

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستهديه ونستغفره و نتوب اليه, ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا. من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل, فلن تجد له ولي مرشدا. وأشهد أن محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم عبده ورسوله وصفيه من خلقه وحبيبه. بلغ الرسالة وأدى الأمانة، ونصح الأمة و كشف الله به الغمة. و جاهد في الله حق جهاده حتى أتاه اليقين. فأجزه الله عنا خير ما جازيت نبي عن أمته و رسول عن قومه.

((يا أيها الذين آمنوا اتقوا الله حق تقاته ولا تموتن إلا وأنتم مسلمون))
إتقوا الله وأعلموا أن ما قل و كفى خير مم كثر و ألهى وما أنتم معجزين ثم أما بعد:

Introduction

Brothers in Islam,

The title of my Khutba today is “**Salat, Training to be a better person**”. In these days, when we see so many of our brothers have discarded their prayers or only pray sometimes, I feel that I need to remind myself and remind my brothers about some issues regarding the Salat!

Even many of us who Alhamdulillah are praying the 5 prayers, are not praying with tranquility. More like mechanical robots performing actions without getting any spiritual benefit from it. We some times leave the pray until the time of the next pray.

Salat and its place in Islam

Salat is Obligatory (just in case you didn't know)

Allah has ordered us to pray to him in worship 5 times a day, asking of him for our worldly needs as well as asking him for forgiveness and mercy.

Surat Al Nissa verse 103	
Allah the Exalted says: (prayers are enjoyed on believers at stated times.)	قال الله تعالى: (إن الصلاة كانت على المؤمنين كتاباً موقوتاً).

If we look at Salat we see that it alone out of all acts of worship has no excuse for not performing it. For fasting, charity (Zakat), even Haj, If you can't do it, Allah has excused you. But prayers, If you can't stand you can pray sitting down. If you can't sit, you can pray lying down. If there in no water you can make tayamum. No excuse brother.

Allah like his slaves that contemplate his laws and the question does present itself. Why the stress on Salat?

Salat is what differentiates us from Kufar

Salat might be the most distinguishing characteristic of the Muslim worshiper. It symbolizes our obediences to Allah. 5 times a day we drop everything to answer

the call of Allah.

In these countries where the Adhan is not heard, we miss out on the spiritual training that answering the call offers. I think that it is advantageous to setup Adhan on our mobiles or computers and try to literally drop what we are doing in order to obey the call to pray.

And that is the First lesson we learn from Salat. to obey Allah quickly, when ever He calls us, we answer.

You know, we can all say "Oh, I believe... I love Allah..." but our scholars tell us that true Eman, has a reflection in this world, and its first and simplest reflection is performing prayers.

Surat Al Room verse 31	
Allah the Exalted says: (Turn back in repentance to Him and fear Him: Establish regular prayers and be not amongst those who join gods with Allah)	قال سبحانه : (منيبين إليه واتقوه وأقيموا الصلاة ولا تكونوا من المشركين)

Reported by Imam Ahmed	
The Prophet of Allah says: "The treaty between us is the prayers, so whomever refrains from performing them becomes a disbeliever."	قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم : "العهد الذي بيننا وبينهم الصلاة فمن تركها فقد كفر"

Scholars have debated on whether this hadeeth means that the a person who is not praying is Kafir, or merely performing an act of kofir (but is still muslim). But brother are you happy to have your membership in the Umah of the blessed Prophet subject to debate between scholars?

Salat is a means of forgiveness

Chapert 187 Riyad El Saliheen	
Abu Hurayrah narrated: I heard the Prophet of Allah saying, "Say, if there were a river at the door of one of you in which he takes a bath five times a day,	عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال سمعت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقول: " أرأيتم لو أن نهراً بباب أحدكم يغتسل منه كل يوم خمس مرات هل يبقى من درنه شيء ؟ قالوا لا يبقى

would any soiling remain on him?" They replied, "No soiling would be left on him." The Prophet said, "That is the five prayers. Allah obliterates all sins as a result of performing them"	من درزه شيء . قال (فذلك مثل الصلوات الخمس يمحو الله بهن الخطايا)"
Reported by Bukhari and Muslim	

Salat keeps up from doing bad deeds

Surat Al Ankaboot verse 45	
Allah the Exalted says: (Verily, As-Salat (the prayer) prevents great sins of every kind and evil deeds)	قال الله تعالى: (إن الصلاة تنهى عن الفحشاء والمنكر)

I am reminded of the scholar who said: "He whom his prayer did not prevent evil deeds and great sins should re-examine his prayers for indeed he did not pray!"

