

### Some Important Issues Related to Prayer:

1. Congregational prayer is obligatory for men in the mosque according to the Hadith, **“I sometimes thought of giving orders for proclaiming the *Adhan* for *Salaah*. Then I would go to the houses of those who do not come to perform *Salaah* in congregation, and set their houses ablaze on them.”**
2. It is required of a Muslim to come to the mosque early with tranquility and calmness.
3. It is a desirable act of *Sunnah* for anyone entering the mosque to enter with his right foot, saying the reported invocation: (اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ), *“Allahumma iftah lee abwaba rahmatik”*, meaning **“O Allah, open the gates of Your mercy for me.”** [Transmitted by Muslim: 1652]
4. It is also an act of *Sunnah* for him to observe two *rak'ahs* (units of prayer) before sitting in the masjid, as mentioned in the *hadith* of Abu Qatadah (May Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, **“If any of you enters a mosque, he should pray two rak'ahs before sitting.”** [Agreed upon: 444, 714]
5. He must cover his *'awrah* (nudity) before prayer. The *'awrah* of a man is between the navel and the knee and that of a woman is all her body except the face.
6. It is obligatory to face the direction of the *Qiblah* (Ka'bah in Makkah) and it is a basic requirement for the acceptance of prayer except in two situations: existence of some impediment such as sickness and the like, and while traveling (such as in the car or airplane or on a riding animal). However, this circumstance is restricted to the supererogatory prayers only.
7. It is mandatory to observe the prayers on time, because prayer is not valid before its specific timing and it is prohibited to delay it after its appointed time.
8. It is from the Prophet's *Sunnah* to go early for prayer, to be keen on praying in the first row, and to wait for the prayer before it is performed. On the authority of Abu Hurairah, (May Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: **“Were people to know the blessing of making the *adhan* and the standing in the first row, they would even draw lots to secure these privileges. And were they to realize the reward of performing *Salaah* early, they would race for it; ...”** [Agreed upon: 615, 437].  
Abu Hurairah also reported that the Messenger of Allah (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, **“Everyone among you will be deemed to be busy with *Salaah* (prayer) constantly so long as *Salaah* (the prayer) detains him (from worldly concerns)...”** [Transmitted by Al-Bukhari and Muslim: 659, 649]