



Bismillah IrRah'man IrRahiim

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In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Guide to Prayer Salat

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Opening Prayer

- **All praises are due to Allah (SWT) the Cherisher and Maintainer of Mankind.**
- **I testify that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad (SAW) is His last and final Messenger.**
- **All knowledge is from Allah SWT and He chooses when to disclose it to us or hide it from us, as has been made clear in the Quran (87:6-7):**
- *We shall make thee read (O Muhammad) so that thou shalt not forget - Save that which Allah willeth. Lo! He knoweth the disclosed and that which still is hidden;*
- **Right from the start it is also worth reflecting on the following verses from the Quran (2:284-286):**
- *Unto Allah (belongeth) whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth; and whether ye make known what is in your minds or hide it, Allah will bring you to account for it. He will forgive whom He will and He will punish whom He will. Allah is Able to do all things. (284) The messenger believeth in that which hath been revealed unto him from his Lord and (so do) believers. Each one believeth in Allah and His angels and His scriptures and His messengers - We make no distinction between any of His messengers - and they say: We hear, and we obey. (Grant us) Thy forgiveness, our Lord. Unto Thee is the journeying. (285) Allah tasketh not a soul beyond its scope. For it (is only) that which it hath earned, and against it (only) that which it hath deserved. Our Lord! Condemn us not if we forget, or miss the mark! Our Lord! Lay not on us such a burden as thou didst lay on those before us! Our Lord! Impose not on us that which we have not the strength to bear! Pardon us, absolve us and have mercy on us, Thou, our Protector, and give us victory over the disbelieving folk. (286)*
- **I pray that you will take this little journey with me without any preconception or prejudice and that Allah SWT enable you to see and accept the truth for what it is, and gain more than what I have gained, Insha Allah (God willing).**

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FOREWORD & ABBREVIATIONS

- **Muslims were not the first to bow and prostrate in worship to Allah SWT, the Almighty.**
- **All the prophets of Allah SWT, be it Ibrahim (AS) (Abraham), Musa (AS) (Moses) or Issah (AS) (Jesus) and finally the last Prophet, Muhammad (SAW) bowed and prostrated in worship to Allah (SWT):**
- *And falling down, I adored the Lord, blessing the Lord God of my master, Abraham, who hath brought me the straight way to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.*
- (Genesis 24:48) <http://www.newadvent.org/bible/gen024.htm>
- *And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him,*
- (Genesis 17:3) <http://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/Gen/Gen017.html>
- *And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.*
- (Numbers 20:6) <http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvnum20.htm>
- *Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."*
- (Mathew 26:39)
<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew%2026:39>
- **In the Qúran, Chapter 5, verse 12 Allah SWT tells us:**
- *“Allah did aforetime take a covenant from the Children of Israel, and we appointed twelve captains among them. And Allah said: "I am with you: if ye (but) establish regular prayers, practise regular charity, believe in my apostles, honour and assist them, and loan to Allah a beautiful loan, verily I will wipe out from you your evils, and admit you to gardens with rivers flowing beneath; but if any of you, after this, resisteth faith, he hath truly wandered from the path or rectitude."*

FOREWORD & ABBREVIATIONS

- **But the muslims, are the only ones who have kept up with the faith and still worship Allah in the same way as it was taught to the last Prophet, Muhammad (SAW) by Jibriil (AS) (Arch Angel Gabriel)**
- *Narrated Ibn Shihab: Once Umar bin Abdul Aziz delayed the prayer and Urwa bin Az-Zubair went to him and said, "Once in Iraq, Al-MughTra bin Shu'ba delayed his prayers and Abi Mas'ud Al-Ansari went to him and said, 'O Mughira! What is this? Don't you know that once Gabriel came and offered the prayer (Faj'r prayer) and Allah's Apostle prayed too, then he prayed again (Zuh'r prayer) and so did Allah's Apostle and again he prayed (As'r prayers and Allah's Apostle did the same; again he prayed (Maghrib-prayer) and so did Allah's Apostle and again prayed (I'sha prayer) and so did Allah's Apostle and (Gabriel) said, 'I was ordered to do so (to demonstrate the prayers prescribed to you)?'"*
- Sahih Bukhari, Volume: 1, Book Number: 10, Hadith Number: 500
- **Muslims have to be grateful to Allah (SWT) for the special favour of having been sent the Holy Qur'an. These are the words of Allah (SWT) protected by Him, as promised, and not a single dot has been altered since then. We should be even more grateful for having been sent a prophet to teach us how to pray and live according to Allah's commands. The teachings and words of the prophet (SAW) have been documented in authentic books and traced back to the source to enable us to pray the same way as it was practised by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).**
- **It is hoped that this guide will be read as it is meant to be, i.e. it is not intended for any particular people, from any particular country, or sect, caste, belief, class, school of thought or creed but as an ordinary human being in search of the true path.**