This effect of Salat may be the most amazing of all as it is as if the very act of performing salat cleanses our heart and purifies our minds, making us better Muslims.

Actually it is not that simple. To be able to realize the effect of Salat we need to have "Khoshooda" Tranquility. To achieve that state in Salat where we are deep spiritual meditation.

Surat Al Mouminooun verse 1,2	
Allah the Exalted says: (The Believers have succeeded . Those who pray with humbleness and tranquility)	قال الله تعالى: (وقد أفلح المؤمنون . الذين هم في صلاتهم خاشعون)

But how do we achieve this state of tranquility? Brothers it is not hard. All you need is to follow 5 steps.

1. Remember the greatness of He who you stand before. Allah the mighty. He who holds all in his hands.
2. Pray when you make sojood! This is one of the best ways to break the mechanical prayer. In every sojood. Ask Allah of his bounties and whatever you need. Ask him to forgive you, your father, your mother and your brothers and sisters.

3. Learn more about fiqh of Salat. Use different opinions so that your salat varies. Use different "Duaa El Estiftah" for example. Or different Tashahud and takbeerat Al Ihram.
4. Try to understand the Quran and realize its meanings. I realize this must be hard for a lot of you, but you should all be making some effort with the quran so this should gradually become possible.
5. pray slowly and speak clearly.

Bothers, there is a period of time on Friday when Allah does not refuse any prays. I urge you to use the time between the two khutbas to pray, hoping that such a time may be upon us.

2nd Kutbah

الحمد لله وكفى. والصلاة على نبيه المصطفى وعلى اله وصحبه وسلم

Always we look for practical ways to become better people, better in the eyes of Allah. So what can we learn from this kutba that we can put to practical tasks?

Fajir, the forgotten prayer

We can measure our faith by examining our selves at Fajir. Are we asleep as Allah looks down at us? Or are we where He would like to see us, awake asking him to bless us this new day?

Praying at the beginning of the time.

Prioritize your life and give Allah the top priority.

page 81 of the book "Bidayat Al mojtahid wa nihayat al moqtasid"	
The Prophet was asked: what is the best of deeds? He replied "To pray at the beginning of its time."	سئل رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: أي الأعمال أفضل؟ قال: "الصلاة لأول ميقاتها"
Reported bu Bukhari and Muslim	

The Prophet Said in part of a Hadeeth and they will continue to delay (to be late) until Allah delays them.	قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: (ما زال أقوام يتأخرون حتى يؤخرهم الله)

There opinions regarding this hadeeth that it refers to sitting behind inn the masjid. While you know that there is so much reward ni the first row you anger Allah be disregarding it and Allah will delay you in terms of Rewards and your place in Paradise.

The Other opinion is to due with praying on time. Sometimes you see that it is time for Duhr. But you say " I will just finish what I am doing" until you find that the time of Duhr has passed!! This is Punishment by Allah for disregarding your prayers the first time.

Achieve tranquility

You will feel a difference. Also Salat will be easier for you. It will become less of a burden and more of spiritual retreat.

Help your brother

Do you know a brother who is not praying, or is lazy when it comes to prayers? Help him! On the day of judgment he will ask you why you did not help him. This is our responsibility both to our brothers and to our lord.

Jama3a

The source of our strength is our unity. Part of that unity is symbolized in us coming together 5 times a day to pray to our lord. And standing next to each other our differences seem smaller as we beg our lord for forgiveness and mercy.

If you can it would be better to come and pray in the Musallah. Now I know that is not very easy so if not then try to gather a few people and pray together. I don't understand the attitude of some brothers who rush to pray quickly by themselves as if they want to get a distasteful job over quickly. Or that they are embarrassed that they will be seen.

Allah Commands us to salute our prophet saying: "Verily Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet (s). O, Believer! Send blessings upon him and salute him with a worthy salutation."

Allah orders justice and ihsan and to be generous to our family and kin, and forbids fahshaa, monkar and injustice, so does Allah advise us so that we may remember. So remember Allah and he will remember you, thank him for his bounties and he will increase them for you. And remember that the remembrance of Allah is greater and Allah knows what you do.