

# Concentration in Prayer

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## **1a** - Importance of Prayer

- ✚ Prayer is the best and easiest way to near the blessings of Allah.
- ✚ When Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) was asked what was the best deed that brings human beings close to Allah and is also liked by Him? He replied:
  - After enlightenment of God's Essence, I do not know anything better than the Prayer.
  - The most esteemed and favorite deed before Allah is Prayer.
  - Prayer is the last dying will of all Prophets (AS).
- ✚ According to the Aimmah (AS), Prayer is good because you first have to perform ablution (wudhu), then retire into a corner, and you have the honor of performing Prayer to Allah.
- ✚ Shaytan gets unhappy when you extend your prostration (sajdah).
- ✚ Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) has said that Prayer has to be offered with full attention and understanding, otherwise it will not be accepted.
- ✚ Why? Because:
  - It is a visit to Allah.
  - You are standing before Him.

## **1b** - The Reality of Prayer

- ✚ Saying your Prayer on time is a highly recommended.
- ✚ Allah reminds us of this in the Traditions of al-Qudsi:
  - And when he (the worshipper) knows that it is time of Prayer and he does not pray, he is indeed careless about Me.
- ✚ Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) has said that when you perform the Prayer at its time, then,
  - The angels would raise you, in good clothing, into heaven.

■ The Prayer would say to you: May Allah protect you, as you protected me and entrusted me to a generous angel.

✚ Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) has said that when you perform the Prayer after its time (with no excuse), then,

■ The angels would raise you in bad clothing.

■ The Prayer would say to you: You have lost me, may Allah lose you, and may He not care for you as you did not care for me.

✚ Prayer has properties that can make you better than the angels.

✚ The reasons for Prayer are the following:

● The recognition of the Lordship of Allah.

● Prayer leads one to His Tawhid – Allah is ONE and has no partners.

● Prayer is standing before Him, the All-Powerful, with humility, humbleness and confession (of sins), and begging forgiveness of the previous sins.

● Prayer means placing your face on dust five times a day as a sign of recognition and confession of His Greatness.

● Prayer makes you remember Him.

● Prayer helps you from being proud.

● Prayer leads to humility, submission and humbleness towards Allah.

● Prayer enables you to constantly engage in remembering Allah, both day and night.

● While offering Prayer, you stay in the presence of your Lord and in the state of His remembrance, and this very condition stops you from sins and many kinds of corruption.

✚ The pleasure of Allah is in Prayer so that one may always worship the Lord at all times.

✚ The Prophet (S), in his last remaining hours of life, advised his followers to take Prayer seriously.

## 1c - The Value of Prayer

- ✚ The Prophet of Allah (S) used to wait for the time of Prayer.
  
- ✚ The Prophet (S) advised Abu Dhar (RA) the following about Prayer:
  - O Abu Dhar! Allah has made the pleasure of my eye in the 5 daily Prayer.
  - Allah has made me love Prayer like the hungry person loves food, and the thirsty loves water.
  - However, I am never satisfied from Prayer.
  - O Abu Dhar! Anyone who willingly prays 12 units of Prayer, other than the obligatory, he has earned the right to a House in Paradise.
  - O Abu Dhar! Surely, so long as you are in Prayer, you are knocking on the door of the Great King, and whoever knocks long on the door of the King it will be opened for him.
  - O Abu Dhar! Be like him, who in a deserted place (though alone), calls Adhan and Iqamah (Call for Prayer) and says his Prayer. So your Lord says to the Angels, *Look at My servant! He is praying and no one sees him but Me?* Then 70,000 Angels come down and pray behind him and seek forgiveness for him until the next day.
  - O Abu Dhar! No man puts his forehead (in prostration) in any place on earth but that place bears witness of that for him on the Day of Judgment.

## 1d - Prayer and the Day of Judgment

- ✚ On the Day of Judgment, the first question asked will be about Prayer. Also,
  - All good deeds depend on Prayer.
  - Prayer is the cornerstone of Islam.
  - If Prayer is accepted then the good deeds will be accepted.
  - If Prayer is not accepted, then the good works will not be accepted.
  
- ✚ The first station in The Bridge (*Sirat*) involves questioning on Prayer and how you fulfilled this obligation.