• ABBREVIATIONS

- (SWT) Subahana Wa Ta'ala means *All Praise be to Allah*
- (RA) رَضِيَ رَاضِي Radi`Allah Anhu(ha) means *May Allah be pleased with him (her)*
- (SAW) Sallallahu Alayhi Wassalam ﷺ *May Allah's blessings and peace be upon him*
- (AS) Alayhis Salam Peace be upon him

No of rakat in salat - Table

The ahadith about the varying maximum number(13 or 11) of rakat prayed by Muhammad (SAW) has been clearly explained by Aisha (RA) as being the reduction in the number of rakat prayed for Witr' which was reduced by the Prophet (SAW) from 5 to 3 as narrated by Aisha (RA).

(Sahih Muslim, Bukhari)

Prayer	Wajib	Súnnah Múakad da	Far'd	Súnnah Múakad da	Naf'I	Wit'r
Faj'r (morning)		2	2			
Zuh'r (Noon)		2 or 2X2	4	2		
As'r (Mid-afternoon)		2 or 2X2	4			
Ma{rib (sunset)			3	2		
l'sha (Night)			4	2		3 (Only if last Salat)
Tahajuud				2 X 4		3 (Only if last Salat)
Jumu'a		2	2	2		
Tarawih					4x2	3 (Only if last Salat)
Eid	2					

Special prayer – Jumu'a

The importance of the Jumu'a prayer can never be underestimated. One has just to look at the number of ahadith that exist, concerning jumu'a, to appreciate that this salah should not be taken lightly.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ
(62:9)

Ya ayyúha allazina amanú iza núdiya lilssalati min yawmi aljúmú`ati fais`aw ila zik`ri Allahi wazarú albayaa zalikúm -ayrún lakúm in kúntúm tah`lamúna

O ye who believe! When the call is heard for the prayer of the day of congregation, haste unto remembrance of Allah and leave your trading. That is better for you if ye did but know.

The Obligation of Attending the Jumu`ah:

People must stop leaving the Jumu`ah or else Allah will seal their hearts and then they will be among the negligent."

Reported by Muslim (1999).

In Sahih Bukhari Volume: 2, Book Number: 13, Hadith Number: 4

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri: Allah's Apostle (SAW) said, "The taking of a bath on Friday is compulsory for every male (Muslim) who has attained the age of puberty."

Authenticated by An-Nawawi (734), Ibn-ul-Mulaqqin (Tuhfat-ul-Muhtaaj, 1/489) and Al-Albaani (Saheeh Abee Daawud, 2/128; Sahih-ul-Jaami`, 3521).

Salatul Janazah

Procedure For Salat ul Janazah

The following is a brief description of Salat ul Janazah:

Start with the niyah, facing Qiblah, just like in an ordinary salah,

- (1) The Imam should raise his hands, recite the Takbir, and then tie his hands as in all other Salat. Those offering the Salat should follow, and then recite Sana, Tasmi'ah, Ta'awuz, then Surat ul Fatiha silently.
- "Súbhanak' Allahúmma wa bihamdika wata barakasmúka wata'la jaddúka wala ilaha {ayrúk"

Then, "Aúzú billahi minas ~aytan-irrajim",

Then recite Fatiha..

Bimillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahiim

Al`hamdú lillahi rabbil &alamiin.

Ar-Rah`man ir-Rahiim.

Maliki yaúmidiin.

Iyy'aka na'búdú wa iyyaka nastaiin

Ih`dinas sir'atal mústaqiim, sir'atal Laziina an'amta 'alayhim.

{ayril ma{dúbi 'alayhim walad d'al-liin. 'Amiin."

