salah is light. (Ibn Majah)* Literally and metaphorically. Salah guides you towards goodness, humility, patience, Jannah. People's faces in the Dunya & Akhirah are illuminated with light of Allah.

SALAH IS A CONVERSATION WITH ALLAH ALMIGHTY - *'The believer when he is in his prayer indeed he is conversing with His Lord.'* (Bukhari) If we had a meeting with the Queen, we will practice what we will say. Similarly we prepare with Wudu, Clothing & Tilawah to talk to Allah.

SALAH IS A COMBINATION OF THE FIVE PILLARS - In your Salah, you say the Shahada. You do not eat or drink, so you fast during Salah. You pay Zakat during Salah because you purify your body with Wudu & give from your time. 2.5% of 24 hours from your time. During Salah you are facing the Qibla and journey to the Ka'bah in your Salah which is your Hajj.

SALAH IS A GIFT – On the journey of Isra' & Mi'raj, the gift from the heavens. The only obligation directly from Allah to the Prophet.

THE SALAH IS THE KEY TO JANNAH - If you want to access Jannah, you need a key. *'The key to Paradise is Salah, and the key to Salah is Wudu.'* (Tirmidhi) *'as-salat as-salat. Wa ma malakat aymanukum.'* He insisted to preserve the Salah, and maintain it with firmness. Salah is your lifeline

YOUR ATTITUDE TO SALAH REFLECTS YOUR CONNECTION WITH ALLAH

The Prophet longed for the Adhan and to pray, look at our state. Today we try and escape Salah or ignore it. We often get absorbed in what we are doing, and postpone our Salah, then end up forgetting to pray it. This shows how intimate and meaningful your relationship is with Allah.

SALAH IS BLISS - *'The pleasure of my eye is in salah.'* (Nasa'i) This is why he would say to Bilal, *'Do the iqamah Bilal'*

SALAH BRINGS RELIEF - Hudhaifah mentioned that the Prophet whenever he was stressed, would go and pray. If you do not feel relief when you pray, you are not praying properly. Serenity and peace come from Salah;

STRAIGHTEN YOUR SALAH AND IT WILL STRAIGHTEN YOU

The Prophet told us *Tuqeemus-Salah* - means to make something straight. Therefore the Salah should make us straight. This is why Allah keeps repeating straighten your Salah.

SALAH IS THE CORE OF THE DEEN – “The best deed is prayer on time.” It shows your priority in life. Make him number one and He will make you number one. *Remember Me and I will remember you. (2:152)* You have to remember Allah first.

If you miss Fasts, Payments of Zakat, Rites of Hajj, then you have to do Qadha and make it up. Similarly if you miss Salah you have to do Qadha. Ibn Taimiyyah's view is that the sin is so great that the prayer cannot be made up. The majority of scholars, Imam Malik, Abu Hanifa, and Shafi'i, however, are of the opinion that they must be made up.

“Whoever forgets to pray a Salah, it is obligatory upon him/her that he/she pray that Salah when he remembers. There is no other way that this can be made up.” (Bukhari)

“Whenever one of you misses a Salah due to sleeping or due to negligence, it is obligatory upon him/her that he/she pray the Salah when he remembers it because Allah has mentioned, “Perform Salah when you remember me”(Muslim)

YOUR LIFELINE - What is more important than Allah in our life?

Whenever you make a mistake, go and pray. Whenever you have a difficulty, go and pray. When you are happy, do Sujood. Whenever you are sad, or worried, go and pray. Be connected to Allah Almighty and then He will ease your way. If you are with Allah, Allah will be with you. Nothing makes us closer to Allah than the Salah.