

## THEME 22 - THE VIRTUES OF PRAYING

### فَضْلُ الصَّلَاةِ

#### Learning objectives:

- To learn that prayer (Salah) is the most important duty of a Muslim.
- To learn about the benefits of prayer.
- To understand that prayer brings one closer to Allah.

#### In this theme, you will learn:

Prayer is the second pillar of Islam. The purpose of prayer is to get closer to Allah ﷻ. The prayer is a direct communication pathway with your Creator, a means for repentance and forgiveness. Prayer fills the heart with the remembrance of Allah ﷻ, glorifying Him, celebrating His praise and thanking Him for all the gifts, Salah nourishes and enriches the soul. The prayer develops qualities such as being steadfast, patient and punctual.

قال الله تَعَالَى: ﴿ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ ﴾ [البقرة: 3]

قال الله تَعَالَى: ﴿ وَأَسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ ﴾ [البقرة: 45]

تَعَالَى: ﴿ حَافِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ ﴾ [البقرة: 238]

Allah ﷻ says: “Those who believe in the unseen, perform prayer” (2:3). Allah ﷻ says: “Seek help through patience and prayer” (2:45). Allah ﷻ says: “Make sure to perform your daily prayers” (2:238).

[1] عن ابن مسعود قال: سألت رسول الله أي الأعمال أفضل؟ قال: «الصلاة على وقتها» قلت: ثم أي؟ قال: «بر الوالدين» قلت: ثم أي؟ قال: «الجهاد في سبيل الله» متفق عليه.

1. Ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه reported: I asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ: “Which deed is the best?” He ﷺ said, “Salah at fixed times.” I asked, “What next?” He ﷺ said, “Caring for parents.” I asked, “What next?” He ﷺ said, “Striving (Jihad) in the way of Allah.”

[2] عن ابن عمر قال: قال رسول الله: «بُني الإسلام على خمس: شهادة أن لا إله إلا الله، وأنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسولُ اللهِ، وإِقامِ الصَّلَاةِ، وإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ، وَحَجِّ البَيْتِ، وَصَوْمِ رَمَضَانَ» متفق عليه.

2. Ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Islam is based on five pillars: testifying that there is no god except Allah and that Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and Messenger; performing Salah; the payment of Zakat; performing Hajj to the house (Ka'bah); and Saum (fasting) during the month of Ramadan.”

[3] عن معاذٍ قال: بَعَثَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَى الْيَمَنِ، فَقَالَ: «إِنَّكَ تَأْتِي قَوْمًا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ، فَادْعُهُمْ إِلَى شَهَادَةِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَأَنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوا لِدَلِّكَ، فَأَعْلِمُهُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ خَمْسَ صَلَوَاتٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ، فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوا لِدَلِّكَ، فَأَعْلِمُهُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُؤْخَذُ مِنْ أَعْيُنِيائِهِمْ فَتُرَدُّ عَلَى فُقَرَائِهِمْ، فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوا لِدَلِّكَ، فَإِيَّاكَ وَكَرَائِمَ أَمْوَالِهِمْ، وَأَتَقِ دَعْوَةَ الْمَظْلُومِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابٌ» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

3. Mu'adh رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم sent me as a governor to Yemen and (at the time of departure) he صلى الله عليه وسلم gave me instructions: "You will go to the people of the Scriptures, the Jews and the Christians. First of all invite them to testify that there is no god except Allah and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger; and if they accept this, then tell them that Allah has commanded the five Salah (prayers) during the day and night; and if they accept it, then tell them Allah has made the payment of Zakat obligatory. It will be collected from their rich and distributed among the poor; and if they agree to it, don't take (as a share of Zakat) the best of their properties. Beware of the prayers of the oppressed, there is no barrier between it and Allah."

[4] عن جابرٍ قال: سمعت رسول الله يقول: «إِنَّ بَيْنَ الرَّجُلِ وَبَيْنَ الشِّرْكِ وَالْكَفْرِ، تَرْكُ الصَّلَاةِ» رواه مسلم.

4. Jabir رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “When a person stops praying he removes the barrier that separates a believer and non-believer.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith teaches us about the importance of prayer. This means that prayer is the defining characteristic of a Muslim. There are a few reasons why this is important. Firstly, prayer is a way of connecting with Allah. When we pray, we are showing our submission to Allah and our gratitude for His blessings. Secondly, prayer is a way of cleansing our hearts and minds. When we pray, we are asking Allah to forgive our sins and to guide us on the straight path.

[5] عن بُرَيْدَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ قَالَ: «الْعَهْدُ الَّذِي بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُمُ الصَّلَاةُ، فَمَنْ تَرَكَهَا فَقَدْ كَفَرَ» رواه الترمذي.

5. Buraidah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The difference between us and the disbelievers is the performance of Salah. Anyone who abandons it, becomes a disbeliever.”

[6] عن أبي هريرة قال، قال رسول الله: «إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ صَلَاتُهُ، فَإِنْ صَلَحَتْ، فَقَدْ أَفْلَحَ وَأَنْجَحَ، وَإِنْ فَسَدَتْ، فَقَدْ خَابَ وَخَسِرَ، فَإِنْ انْتَقَصَ مِنْ فَرِيضَتِهِ شَيْءٌ، قَالَ الرَّبُّ: انظُرُوا هَلْ لِعَبْدِي مِنْ تَطَوُّعٍ، فَيُكَمَّلُ بِهَا مَا انْتَقَصَ مِنَ الْفَرِيضَةِ؟ ثُمَّ تَكُونُ سَائِرُ أَعْمَالِهِ عَلَى هَذَا» رواه الترمذي.

6. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “On the Day of Judgment the first thing that a person will be questioned about is Salah. If that is complete he will be successful

and if it is incomplete then he will be a loser. If his obligatory prayers are incomplete then the Lord will demand to see if he has any voluntary Salah. They will be used to complete the shortfall. Afterwards he will be asked about his other deeds.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith reminds us about the significance of Salah. The Prophet said that the prayer will be the first thing that a person will be questioned about. This means that prayer is the most important deed that we will be judged on.

[7] عن جابر قال: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «مَثَلُ الصَّلَوَاتِ الْخَمْسِ كَمَثَلِ نَهْرٍ جَارٍ غَمْرٍ عَلَى بَابِ أَحَدِكُمْ يَغْتَسِلُ مِنْهُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ خَمْسَ مَرَّاتٍ» رواه مسلم.

7. Jabir رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The five daily Salah are like a great river in front of your house and you bathe five times a day in it.”

### Activities:

- Design a poster showing people how to pray properly.
- Go over the actions of Salah. Are you performing Salah correctly?
- Research the conditions of Salah.
- Which other obligation is always mentioned alongside Salah in the Quran?
- List the virtues (benefits) of Salah.

**In this theme you have learnt:**

- Prayer is obligatory on every Muslim.
- Prayer is to be performed at its fixed time.
- The difference between a believer and a non-believer is the prayer.
- Prayer cleanses the soul and protects from evil.
- Prayer is a special form of meditation.
- The first thing that you will be questioned about on Judgement Day is prayer.