Special prayer - Eid

Salat-ul Eidein (Two Eid prayers) is Wajib (obligatory) and extra takbirs in the Eid Salah is Sunnah (favoured upon). Missing the takbirs, doing extra one or less does not nullify the Salah.

Hence, it is best for you to pray according to the Imam who is leading the prayer. There is no confusion in this and no contradictions either. By the mercy of Allah, all the Sunnah's of the Prophet (saw) are preserved in the practices of the four Madhabs (schools of fiqh).

WHEN IS EID

The first of Shawwal is known as Eid-ul-Fitr, and the tenth of Zil Hijah is known as Eid-ul-Ad'ha. Both these days are days of festivity and celebration in Islam.

Narrated Ibn Abbas: The Prophet went out for the 'Id prayer on the 'Id day and offered a two Rakat prayer; and he neither offered a prayer before it or after it. Then he went towards the women along with Bilal. He preached them and ordered them to give in charity. And some (amongst the women) started giving their fore-arm bangles and ear-rings.

Sahih Bukhari, Volume: 2, Book Number: 24, Hadith Number: 511

The Muslims have no festivals apart from `Eid-ul-Fitr and `Eid-ul-Adha.

Anas (RA) said: "The Messenger of Allah (SAW) came to Al-Madina, the people of Madina used to have two festivals. On those two days they had carnivals and festivity. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) asked the Ansar (the Muslims of Madina) about it. They replied that before Islam they used to have carnivals on those two joyous days. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) told them: "Instead of those two days, Allah has appointed two other days which are better, the days of `Eid ul-Fitr and `Eid ul-Adha."

(Reported by Abu Dawud)

Special prayer - Eid

No fasting on Eid

It is *haram* to fast on the days of `Eid because of the hadith of Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri (RA) in which he said that the Messenger of Allah (SAW) forbade fasting on the day of *Fitr* and the day of *Adha*. (Reported by Muslim)

Some new converts to Islam, and some muslims who have moved from one country to another, as is very frequent these days, find it very confusing and at times most disturbing that within a hundred metres of each other, people from different sects, areas, tribes, countries who have moved to that area, offer salat ul-Eid on two or more days and find this incomprehensible. All we can do is follow what Allah SWT has told us about those things and what Muhammad SAW has guided us to do and remember certain basic facts.

a) There is only one earth, one moon, one qiblah, one hijri calendar and one weekly jum'ua, as jum'ua finishes in one time zone, it starts in another time zone, practically straight away and people do not dispute about this at all, and yet they dispute the start of the month of Ramadhan.

b) Just look at the kind words from Allah (SWT) and reflect, as he has asked us, so generously and so many times in the holy Qur'an:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَدَّ الْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْهَارًا وَمِنْ كُلِّ الشَّجَرَاتِ
جَعَلَ فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ يُغْشَى اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ
لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٣﴾

Eid (cont.)

Wahúwa allazi madda al`arda waja &ala fiha rawasiya wanharan wamin kúlli assamarati ja`ala fiha zawjayni ithnayni yughshi allayla an`nahara inna fi zalika la`ayatin liqawmin yatafakkarún (Sura A`rad [13:3])

And it is He who spread out the earth, and set thereon mountains standing firm and (flowing) rivers: and fruit of every kind He made in pairs, two and two: He draweth the night as a veil o'er the Day. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who consider!

بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالزُّبُرِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ
وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾

Bialbayyinati wa`azzúbúri wa`anzalna ilayka al`zikra litúbayyina lin-nasi ma núzzila ilayhim wala`allahúm yatafakkarún(16:44)

(We sent them) with Clear Signs and Scriptures; and We have sent down unto thee (also) the Message; that thou mayest explain clearly to men what is sent for them, and that they may give thought.

If we look at the hadith on page 7,5, when qiblah was changed from Jerusalem to Mecca Mukarramah, and ask ourselves what would those good muslims of the first three generations do, based on all that has been said above. Will they have argued about it if a muslim told them that today is the first day of Shawwal and Allah (SWT) has shown the sign to a muslim today!! Is there any chance that they would say that in such and such a place, where we come from, they don't celebrate for another two days? Subhanallah. Let's trust in Allah (SWT) and do the right thing and may Allah (SWT) help us to pray at the right time, Insha Allah.

Eid (cont.)

