

THEME 43 - BENEFITS OF PRAYING IN CONGREGATION

فَوَائِدُ الصَّلَاةِ فِي الْجَمَاعَةِ

Learning objectives:

- To understand the importance of congregational prayers.
- To learn about the different types of congregational prayers.
- To encourage Muslims to attend the mosque for congregational prayers.

In this theme, you will learn:

Jamaat (congregation) is a group of two or more people gathered to perform the prayer. The prayer is led by an Imam, a congregational prayer has more social, physical, mental and spiritual benefits than a person praying alone at home. It brings Muslims together as a community creating unity, discipline, solidarity and equality. Men and women should attend prayers at a mosque as it stops a person from being lazy, arrogant and a victim to Satan's whispers.

قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ﴾
[البقرة: 43]. وقال تعال: ﴿يَلْمِزِيَهُمْ أَلْفَنِي لِرَبِّكَ وَأَسْجُدِي وَارْكَعِي مَعَ
الرَّاكِعِينَ﴾ [آل عمران: 43].

وقال تعالى: ﴿ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يُخَدِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَهُوَ خَدِيعُهُمْ وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ قَامُوا كُسَالَى يُرَاءُونَ النَّاسَ وَلَا يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴾ [النساء: 142].

Allah ﷻ says: “Perform prayer, pay Zakat, and bow down with those who bow down in prayer” (2:43). “Maryam, worship your Lord, prostrate and bow with those who bow” (3:43). “The hypocrites try to deceive Allah, but He leaves them in their deception; thus whenever they stand up for the prayer, they do so lazily, making a show for the people and they remember Allah little” (4:142).

[1] عن ابن عمر: أن رسول الله قال: « صَلَاةُ الْجَمَاعَةِ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ صَلَاةِ الْفَذِّ بِسَبْعٍ وَعِشْرِينَ دَرَجَةً ». متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

1. Ibn ‘Umar ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Prayer in congregation is twenty-seven times better than prayer performed individually.”

[2] عن أبي هريرة قال رسولُ الله: « صَلَاةُ الرَّجُلِ فِي جَمَاعَةٍ تُضَعَّفُ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِ فِي بَيْتِهِ وَفِي سُوقِهِ خَمْسًا وَعِشْرِينَ ضِعْفًا ، وَذَلِكَ أَنَّهُ إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الوُضُوءَ ، ثُمَّ خَرَجَ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ ، لَا يُخْرِجُهُ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةُ ، لَمْ يَخْطُ خَطْوَةً إِلَّا رُفِعَتْ لَهُ بِهَا دَرَجَةٌ ، وَحُطَّتْ عَنْهُ بِهَا خَطِيئَةٌ ، فَإِذَا صَلَّى لَمْ تَزَلِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تُصَلِّي عَلَيْهِ مَا دَامَ فِي مُصَلَّاهُ ، مَا لَمْ يُحْدِثْ ، تَقُولُ : اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَيْهِ ، اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْهُ ، وَلَا يَزَالُ فِي صَلَاةٍ مَا أَنْتَظِرَ الصَّلَاةَ ». متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “A person’s prayer in congregation is twenty-five times more rewarding than his prayer at home or in his shop, and that is because when he performs his Wudu’ properly and proceeds towards the mosque with the purpose of performing prayer in congregation, every step he takes his rank is raised and his sins are forgiven. During the prayer the angels pray for him as long as he is in his place of worship and in the state of Wudu’. They say: ‘Allah! Be kind and forgive him.’ He is considered to be in prayer as long as he waits for it.”

[3] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: أَتَى النَّبِيَّ رَجُلٌ أَعْمَى ، فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ، لَيْسَ لِي قَائِدٌ يُقودُنِي إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ ، فَسَأَلَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَنْ يُرَخِّصَ لَهُ فَيُصَلِّيَ فِي بَيْتِهِ ، فَرَخَّصَ لَهُ ، فَلَمَّا وَلَّى دَعَاهُ ، فَقَالَ لَهُ : « هَلْ تَسْمَعُ النَّدَاءَ بِالصَّلَاةِ ؟ » قَالَ : نَعَمْ. قَالَ : « فَأَجِبْ ». رواه مسلم.

3. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: A blind man came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and said: “Messenger of Allah! I have no one to guide me to the mosque.” He sought permission to perform prayer in his house. He ﷺ granted him permission and the man went away, he ﷺ called him back, and asked, “can you hear the Adhan from your house?” He replied “yes”. The Messenger ﷺ then told him to pray in congregation.

