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Overview & Importance of Salah

Salah is a Pillar

Shahaadah – **Salah** – Zakah – Fasting - Hajj

Fulfilling the Pillars of Islam is an essential requirement of being a Muslim.

The Importance of the second Pillar

Observed on all occasions – No ‘get out clauses’

Salah is not just another Ritual

It is a conversation with our Creator

Overview & Importance of Salah Evidences

The first question when we meet Allaah.

"The first matter that the slave will be brought to account for on the Day of Judgement is the prayer. If it is sound, then the rest of his deeds will be sound. And if it is bad, then the rest of his deeds will be bad."

Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessing of Allaah be upon him) [Recorded by al-Tabarani. According to al-Albani, it is sahih. Al-Albani, Sahih al-Jami, vol.1, p. 503.]

This Hadith highlights the importance of Salah above other good acts.

Overview & Importance of Salah Evidences

The hadeeth of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him):

“Between a man and shirk and **kufr there stands his neglect of the prayer.”**

(Narrated by Muslim in Kitaab al-Eemaan from Jaabir ibn ‘Abd-Allaah from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)).

It was narrated that Buraydah ibn al-Husayb (may Allaah be pleased with him) said:

“I heard the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) say: ‘The covenant that distinguishes between us and them is the prayer, and whoever neglects it **has disbelieved.’”**

(Narrated by Ahmad, Abu Dawood, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nisaa’i and Ibn Maajah)

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The 5 Daily Obligatory Prayers



Fajr – The Dawn Prayer

Performed between dawn and sunrise.



Dhuhr – The Noon Prayer

Performed when the sun begins to decline from the zenith point.



Asr – The Afternoon Prayer

Performed midway between noon and sunset.



Maghrib – The Sunset Prayer

Performed immediately after sunset.



Isha' – The Early Night Prayer

Performed after twilight and before midnight.

Pray On Time

It is best to perform these obligatory prayers as soon as the time has commenced. It is not permitted to delay the prayer without a valid reason.

Delaying a prayer (intentionally) beyond its permitted time is a Major Sin, and the prayer cannot be made up.

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The Units (Rak'aah) for each Prayer

Each prayer is broken down into different units as shown in the table below.

These units comprise of compulsory (Fardh) and voluntary (Sunnah) units.

Initially it is recommended to perfect the compulsory units of the prayer.

PRAYER	SUNNAH (Before)	COMPULSORY	SUNNAH (After)
Fajr	2	2*	
Dhuhr	2 + 2	4	2
Asr		4	
Maghrib		3*	2
Isha'		4*	2

Compulsory (Red) – These units must always be completed. It is a major sin to omit these.

Sunnah (Blue) – These are voluntary units which the Prophet (PBUH) always completed. If possible, you should also try and complete them, especially the 2 units before the Fajr compulsory units.

Important Note

There is a high reward for completing voluntary units of prayer – but no sin incurred for skipping them.

* In the first 2 units of these compulsory prayers, you should recite Faatiha and any Surah aloud. But this is not compulsory.

So Salah is:

A **Direct Line** to our Creator – Not just a ritual

An **Obligation** for all believing Muslims – No opt outs

A **Barrier** against mistakes – throughout the day

A chance to ask Allaah for **Forgiveness** throughout the day

A 5 times a day opportunity to re-focus our minds back to the
Reason for our Existence on this earth

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