

# Khutba

Friday 28.05.10

English

## Friday and congregation prayers

Dear Muslims,

Prayers are one of the most important practices in Islam and one of its five pillars. It also has a great influence in Muslims life and behavior, as it is a tool of self correction and purification, aiding to self reforming and increasing Muslim's faith. It is the first thing that we will be asked about at the Judgment day.

To get the maximum benefits of our prayers, we have to perform prayers in the way that pleases Allah and that has been described and illustrated by prophet Mohamed (PBUH). Particularly of importance is to do prayers in congregation.

Prayer in congregation (*jama'ah*) is considered to have more social and spiritual benefit than praying individually. When praying in congregation, Muslims stand in straight parallel rows behind the chosen imam, facing qibla. The imam, who leads the congregation in salat, is usually chosen to be a scholar or the one who has the best knowledge of the Qur'an.

Allah and prophet Mohamed has ordered us to perform and to persist in the congregational prayers. This has been indicated in both Quran and *Sunnah*:

***“(Lit is such a Light) in houses, which God hath permitted to be raised to honour; for the celebration, in them, of His name: In them is He glorified in the mornings and in the evenings, (again and again),- \* By men whom neither traffic nor merchandise can divert from the Remembrance of God, nor from regular Prayer, nor from the practice of regular Charity: Their (only) fear is for the Day when hearts and eyes will be transformed (in a world wholly new),-”*** Al-Nur 36-37

***“When thou (O Messenger) art with them, and standest to lead them in prayer, Let one party of them stand up (in prayer) with thee, Taking their arms with them: When they finish their prostrations, let them take their position in the rear. And let the other party come up which hath not yet prayed - and let them pray with thee, Taking all precautions, and bearing arms: the Unbelievers wish, if ye were negligent of your arms and your baggage, to assault you in a single rush. But there is no blame on you if ye put away your arms because of the inconvenience of rain or because ye are ill; but take (every) precaution for yourselves. For the Unbelievers God hath prepared a humiliating punishment”*** Al-Nisa' 102.

The latter verse is indicating the importance of the congregational prayer. Allah orders us to pray in congregation even in difficult situations, such as wars and fear. If it is not of particular important, these conditions were the best to give excuse for Muslims and allow them to pray individually.

Abu Huraira reported that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said *(By the One in Whose hand is my soul, I was thinking of ordering that wood be gathered, then I would have ordered that the call to prayer be given, then I would have told a man to lead the people in prayer, then I would have gone from behind and burned the houses of men who did not attend the (congregational) prayer down around them. By the One in Whose hand is my soul, if any one of them had known that he would get a bone covered with good meat or two sheep's feet with meat in them, he would have turned up for the 'Isha' prayer)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari.**

It was reported by Abu Huraira that a blind man came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said, “O Messenger of Allah, I have no one to lead me to the mosque,” and he asked the Messenger of Allah to grant him a concession allowing him to pray in his house, and he allowed him that. But when he turned away he said, “*Can you hear the call to prayer?*” He said, “Yes.” He said, “*Then answers it.*” **Narrated by Muslim**

Ibn Qudaamah said: If there is no concession for a blind man who had no one to lead him, it is more appropriate that there should be no concession for others.

Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and his father, reported that the Prophet said: *(Whosoever hears the call to salat (prayer), and does not respond, then there is no salat for him unless he has a valid excuse).* His companion asked: what is a valid excuse?, the prophet replied: *(fear or sickness).* **Narrated by Abu Dawood.**

Since that is the case for the regular prayers, it is obvious that the Friday prayers, as it is involve congregation, would have special value in Islam. Due to its importance, Allah and His prophet mentioned it separately and urged us to be keen in it.

***“O ye who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of God, and leave off business (and traffic): That is best for you if ye but knew!”*** Al Jumu'ah 9.

Ibn `Umar and Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: We heard the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) saying (while delivering Khutbah on his wooden pulpit), *(Either some people (i.e., hypocrites) stop neglecting the Friday prayers, or Allah will seal their hearts and they will be among the heedless)* **Narrated by**

## Ahmad

"They will be among the heedless" means those who will become utterly unmindful of the remembrance of Allah and His Orders.

Due to its importance in bringing Muslims together and increasing their brotherhood, Allah sets a great rewards for those who perform the Friday and the congregational prayers.

Ibn Omar, may Allah be pleased with him, and his father, reported prophet Mohamed as saying: *(Offering the prayer in congregation carries 27 times greater reward than offering it alone individually.)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

Prophet PBUH said *(If the people come to know of the great rewards and benefits of the congregational prayer, they would never stay back but would rush to the masjid for it. The first row merits the highest reward. Two persons praying together get greater rewards than the same praying individually, the rule being that, the bigger the congregation the higher it's worth in the sight of ALLAH.)* **Narrated by Abu Dawood**

Salman (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, *(If a man takes bath on Friday, (or) purifies himself as much as he can with Wudu', oils his hair, applies whatever perfume available in his house, sets forth for the mosque, does not separate two people (to make a seat for himself), performs Salat what is prescribed for him, remains silent when the Imam speaks, his (minor) sins between that Friday and the following Friday will be forgiven.)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari.**

Abu Huraira reported that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) once asked his companions *(Tell me if there was a river at the door step of one of you in which you washed five times a day would any of your dirt remain?)* When Holy Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) received the reply that none of it would remain he then said *(That is like the five times Salah, with which Allah wipes out sin)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

Abu Huraira reported that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: *(Whoever goes to the Masjid or comes back from the Masjid, Allah will prepare his place in Jannah every time he goes or goes back)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari**

In the *Hadith* where the prophet said: *(There are seven whom Allaah will shade in His Shade on the Day when there is no shade except His Shade)* one of them was *(A man whose heart is attached to the mosques)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

Dear Muslims,

Friday and congregational prayers are important practices in our religion. The early Muslims realized that and were very keen in doing them as Allah wants. The prophet companions were consoling the person for three days if he missed *takbiratul ihram*, and for seven days if they miss the whole prayer.

Abdullah Bin Mas'ood said: **who ever would be pleased to meet Allah as a Muslim, then let him take care of those salat which are called to because they are of the ways of huda (guidance), and Allah has given to your Prophet the ways of huda. And if you were to establish salat in your homes, like that person staying behind in his home, you would be abandoning the sunnah of your Prophet, and if you were to abandon the sunnah of your prophet you would surely go astray. And there is not a man amongst you that purifies himself, and does so properly, then directs himself to one of these mosques except that Allah will write for him with each step he takes a hasanah (merit), and raises him a grade, and drops from him a sayyi'ah (demerit). And I have seen us, where not one of us would stay behind from prayer in congregation except for a hypocrite whose hypocrisy is known. And one that could not come on his own would be carried between two men until he is stood in the row.**

They did that because they follow prophet Mohamed guidance and they have heard him when he said, as reported by Abu Al-Darda: *(If there are three men in a village or in the desert among whom prayer is not offered (in congregation), the devil has got the mastery over them. So observe (prayer) in congregation), for the wolf eats only the stragging animal)* **Narrated by Abu Dawood**

So, I urge you to follow the way of prophet Mohamed and the early Muslims by performing the Friday prayers and the other prayers in congregation so that you will get the great rewards at the Judgment Day.