[4] عن عبد الله بن أم مكتوم المؤذن أنه قال: يا رسول الله ، إنَّ الْمَدِينَةَ كَثِيرَةٌ الْهَوَامُّ وَالسَّبَاعُ. فَقَالَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ : « تَسْمَعُ حَيَّ عَلَيَّ الصَّلَاةِ حَيَّ عَلَيَّ الْفَلَاحِ ، فَحَيَّهَلَا ». رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ.

4. ‘Abdullah bin Umm Maktum ؓ (the Mu’adhdhin) reported: I said to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ: “There are poisonous insects and wild animals in Madinah, and I am blind. Please grant me permission to perform prayer at home.” He ﷺ asked whether he could hear the call: ‘Come to prayer’ (from the Adhan). When he replied yes, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ directed him to come to mosque for prayer.”

[5] عن ابن مسعود قال: مَنْ سَرَّهُ أَنْ يَلْقَى اللَّهَ تَعَالَى غَدًا مُسْلِمًا ، فَلْيُحَافِظْ عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ الصَّلَوَاتِ حَيْثُ يُنَادَى بِهِنَّ ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَرَعَ لِنَبِيِّكُمْ سُنَنَ الْهُدَى ، وَإِنَّهُنَّ مِنْ سُنَنِ الْهُدَى ، وَلَوْ أَنَّكُمْ صَلَّيْتُمْ فِي بُيُوتِكُمْ كَمَا يُصَلِّي هَذَا الْمُتَخَلِّفُ فِي بَيْتِهِ لَتَرَكْتُمْ سُنَّةَ نَبِيِّكُمْ ، وَلَوْ تَرَكْتُمْ سُنَّةَ نَبِيِّكُمْ لَضَلَلْتُمْ ، وَلَقَدْ رَأَيْتَنَا وَمَا يَتَخَلَّفُ عَنْهَا إِلَّا مُنَافِقٌ مَعْلُومُ النَّفَاقِ ، وَلَقَدْ كَانَ الرَّجُلُ يُؤْتَى بِهِ ، يُهَادَى بَيْنَ الرَّجُلَيْنِ حَتَّى يُقَامَ فِي الصَّفِّ. رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ.

5. Ibn Mas’ud ؓ reported: If you would like to meet Allah ﷻ tomorrow as a Muslim, you should take care and observe the prayer when the Adhan is called. Allah has explained to your Prophet ﷺ the ways of guidance, and the prayers are part of the guidance. If you have to perform prayer at home, as this man who stays away (from the mosque) and performs prayer in his house, you will abandon the Sunnah of your Prophet ﷺ, and the departure from the Sunnah of your Prophet ﷺ will lead you astray. I have seen the time when no one stayed behind (prayed at home)

except a hypocrite. I also saw that a man was brought swaying (due to weakness) between two men till he was stood up in a row (in the mosque).

COMMENTARY: This Hadith makes the following four points: 1. Emphasis on performing prayer in congregation. 2. Shows the passion of the companions for prayer. 3. Avoidance of prayer with congregation is the practice of hypocrites. 4. Warning that abandoning the Sunnah is bound to lead you astray.

[6] عن أبي الدرداء قال: سمعت رسول الله يقول: « مَا مِنْ ثَلَاثَةٍ فِي قَرْيَةٍ ، وَلَا بَدْوٍ ، لَا تُقَامُ فِيهِمُ الصَّلَاةُ إِلَّا قَدْ اسْتَحْوَذَ عَلَيْهِمُ الشَّيْطَانُ. فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِالْجَمَاعَةِ ، فَإِنَّمَا يَأْكُلُ الذَّنْبُ مِنَ الْغَنَمِ الْقَاصِيَةَ ». رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ .

6. Abu-Darda' رضي الله عنه reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saying, “If three men in a village or in the desert, make no arrangement for prayer in congregation, Satan will conquer them. So pray in congregation, for the wolf attacks a lone sheep that’s deserted the flock.”

Activities:

- Design invitation cards for your friends and family to invite them to visit the mosque for a congregational prayer.
- Research on the benefits of prayer in congregation.
- Discuss the importance of praying in congregation.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Prayer in congregation is twenty-seven times more rewarding than a prayer performed individually.

- The Prophet ﷺ emphasised on performing prayer in congregation.
- The one who prays alone is easily conquered by Satan.
- The angels continue to send blessings on a person in congregational prayer as long as he is in his place of worship in the state of Wudu'.
- Encourage people to attend congregational prayers.