

### **Legal Rulings on Prayer (Salaah)**

Prayer (*Salaah*) is the second pillar of Islam. It is obligatory on every sane and mature Muslim.

Maturity occurs by the attainment of the age of fifteen, or the growth of the pubic hair, or discharge of the semen through a wet dream or other means. Females have an additional sign of maturity, which is menstrual bleeding. Hence, whenever a person experiences any of these signs, he has attained adulthood and the age of maturity.

Any one who denies the obligation of Prayer (*Salaah*) has rejected Islam according to the consensus of the scholars. As regards to the one who abandons the prayer out of remissness or laziness, the Companions of the Prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) are of consensus that he has disbelieved.

Prayer is the first act for which the slave of Allah will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment. Allah the Most High said,

﴿ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَوْقُوتًا ﴾ [النساء: ١٠٣]

**“Prayer (*Salaah*) has been enjoined on the believers at fixed hours.”** [An-Nisa: 103]

On the authority of Ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with him), the Prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, *“Islam is based on five (principles): to testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is Allah's Messenger, to offer the (compulsory congregational) prayers dutifully and perfectly, to pay Zakaah (i.e. obligatory charity), to perform Hajj. (i.e. Pilgrimage to Makkah), to observe fast during the month of Ramadan.”* [Agreed upon: 6, 18].

Jabir bin Abdullah, (May Allah be pleased with him), narrated, “I heard the Messenger (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) say, *‘Between man, polytheism, and disbelief is the abandonment of prayer.’*” [Transmitted by Muslim: 82]

Moreover, there are many great virtues associated with the observance of prayer. These include what Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, “He that purifies himself at home and then walks to any house – mosque, of the houses of Allah –, in order to perform some obligation of the obligations of Allah, will have one of his footsteps wipe of sin and the other elevate him a grade above” [Transmitted by Muslim: 666].

He also reported that the Messenger of Allah (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, *“Should I guide you to that by which Allah wipes sins and elevates in status?”* They replied, *‘Of course O Messenger of Allah.’* He said, *“Performing ablution properly at times when it is difficult to do so, taking many steps to the masjid, and waiting for a prayer after a prayer. That is your ribaat – (i.e. guarding the frontier).”*

He further narrated from the Prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) that he said, *“He who goes to the masjid at dawn or dusk (for prayer), Allah prepares a hospitable abode for him in Jannah; every time when he walks to it or comes back from it”.* [Agreed upon: 662, 669]