The sighting of the new moon by one trustworthy, reliable Muslim is sufficient for fasting

This is clearly proven in the following hadith. This makes it obligatory for all muslims to fast, and the sighting of the new moon for Eid is not different.

Ibn ‘Umar (RA) said: “The people went out to sight the new moon and I told the Messenger of Allah (SAW) that I had seen it, so he fasted and told the people to fast.” (Reported by Abú Dawúd in his Súnan, Kitab al-Saum, Baab fi Shahadat al-Wahid ‘ala rú’yat hilaali Ramadhan).

One could ask the following rhetorical questions:

- 1. Would Muhammad (SAW) have said “I have not seen the new moon (hilal) with my own eyes, if a muslim had told him that he had seen the new moon for Shawwal? (* see below 6)**
- 2. If the hilal has been seen and therefore it is the first of Shawwal, would Muhammad SAW have celebrated Eid or would he have fasted still?**
- 3. If Muhammad SAW was in Medina and the muslim telling him that it is the 1st of Shawwal tomorrow, came from Mecca, would it have made any difference?**
- 4. Since Islam was not as well-spread as it is today, would it have made any difference if the muslim came from a different country?**

Qas'r Salat (Short Prayer)

How far do we have to travel before offering Qas'r prayer

Narrated Umar ibn al-Khattab: Jubayr ibn Nufayr reported: I went along with Shurahbil ibn as-Simt to a village which was situated at a distance of seventeen or eighteen miles and he said only two rakat of prayer. I said to him (about it) and he said: I saw Umar observing two rakat at Dhul-Hulayfah and I (too) said to him (about it) and he said: I am doing the same as I saw the Messenger of Allah (SAW) doing.

(This hadith has been transmitted by Shu'bah with the same chain of narrators and it is narrated from Simt, and the name of Shurahbil has not been mentioned, and he said that he had gone to a place called Dumin, situated at a distance of eighteen miles from Hims.)

Sahih Muslim, Book Number: 4, Hadith Number: 1472

Modern writers and travellers, using a camel caravan, have recorded travelling 18 miles in 3 hours. Using that as a measure of time, as only time has stayed constant since the time of the sahabas, then a distance of about 200 miles at today's speed by car is average. Of course, by plane it is different or on foot.

(<http://babs2brisbane.blogspot.com/>;
<http://www.bibleorigins.net/MountSinaiVariousProposals.html>)

This is not a definitive calculation, but is meant as guide, for some people are not sure after what distance they should pray qas'r prayer or should it be for any journey no matter how short it is. You should do what your imān tells you.

How long can we offer Qas'r salat for

Narrated Ibn Abbas : "The Prophet once stayed for nineteen days and prayed shortened prayers. So when we travel led (and stayed) for nineteen days, we used to shorten the prayer but if we travelled (and stayed) for a longer period we used to offer the full prayer."

Sahih Bukhari, Volume: 2, Book Number: 20, Hadith Number: 186

Special Salat - Sahu

Sahu (forgetfulness) Salat

If we forget something or make a mistake during our salah, the Prophet (SAW) has taught us how to make amends. The following ahadith make it clear how to proceed.

In Shahih Bukhari, Volume: 2, Book Number: 22, Hadith Number: 324
Narrated Abu Huraira: "Allah's Apostle said, "When anyone of you stands for the prayers, Satan comes and puts him in doubts till he forgets how many Rakat he has prayed. So if this happens to anyone of you, he should perform two prostrations of Sahu while sitting.

Narrated Abu Huraira: " Then he said Takbir, performed a prostration of ordinary duration or longer, then he raised his head and said Takbir and performed another prostration of ordinary duration or longer and then raised his head and said Takbir (i.e. he performed the two prostrations of Sahu, i.e., forgetfulness)."

Narrated Abdullah bin Buhaina : "Allah's Apostle once led us in a prayer and offered two Rakat and got up (for the third Rakah) without sitting (after the second Rakah). The people also got up with him, and when he was about to finish his prayer, we waited for him to finish the prayer with Taslim but he said Takbir before Taslim and performed two prostrations while sitting and then finished the prayer with Taslim.

