

# Ilm Essentials

## Salāh Lesson 17

# Nawāfil

# Nawāfil Prayers

3

- “...And My servant continues to draw closer to Me by voluntary actions until I love him...” (Bukhāri)
- Nawāfil is the plural of nafl or nāfilah
  - ▣ Refers to supererogatory prayers
- In fiqh terminology, nawāfil is often used generally for both sunnah and nafl prayers
  - ▣ Also for anything below sunnah muakkadah
- They are a means to raise one’s position, gain forgiveness for past sins and compensate for any deficiency in our fard prayers
  - ▣ Prayers before the fard polish the heart in preparation for it
    - Also cut shaytan’s influence
  - ▣ After the fard they compensate for any deficiencies

# Sunnah Muakkadah

4

- “There is no slave of Allah who prays 12 rakāh besides the obligatory prayer for the sake of Allah except that Allah makes for him a house in Paradise” (Muslim)
  - ▣ 2 (quick) rakāh before Fajr
  - ▣ 4 rakāh before Dhuhr/Jumuah
  - ▣ 2 rakāh after Dhuhr
    - 4 rakāh after Jumuah
  - ▣ 2 (quick) rakāh after Maghrib
  - ▣ 2 rakāh after Ishā

# Sunnah Ghayr Muakkadah

5

- 2 rakāh after Dhuhr
  - ▣ Can be combined into 4 with the 2 muakkadah
    - “Whoever keeps to offering 4 rakāh before Dhuhr and 4 rakāh after Dhuhr, Allah will forbid for him the Fire” (Tirmidhī)
- 4 rakāh before Asr
  - ▣ “May Allah have mercy on a man who prays 4 rakāh before Asr” (Tirmidhī)
- 6 rakāh after Maghrib
- 4 rakāh before and after Ishā
- Sunnah to pray sunnah and nawāfil at home
  - ▣ Also permissible in the masjid

# Tahiyyah al-Wudū

6

- The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said to Bilāl,
  - ▣ “Oh Bilāl, tell me about a work that you are most hopeful about (being rewarded for) from the works you have done in Islām, for I heard the sound of your sandals in front of me in Jannah”
    - He said, “I did not do a work more hopeful to me, except that I never performed wudū in any hour of the night or day without praying with it what was written for me to pray” (Bukhāri and Muslim)
- “He who observes 2 rakāh with full devotion after performing wudū well, becomes entitled to enter Paradise” (Muslim)

# Tahiyyah al-Wudū

7

- Tahiyyah al-wudū is 2 rakāh offered after performing wudū or ghusl
  - ▣ Before your limbs dry
    - Sūrah al-Kāfirūn and Sūrah al-Ikhlās
- Performance of any prayer following wudū takes the place of tahiyyah al-wudū
  - ▣ Fard or otherwise

# Tahiyyah al-Masjid

8

- “If any of you enters the masjid, he should not sit until he prays 2 rakāh” (Bukhāri)
- Abū Dharr said, “I entered the masjid and there was the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) sitting alone, so he said,
  - ▣ ‘Oh Abū Dharr, truly the masjid has a greeting and indeed its greeting is 2 rakāh, so stand up and pray them’” (Ibn Hibbān in his Sahīh)



# Tahiyyah al-Masjid

9

- Tahiyyah al-masjid is 2 rakāh (or more) offered when first entering the masjid
  - ▣ Preferably before sitting down
    - Assuming it is not a makrūh time for prayer
      - In this case you can glorify Allah and send salawāt
- Performance of any prayer upon entering the masjid takes the place of tahiyyah al-masjid
  - ▣ Fard or otherwise
- If the imām is praying the obligatory prayer
  - ▣ Or the adhān or iqāmah are being called
    - Refrain from the tahiyyah

# Combining Intentions

10

- Cannot combine intentions for 2 fard
  - ▣ Dhuhr of the day and a qadā Dhuhr at the same time
    - Imām is praying Dhuhr and you pray qadā Dhuhr behind him
- Can combine sunnahs with the nawāfil
  - ▣ 4 sunnah of Dhuhr and tahiyyah al-wudū or masjid
  - ▣ 2 sunnah after Maghrib and awwābīn or istikhārah
    - Primary intention will be for the sunnah
- Can combine fard with the nawāfil
  - ▣ Daily fard with tahiyyah al-wudū or masjid
  - ▣ Qadā with tahajjud, ishrāq, awwābīn, tahiyyah al-wudū or masjid, etc.
    - Primary intention will be for the fard or qadā

# Salāh al-Ishrāq (Sunrise Prayer)

11

- “Whoever offers the Fajr prayer in congregation, then remains seated making dhikr of Allah until the sun rises, and then offers 2 rakāh, they will receive the reward of performing a Hajj and Umrah” (Tirmidhī)
  - ▣ Praiseworthy to perform 2 or 4 rakāh when the sun has risen a bit in the morning
    - After remaining sitting in the same place where you performed your Fajr prayer
      - Occupying yourself with the remembrance of Allah
- Can be performed even after you have engaged in other affairs
  - ▣ Reward will be less

# Tahajjud Prayer

12

- “Observe the night (tahajjud) prayer. It was the practice of the righteous before you and it brings you closer to your Lord and it is a penance for evil deeds and erases one’s sins” (Tirmidhī)
- “The most excellent prayer after the obligatory prayers is the one in the depth of the night” (Ahmad)
- One of the most virtuous prayers after the fard
- Time is from after the fard of Ishā until Fajr time
  - ▣ Ideal time is last third of the night
    - Minimum is 2 rakāh, maximum is 8
    - Best prayed in cycles of 2

# Istikhārah (Seeking Guidance)

13

- Jābir said, “Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) used to teach us how to seek guidance in choosing the best option in any matter, just as he would teach us a sūrah from the Quran
- ▣ He would say, ‘If one of you is concerned about an undertaking, or about making plans for a journey, he should perform 2 rakāh, not as an obligation, but voluntarily. Then he should say...’”

