

my Companions in prayer. When we arrived in Madinah and it was mentioned to him what I had done, the Prophet ﷺ said: “O Amr did you lead your Companions in prayer and you were in a state of major ritual impurity?”, He said: “I remembered the words of Allah: (And do not kill yourselves. Surely, Allah is Most Merciful to you) (4:29); So I made *Tayammum* and performed the prayer. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ laughed and said nothing”. The Prophet ﷺ approved of what Amr ﷺ did.

4- When seeking water endangers one's life and property.

5- When water is available but in limited quantity that is needed for drinking, cooking or removing defilement from clothes.

### **How to perform Tayammum?**

1- **Intention**, it is to be made in the mind, not uttered.

2- **Basmallah**, i.e. to say *Bismillah* (I begin with the name of Allah).

3- **Strike the ground** (or substance being used) with the palms of the hands and then blow off any excess dust.

\***Wipe** the face with the hands once only.

\***Wipe** over the back of the right hand up to the wrist with the palm of the left hand.

\***Wipe** over the back of the left hand up to the wrist with the palm of the right hand.

### **The Second Pillar** **Prayer (Salah)**

Prayer is the second pillar of Islam. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “Islam is based on five; the Testimony that nothing deserves worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, to perform Salah (prayers), to give Zakah (poor-due), to observe the fasting of the month of Ramadhan and to perform Hajj” (Bukhari & Muslim).

One should realize that performing prayer is not a matter of choice; it is obligatory upon every adult Muslim, male and female.

*Salah* is the daily ritual prayer enjoined upon all Muslims as one of the five Pillars of Islam. It is performed five times a day by all Muslims. *Salah* is a precise worship, different from praying on the inspiration of the moment. Muslims pray or, perhaps more correctly, worship five times throughout the day:

- Between first light and sunrise. (صلاة الفجر)
- After the sun has passed the middle of the sky. (صلاة الظهر)
- Between mid-afternoon and sunset. (صلاة العصر)
- Between sunset and the last light of the day. (صلاة المغرب)
- Between darkness and midnight. (صلاة العشاء)

Having specific times each day to be close to God helps Muslims remain aware of the importance of their faith, and the role it plays in every part of life. Muslims start their day by cleaning themselves and then standing before their Lord in prayer. The prayers consist of recitations from the Quran in Arabic and a sequence of movements: standing, bowing, prostrating, and sitting. All recitations and movements express submission, humility, and homage to God. The various postures Muslims assume during their prayers capture the spirit of submission; the words remind them of their commitments to God. The prayer also reminds one of belief in the Day of Judgment and of the fact that one has to appear before his or her Creator and give an account of their entire life. This is how a Muslim starts their day. In the course of the day, Muslims dissociate themselves from their worldly engagements for a few moments and stand before God. This brings to mind once again the real purpose of life.

These prayers serve as a constant reminder throughout the day to help keep believers mindful of God in the daily stress of work, family, and distractions of life. Prayer strengthens faith, dependence on God, and puts daily life within the perspective of life to come after death and the last judgment. As they prepare to pray, Muslims face Mecca, the holy city that houses the Kaaba (the ancient place of worship built by Abraham and his son Ishmael). At the end of the prayer, the *shahada* (testimony of faith) is recited, and the greeting of peace, “Peace be upon all of you and the mercy and blessings of God,” is repeated twice.

Though individual performance of *salah* is permissible, collective worship in the mosque has special merit and Muslims are encouraged to perform certain *salah* with others. With their faces turned in the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca, the worshipers align themselves in parallel rows

behind the *imam*, or prayer leader, who directs them as they execute the physical postures coupled with Quran recitations.

### **The Call to Prayer (Adhan)**

The ***Adhan*** is the call to prayer and the notification that the time for the obligatory prayer has begun, and its manner is as follows:

*Allahu Akbar* (God is the greatest),

*Allahu Akbar* (God is the greatest),

*Ash-hadu an-laa ilaaha ill-Allah* (I witness that none deserves worship except God).

*Ash-hadu an-laa ilaaha ill-Allah* (I witness that none deserves worship except God).

*Ash-hadu anna Muhammad-ar-Rasool-ullah* (I witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God).

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*Hayya 'alas-Salah* (Come to prayer!)

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*Hayya 'alal-Falah* (Come to prosperity!)

*Hayya 'alal-Falah* (Come to prosperity!)