Volume: 2, Book Number: 22, Hadith Number: 315

Narrated Abu Huraira: "Once Allah's Apostle prayed two Rakat (instead of four) and finished his prayer. Dhu-l-yadain asked him whether the prayer had been reduced or whether he had forgotten. Allah's Apostle asked the people whether Dhu-l-yadain was telling the truth. The people replied in the affirmative. Then Allah's Apostle stood up, offered the remaining two Rakat and then finished his prayer with Taslim and then said, "Allahu Akbar." He followed it with two prostrations like ordinary prostrations or a bit longer.

Volume: 1, Book Number: 11, Hadith Number: 682

Special Salat - Sahu

Narrated Abdullah: "Once Allah's Apostle offered five Rakat in the Zuh'r prayer, and somebody asked him whether there was some increase in the prayer. Allah's Apostle said, "What is that?" He said, "You have offered five Rakat." So Allah's Apostle performed two prostrations of Sahu after Taslim.

Sahih Bukhari, Volume: 2, Book Number: 22, Hadith Number: 317

Narrated Abu Huraira: "The Prophet led us in the As'r or the Zuh'r prayer and finished it with Taslim. Zul-Yadain said to him, "O Allah's Apostle! Has the prayer been reduced?" The Prophet asked his companions who answered in the affirmative. So Allah's Apostle I offered two more Rakat and then performed two prostrations (of Sahu). Sad said, "I saw that Ursa bin Az-Zubair had offered two Rakat in the Maghrib prayer and finished it with Taslim. He then talked (and when he was informed about it) he completed the rest of his prayer and performed two prostrations, and said, 'The Prophet prayed like this.' "

Sahih Bukhari, Volume: 2, Book Number: 22, Hadith Number: 318

Narrated 'Abdullah bin Buhaina: Once Allah's Apostle led us in prayer, and after finishing the first two Rakat, got up (instead of sitting for At-Tahiyyat) and then carried on with the prayer. When he had finished his prayer, the people were waiting for him to say Taslim, but before saying Taslim, he said Takbir and prostrated; then he raised his head, and saying Takbir, he prostrated (SAHU) and then raised his head and finished his prayer with Taslim.

Volume: 8, Book Number: 78, Hadith Number: 663

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<u>Arabiya</u>	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
<u>Phonetics</u>	ah	ber	thay	der	eh	eff	gah	hay	li	jer	ker	ler	em	en	o	per	quer	ar
<u>Arabic</u>	ا, ا'	ب	د	ث	ه	ف	ح	ج	ك	ل	م	ن	و	ز	ح	ط	ق	ر

<u>Arabiya</u>	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	~	&	{	~	ú	á	0,1,2	3,4,5	6,7,8	9,10
<u>Phonetics</u>	ess	ter	uh	ver	wer	ex	yer	zer	khay	ayn	ghayn	shayn	oo	an				
<u>Arabic</u>	س	ت	ث	و	ز	ح	ج	ك	غ	ع	ق	ش	و	ا				

Pronounced as in french "en" or hindi or urdu

Pause for stressing the preceding letter

Conclusion

- Whilst it is not possible to list all the benefits of salat here as the list would be inexhaustible, it is worthwhile remembering that salah is not an end in itself but a means to an end.
- Now that, Insha Allah this little guide may have helped you (or not, for those who were fully-versed in their salat before) it is worth contemplating on the various revelations in the Quran when Allah SWT has purposefully instructed us that salah is not a complete act in itself until accompanied by various supplementary deeds:
- **Patience and perseverance**
- *(2.153) O ye who believe! seek help with patient perseverance and prayer; for Allah is with those who patiently persevere.*
- **Charity and praying in congregation**
- *(2:43) And be steadfast in prayer; practise regular charity; and bow down your heads with those who bow down (in worship).*
- **Prayer, Charity, Kindness to parents, needy, orphans**
- *(2.83) And remember We took a covenant from the Children of Israel (to this effect): Worship none but Allah. treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and practise regular charity. Then did ye turn back, except a few among you, and ye backslide (even now).*
- **And the deeds get even more comprehensive with (2.177)**
- *It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces to the East and the West; but righteous is he who believeth in Allah and the Last Day and the angels and the Scripture and the Prophets; and giveth his wealth, for love of Him, to kinsfolk and to orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and to set slaves free; and observeth proper worship and payeth the poor due. And those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress. Such are they who are sincere. Such are the God fearing.*
- Your opinions and contributions would be most welcome at www.aalim.biz
- Brotherly yours
- Toolah