# Istikhārah (Seeking Guidance)

14

- Recommended to perform istikhārah for any matter where you are confused or doubtful
  - ▣ Likewise any evil that one has become inclined toward
- Perform wudū
  - ▣ Offer 2 rakāh nafl
  - ▣ Recite the duā of istikhārah
    - Begin and end the duā with praise of Allah and salawāt
- For acts which are known to be good
  - ▣ Istikhārah is to determine when or how to do them
    - Not to determine whether or not they are good in themselves
- Can be performed without the 2 rakāh

# Istikhārah (Seeking Guidance)

15

- Not necessary to see a response in your dreams
- Scholars recommend to do it for seven days
  - ▣ Ideally it should be continued until your heart inclines toward a decision
- If you need to make a decision on the spot
  - ▣ اللَّهُمَّ خِرْ لِي وَاخْتَرْ لِي
  - “Oh Allah, choose for me and select for me”

# Istikhārah (Seeking Guidance)

16

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّیْ اَسْتَخِیْرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ وَ اَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ  
وَ اَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِیْمِ  
فَاِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَ لَا اَقْدِرُ وَ تَعْلَمُ وَ لَا اَعْلَمُ وَ اَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُیُوْبِ  
اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ اَنَّ هٰذَا الْاَمْرَ خَیْرٌ لِّیْ فِیْ دِیْنِیْ وَ مَعَاشِیْ وَ عَاقِبَةِ اَمْرِیْ  
فَاقْدِرْهُ لِیْ وَ یَسِّرْهُ لِیْ ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِیْ فِیْهِ  
وَ اِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ اَنَّ هٰذَا الْاَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِّیْ فِیْ دِیْنِیْ وَ مَعَاشِیْ وَ عَاقِبَةِ اَمْرِیْ  
فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّیْ وَ اصْرِفْنِیْ عَنْهُ وَ اقْدِرْ لِیْ الْخَیْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ  
ثُمَّ اَرْضِنِیْ بِهِ



# Istikhārah (Seeking Guidance)

17

- Oh Allah, I seek the better (choice) from You, by Your knowledge, and I seek ability from You, by Your power, and I ask You from Your immense bounty. For surely You have power and I am powerless; You have knowledge and I know not, You are the Knower of all that is hidden
- Oh Allah if You know that **this matter** is good for me, with regard to my religion, my livelihood and the end of my affair, then decree it for me, facilitate it for me and grant me blessings in it
- And if You know that **this matter** is bad for me, with regard to my religion, my livelihood and the end of my affair, then turn it away from me and turn me away from it; and decree for me better than it, wherever it may be, and make me content with it

# Tarāwīh Prayer

18

- Tarāwīh is the plural of tarwīhah
  - ▣ Means to rest at intervals
- Tarāwīh is sunnah muakkadah
  - ▣ For both men and women
    - “Whoever prays during the nights of Ramadān with a firm belief and hoping for reward, all of his previous sins will be forgiven” (Bukhāri)
- 20 rakāh performed after the Ishā prayer during the month of Ramadān
  - ▣ 10 sets of 2
    - All four imāms agree on 20 rakāh
- Performance in jamā’ah is sunnah kifāyah
  - ▣ For men only
    - As long as some men pray them in the masjid
      - The sunnah is deemed fulfilled

# Tarāwīh Prayer

19

- Time starts from after the fard of Ishā have been offered
  - ▣ If you arrive once the tarāwīh prayer has started
    - Must pray Ishā first and then join the prayer
  - ▣ Time continues until Fajr
- Witr can be performed before or after tarāwīh
  - ▣ Best to perform it after
    - So if you missed some of the tarāwīh, you can pray Witr and then complete your 20 rakāh

# Tarāwīh Prayer

20

- Sunnah to complete the reading of the Quran once in the tarāwīh prayer
  - ▣ Less can be read if needed
    - Especially if it will lead to a larger jamā'ah
  - ▣ Should not shorten other parts of the prayer

# Salāh al-Awwābīn (Prayer of the Pious)

21

- Ammār ibn Yāsir narrates that the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) performed 6 rakāh after Maghrib and said
  - ▣ “Whoever offers 6 rakāh after the Maghrib prayer will have all his sins forgiven even if they are as much as the foam of the ocean” (Tabarānī)
- “Whoever performs 6 rakāh after the Maghrib prayer and does not speak any evil between them, they will be equal to the reward of 12 years of worship” (Tirmidhī and Ibn Mājah)

# Salāh al-Awwābīn (Prayer of the Pious)

22

- Recommended to perform between 6 and 20 rakāh following the Maghrib prayer
  - ▣ Preferably in sets of 2, otherwise 4
- Some scholars considered the 2 sunnah muakkadah rakāh after Maghrib to count toward the Awwābīn prayer

# Salāh at-Tawbah (Prayer for Repentance)

23

- “Whoever commits a sin and then gets up and performs wudū, then offers prayer seeking the forgiveness of Allah, Allah will certainly forgive him”
  - ▣ After this the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) recited the following verse of Quran, “And those who, having done an act of indecency or wronged their own selves, remember Allah and ask for forgiveness for their sins, and who can forgive sins except Allah? And those who are never obstinate in persisting knowingly in (the wrong) they have done” (Quran 3:135) (Tirmidhī)

# Salāh at-Tawbah (Prayer for Repentance)

24

- Recommended to perform 2 or more rakāh before you make tawbah
  - ▣ Anytime except the makrūh times
- After these rakāh, raise your hands with sincerity and humility and repent abundantly
- How do I know my tawbah was accepted