*Allahu Akbar* (God is the greatest),

*Allahu Akbar* (God is the greatest),

*La ilaaha ill-Allah* (None deserves worship except God).

### **Preconditions of the Prayer**

1- **Islam**. Prayer is not accepted from a non-Muslim.

2- **Sanity**. Prayer is not obligatory upon the insane. The Prophet ﷺ said: “Three are not held accountable for their actions: The person who is asleep until he gets up, the child until he reaches the age of puberty and the insane until he becomes sane”.

3- **Age of puberty**. Prayer is not compulsory upon a child who has not reached the age of puberty.

4- **Purification** from both major and minor ritual impurities. The Prophet ﷺ said: “Allah does not accept a prayer without *Wudhu* (ablution)”.

5- **Purity** of one's body, clothing and place.

6- **Time.** Prayer is not compulsory unless its time is due. It is not accepted if it is done before its due time, for Allah ﷻ says: “Verily, the prayer is enjoined on the Believers at fixed hours” (4:103)

7- **Covering the Awrah.** The scholars unanimously agree that covering the *Awrah* is a precondition of the prayer. Whoever does not cover his *Awrah* while he can do so; his prayer is rendered null and void.

8- **Facing the Qiblah.** Allah ﷻ says: “Verily! We have seen the turning of your (Muhammad's) face towards the Heaven. Surely, We shall turn you to a *Qiblah* (prayer direction) that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of *AIMasjid- al-Haram* (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction”.

### **How to perform Salah:**

1- When it's time for Salah, ensure you have **wudu** and you are wearing clothing that, at a minimum, covers your **awrah**.

2- Find a clean space (like on a prayer mat) and somewhere that won't cause inconvenience for others.

3- Stand and face the **Qiblah** (direction towards the Ka'bah in Makkah).

4- Begin by making your intention for the Salah, silently. This is done in either Arabic or your own language. Say, ‘I intend to pray the (four) Rak‘at of Salaatul (Dhuhr).

5- From making this intention until the end of your Salah, focus completely on Allah and praying to Him.

6- Raise your hands up to your earlobes for men, and shoulders for women, whilst saying ‘**Allahu Akbar**’. This means ‘Allah is the Greatest’. You are now in a state of *ihram*, which means that all worldly things are forbidden for you, such as talking, laughing, eating, drinking or thinking about anything that will distract you.

7- Then recite quietly, ‘**Auudhu bi-Llahi min ash-Shaitaanir rajeem bismi-Llahir Rahmaani Raheem**’. This means, ‘I seek protection in Allah from the rejected Satan. In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful’.

8- Then recite Surah al-Fatihah, ending by saying silently ‘**Ameen**’, meaning ‘let it be so’.

9- Then recite any other Surah.

10- Bow down and say '**Allahu Akbar**' meaning 'Allah is the Greatest', placing your hands on your knees, with your back straight. Rest at this position, called Ruku (**bowing**), and say '**Subhaana Rabbiy-al-Adheem**' three times at least. This means 'Glory be to my Lord, the Great'.

11- Then as you stand up fully straight again say, '**Sami-Allahu liman hamidaH**' - 'Allah heard the one who praised Him'. Then say, '**Rabbana laKal hamd**' - 'O our Lord, all praise belongs to You'.

12- Again say '**Allahu Akbar**' and go down into prostration, which is called **Sujood**. When prostrating, your forehead, nose, palms of both hands, knees and toes pointing forward should all be touching the floor.

13- Say at least three times, '**Subhaana Rabbiy-al-Aalaa**' - 'Glory be to my Lord, the Highest'.

14- Sit up whilst saying '**Allahu Akbar**'. Rest the palms of your hands on your knees. Sit on the flat of your left foot, whilst keeping the toes of the right foot planted and pointing forward. Women should lean on their left hip pointing the toes of both feet to the right side.

15- After a few moments, return back into prostration whilst saying '**Allahu Akbar**' and repeat step 13.

16- Stand up completely whilst saying '**Allahu Akbar**'. You have now completed your first unit, or **Rak'ah**, of Salah!

17- Follow steps 8 to 15 again.

18- Then return to a sitting position as described in step 14.

19- While sitting, recite the first part of the **Tashaahud**, '**At-tahiyyatu lillah, was-salawaatu wat-tayyibaat. As-salaamu 'alayka ayyuhan-Nabiyyu wa rahmat-Ullahi wa barakaatu. As-salaamu alayna, wa alaa ibaadi-llahis saaliheen**'. This means, 'All compliments are for Allah, and prayers and goodness. Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and the mercy of Allah and His blessings. Peace be upon us and on the righteous servants of Allah'.

