

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ
تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا
تَصْنَعُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَوَّلُ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ الصَّلَاةَ.

SALAH: THE LIGHT OF OUR EYES

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, "**Recite what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer. Indeed, genuine prayer should deter one from indecency and wickedness. The remembrance of Allah is an even greater deterrent. And Allah fully knows what you all do.**"¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, "**Indeed the first deed by which a servant will be called to account on the Day of Resurrection is his Salat.**"²

Dear Believers!

One of the five pillars of our sublime religion, Islam, is salah. Salah is the pillar of our religion and the light of our eyes, as in the words of our Prophet (saw). It is the joy of our hearts and the key to our paradise.³ It is through salah that we acquire the consciousness of servitude and responsibility, and it is through salah that we attain Allah's (swt) pleasure, His infinite mercy and forgiveness. It is through salah that we get rid of the worries that constrict our souls, and it is through prayer that we reach the climate of peace and well-being. In salah, we stand shoulder to shoulder, united in solidarity and brotherhood, reinforcing our sense of unity.

Dear Muslims!

Salah is the expression of our gratitude for the blessings Allah the Almighty (swt) has bestowed. It serves as a profound act of worship, reminding us of our place in His (swt) presence and under His divine guidance. Salah is a heartfelt expression of our love and devotion to our Lord (swt). It is the sign of our being Muslim and the reflection of our faith in life.

Dear Believers!

Salah serves as a shield, guarding us against all forms of evil. It cultivates numerous positive habits within us. The ablution (wudu) performed before salah teaches us the importance of purifying ourselves from both material and spiritual impurities. Facing the Ka'bah symbolizes leaving behind worldly distractions and standing in reverence before the divine presence of our

Lord (swt). Initiating the salah with "Allahu Akbar" underscores the importance of seeking refuge in Allah (swt) in all aspects of our lives. The act of standing (qiyam) in salah symbolizes our alignment with truth and righteousness, affirming our opposition to injustice and oppression. Recitation (qira'at) serves as a reminder that just as we recite the Qur'an, we must also apply its teachings to every facet of our lives. Bowing (ruku) signifies our acknowledgment that we should bow before none but Allah (swt). Prostration (sajdah) brings the joy of closeness to Allah (swt). Salam serves as a reminder to nurture love for our brothers and sisters, fostering peace and trust among us.

Dear Muslims!

Performing the five daily salahs is fardh for every Muslim, regardless of gender, who is of sound mind and has reached the age of maturity. A Muslim must never neglect their salah without a valid excuse. Salah cannot be postponed with the intention of making them up later. In this regard, our Almighty Lord (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows: **وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا** "Bid your

people to pray, and be diligent in observing it."⁴ A Muslim is also obliged to nurture love for prayer within their family through compassion, mercy, gentle speech, and a smiling demeanor. In this regard, our Prophet (saw) says, "**Command your children to pray when they become seven years old.**"⁵ He (saw) approached the door of his beloved daughter, Fatimah (ra), and addressed, "**O members of the household! Let us pray!**", and invited them for salah.⁶

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us stand before our Lord's (swt) presence with sincerity, devotion, and humility. Let us endeavor to perform our salah in congregation. Let us not deny ourselves and our families the spiritual ambiance of our mosques. Let us rejuvenate our hearts through salah. Let us free ourselves from the burden of sins through salah. Let us discipline our time through salah. Let us organize our tasks in accordance with the salah times. Let us never overlook our salahs amidst the temporary hustle and bustle of this world.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following good news from our Prophet (saw), "**Whoever continues to perform five-times daily salah, knowing that to do so is the commandment of Allah, and showing due diligence to the salah's ruku', sajdah, wudu', and hour, goes to heaven.**"⁷

¹ 'Ankabut, 29/45.

² Nasa'i, Muharaba, 2.

³ Tirmidhi, Iman, 8; Nasa'i, Ishrat al-Nisa, 1; Abu Dawud, Adab, 78; Tirmidhi, Taharah, 1.

⁴ Ta-Ha, 20/132.

⁵ Abu Dawud, Salah, 26.

⁶ Tirmidhi, Tafsir al-Qur'an, 33.

⁷ Ibn Hanbal, IV, 266.