

# What is your Level of Salah (Prayer) in terms of acceptance with Allah (ﷻ)

People in prayer are of 5 levels. They may be in same prayer, behind the same Imam, lined up in the same row, do Ruku, Sujood (kneeling and prostrating) at the same time, but some are ranked higher and some are very low.

## Levels of Salah:

**The First:** The level of the one who is negligent and wrongs his soul: He is the one who falls short in performing wudhoo (ablution) properly, performing the prayer upon its time and within its specified limits, and in fulfilling its essential pillars. This Person is he who wrong his soul. His intention is not necessarily to seek Allah's pleasure, but to show off to others. It could be called Salat of an hypocrite or Munafiq. (Salat al-Munafiqeen) This person will be punished

**The Second:** The one who guards his prayers upon their proper times and within their specified limits, fulfils their essential pillars and performs his wudhoo with care. However, his striving (in achieving the above) is wasted due to whisperings in his prayer by Shaitan so he is taken away by thoughts and ideas. His prayer can be classified as (Salartal Ghafileen) This person will be held accountable

**The Third:** The one who guards his prayers within the specified limits, fulfils their essential pillars and strives with himself to repel the whisperings, thoughts and ideas. He is busy struggling against his enemy (Satan) so that he does not steal from the prayer. He seeks to improve the quality of his prayer and its spiritual depth. On account of this he is engaged in (both) prayer and jihaad. His sins and shortcomings will be expiated.

**The Fourth:** The one who stands for the prayer, completes and perfects its due rights, its essential pillars, performs it within its specified limits and his heart becomes engrossed in safeguarding its rights and specified limits, so that nothing is wasted from it. His whole concern is directed towards its establishment, its completion and its perfection, as it should be. His heart is immersed in the prayer and in enslavement to his Lord the Exalted. He is deeply conscious of Allah's presence and his own shortcomings. This fear motivates him to strive for greater devotion and obedience. This person will be rewarded.

**The Fifth:** The one who stands for the prayer like the one mentioned above. However, on top of this, he has taken and placed his heart in front of his Lord Azzawajall, looking towards Him with his heart with anticipation, (his heart) filled with His love and His might, as if he sees and witnesses Allaah. The whisperings, thoughts and ideas have vanished and the coverings which are between him and his Lord are raised. What is between this person and others with respect to the prayer, is superior and greater than what is between the heavens and the earth. This person is busy with his Lord Azzawajall, delighted with Him, experience a profound closeness to Allah and a sense of spiritual elevation.. This person will be close to his Lord, because he will receive the portion of the one who makes his prayer the delight and pleasure of his eye.

Whoever makes his prayer, the delight and pleasure of his eye, will have the nearness to his Lord Azzawajall made the delight and pleasure of his eye in the hereafter. He will also be made a pleasure to the eye in this world since whoever makes Allaah the pleasure of his eye in this world, every other eye will become delighted and pleased with him. This level of prayer will get closer to the conviction of Prophet ﷺ that Salah is his coolness of eyes and in any situation of distress he always resort to Prayer.

The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) said: "A person may offer a prayer, and nothing of it is recorded for him except one-tenth of it, one-ninth of it, one-eighth of it, one-seventh of it,

one-sixth of it, one-fifth of it, one-quarter of it, one-third of it, or half of it.” [Ahmad]

Allah Most High says:

اتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

“Recite what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer. Indeed, ‘genuine’ prayer should deter ‘one’ from indecency and wickedness. The remembrance of Allah is ‘an’ even greater ‘deterrent’. And Allah ‘fully’ knows what you ‘all’ do.” [Quran, 29:45]

It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah (Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The first thing among their deeds for which the people will be brought to account on the Day of Resurrection will be prayer. Although He knows best, our Lord will say to His angels, ‘Look at My slave’s prayer; is it complete or lacking?’ If it is complete, it will be recorded as complete, but if it is lacking, He will say, ‘Look and see whether My slave did any voluntary (nafl) prayers.’ If he had done voluntary prayers, He would say, ‘Complete the obligatory prayers of My slave from his voluntary prayers.’ Then the rest of his deeds will be examined similarly.” [Abu Dawud]

## ***Impact of Prayers***

The impact of prayers on humans is in other verses of the Quran:

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا  
إِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ جَزُوعًا  
وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الْخَيْرُ مَنُوعًا  
إِلَّا الْمُصَلِّينَ  
الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ دَائِمُونَ

“Verily, the man was created impatient, irritable when evil touches him and stingy when good touches him. Except for those devoted to prayer, those who remain constant in their prayers...” [Quran, 70:19-23]

As for the Hereafter, Allah’s forgiveness and pleasure are closely related to the prayers. The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, “Allah has obligated five prayers. Whoever excellently performs their ablutions, prays them in their proper times, completes their bows, prostrations, and khushu’ has a promise from Allah that He will forgive him. And whoever does not do that has no promise from Allah. He may either forgive him or punish him.” [Ahmad; Abu Dawud; al-Nasa’i, and others. authenticated by Albani]

## ***Perfecting the Prayer***

So how do we get better? How do we offer Salah properly? How do we get to higher levels of Salah?

We do so by learning and understanding the importance and virtues of Salah, by learning the meaning of what we are reciting, learning Sunnah, the method how our Prophet and his companion performed the Salah. Hence, our hearts are alive, and we are not on auto-pilot; we do so by understanding what we are reciting, by making Dua to Allah in prayer, by getting the feel of each action and position we take, but above all by knowing that who are we facing, The King of the Worlds!

Narrated Talha bin ‘Ubaidullah (Allah be pleased with him):

A bedouin with unkempt hair came to Allah’s Messenger (Allah bless him and give him peace) and said, “O Allah’s Messenger: Inform me what Allah has made compulsory for me regarding the prayers.” He replied (Allah bless him and give him peace), “You have to offer perfectly the five compulsory prayers in a day and night (24 hours) unless you want to pray Nawafil.” The bedouin

further asked, “Inform me what Allah has made compulsory for me regarding fasting.” He replied, “You have to fast during the whole month of Ramadan unless you want to fast more, as Nawafil.” The bedouin further asked, “Tell me how much Zakat Allah has enjoined on me.” Thus, Allah’s Messenger (Allah bless him and give him peace) informed him about all Islam’s rules (i.e., fundamentals). The bedouin said, “By Him Who has honored you, I will neither perform any Nawafil nor decrease what Allah has enjoined on me.” Allah’s Messenger (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, “If he is telling the truth, he will succeed (or he will be granted Paradise).” [Bukhari]

We all sometimes feel that our Salah (Prayer) is not quite having the effect it is supposed to have on us or on our lives. Have we ever considered that perhaps it is because we are not giving it its due justice? It seems we have lost that ability to \* connect \* in Salah that makes all the difference in its effect on us.

One criteria of checking the level of our Salah is that we all know that Salah restricts us from evil deeds, but if we pray Salah regularly and still getting back to evil deeds, then we need to ponder on this. We have to see is our Salah Perfect? Are we fulfilling its rights? If we don’t feel like not doing sins after our Salah then surely we have a serious problem with our Salah.

May Allah facilitate our journey of perfecting our Salah in this world and accept our efforts.