20- Then, keeping your hands resting on your knees, raise your right index finger while clasping the other fingers of your right hand. Now, recite the second part of the Tashaahud, '**Ashhadu an laa ilaaha ill-Allahu wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduHu wa Rasooluh**'. This means, 'I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger'.

21- Lower your right index finger, so both your palms are resting on your knees again.

22- If you are praying the two Rak'ats of the Fajr prayer, please follow steps 23 to 26. If not, please skip to step 27.

23- Continue sitting down and recite, '**Allahumma salli alaa Muhammadiw wa alaa aali Muhammadin, kamaa sallayta alaa Ibraheema wa alaa aali Ibraheema, innaKa Hameedum Majeed. Allahumma baarik 'alaa Muhammadiw wa alaa aali Muhammadin, kamaa baarakta alaa Ibraheema wa alaa aali Ibraheema, innaKa Hameedum Majeed**'. This means, 'O Allah, send Your mercy upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, just as You sent mercy upon Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. Truly You are Praiseworthy and Glorious. O Allah, send blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, just as You sent blessings upon Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. Truly You are Praiseworthy and Glorious'.

24- It is then highly recommended to recite some supplications (du'a). One very simple and comprehensive one is, '**Rabbana aatina fid-dunya hasanataw wa fil-aakhirati hasantaw wa qina adhaaban Naar**'. This means, 'O our Lord give us good in this world and good in the hereafter and protect us from the punishment of the Fire.'

25- You then complete the Salah by turning your head first over your right shoulder, saying '**As-salaamu alaykum wa rahmat-Ullahi wa barakaatuH**'. Then repeat these words while turning your head over your left shoulder. They mean, 'May peace, the mercy of Allah and His blessings be upon you'.

26- If you were praying Fajr, your Salah is now completed!

27- If you are praying Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib or Isha, do not perform steps 23 to 26. Instead, you must repeat step 8 - reciting Surah al-Fatihah while standing.

28- Now follow steps 10 to 15.

29- If you are praying the three Rak'ah of Maghrib, you must now repeat steps 19 to 21. Then repeat steps 23 to 25. Your Maghrib prayer is now completed!

30- HOWEVER, if you are praying the four **Rak'ah** of **Dhuhr**, **Asr** or **Isha**, please ignore step 29! Instead, repeat steps 27 and 28 again.

31- Now follow steps 19 to 21. Then follow steps 23 to 25.

32- Your Dhuhr, Asr or Isha Salah is now completed! Alhamdulillah, all praise be to Allah!

33- Note: All of **Fajr** must be read out loud for men praying in congregation. **Dhuhr** and **Asr** must be made in complete silence and under your breath. The first two **Rak'ahs** of **Maghrib** and **Ishaa** should be read out loud, the remaining are to be read in silence.

## The third Pillar Poor Due (Zakat)

**Zakat** is the amount of money that every adult, mentally stable, free, and financially able Muslim, male and female, has to pay to support specific categories people.

In Islam, one of the most important principles, is that all things belong to God, and hence wealth therefore is held by human beings in trust.

The word **Zakat** means both 'purification' and 'growth'. Our possessions are purified by setting aside a proportion for those in need. This category of people is defined in surah at-Taubah (9) verse 60:

“The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled, and to free the captives and the debtors, and for the cause of Allah, and (for) the wayfarers; a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is knower, Wise.” (The Holy Qur'an 9:60).

### When is Zakat Due ?

#### Conditions for obligating zakat

1- Passage of One Lunar Year: **Zakat** is obligatory after a time span of one lunar year passes with the money in the control of it's owner. Then the owner needs to pay 2.5% (or 1/40) of the money as Zakat. (A lunar year is approximately 355 days).

2- Deduction of Debts: The owner should deduct any amount of money he or she borrowed from others; then check if the rest reaches the necessary **nisab**, then pays Zakat for it.

If the owner had enough money to satisfy the **nisab** at the beginning of the year, then the money increased (in profits, salaries, inheritance, grants...etc.), the owner needs to add the increase to the **nisab** amount owned at the beginning of the year; then pay Zakat, 2.5%, of the total at the end of the lunar year. (there are small differences in the fiqh schools here).