

KHUTBA
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English

The spirit of prayer

Dear Muslims,

Prayer (*Salah*) is the most primary and the most important obligation in Islam. Although it involves physical movement, the spiritual part is the most important. Prayers are the way by which you restore your faith.

You get up early in the morning, cleanse yourself and present yourself before your Lord for Prayer.

The various poses that you assume during your Prayers are the very embodiment of the spirit of submission; the various recitals remind you of your commitments to your God.

You seek His guidance and ask Him again and again to enable you to avoid His wrath and follow His chosen path.

You read out from the Book of the Lord and express witness to the truth of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and also refresh your belief in the Day of Judgment and enliven in your memory the fact that you have to appear before your Lord and give an account of your entire life.

Nowadays, many Muslims are not doing the prayers in the correct way. Some has left it and are not doing it regularly ***"But after them there followed a posterity who missed prayers and followed after lusts soon, then, will they face Destruction" Marium 59;*** and some are doing it but without understanding or feeling its spirit. That is why you can't see its effect on their behavior or attitude. ***'Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to thee, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of God is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And God knows the (deeds) that ye do" Al 'Ankabut 45.***

So, although praying to Allah everyday, you find them committing sins and expressing mischief and bad behavior. They also harm others, cheat and disrespect them, while Muslims should be the opposite.

Basically, humility is the main spirit of the prayers. So, what do we mean by humility?

The basis of humility (khushoo' in Arabic) is softness, gentleness, tranquility, subservience, subjugation, and burning of the heart.

So when the heart is humble, all of the limbs and body parts follow it in humility, because they are followers of it; as prophet mohamed (PBUH) said, (*Verily here is a small morsel of the body, if it is rectified, the whole body is rectified; and if it is corrupts the whole body will be corrupted. Indeed it is the heart*)

Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim; and if the heart is submissive, the eyes, ears, head, face, and the rest of the limbs are submissive.

The same goes for whatever emanates from them, to the extent that it reaches the speech. That is why the humility in prayers considered as an indication for strong faith. ***"The believers must (eventually) win through, * Those who humble themselves in their prayers" Almuminun 1-2***

'Ali Ibn Abi Taalib (may Allah be pleased with him), said concerning the statement of Allah, "Those who humble themselves in their Prayer.": **"It is the humility in the heart, and it is that you soften your side towards the Muslim, and that you do not look around during your Prayer."**

Ibn `Abbas said: "Those who humble themselves in their Prayer.": **means those with fear and with tranquility."**

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: **"Their humility was in their hearts." So they lowered their gaze and**

were humble towards others.

Someone from the Salaf saw a man fiddling with his hand during the Prayer, so he said, "If his heart was submissive, his limbs would have become subservient."

Dear Muslims,

Humility in prayer is only attained by the one who has emptied his heart totally, who does not pay attention to anything else besides it, and who prefers it above all else. At that point it becomes a delight and a joy for eyes, as in the Hadith recorded by Imam Ahmad and An-Nasa'i from Anas, who said that the Messenger of Allah said: *(Fragrance and women have been made dear to me, and Salah (prayer) was made the joy of my eye)*. This cannot be attained easily; but once attained, it confer joy and pleasure in your life because , at that time, you are very linked and close to Allah.

So I urge you to fear Allah and practice the full humility and humbleness in prayers and also in your life by submitting to him and following his orders.

"Has not the Time arrived for the Believers that their hearts in all humility should engage in the remembrance of God and of the Truth which has been revealed (to them), and that they should not become like those to whom was given Revelation aforetime, but long ages passed over them and their hearts grew hard? For many among them are rebellious transgressors" Al Hadid 16.

Khutba by
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