

# Salah Handout 2

## Types of Prayers

There are four types of Prayers:

[Fardh](#)

[Sunnah](#)

[Wajib](#)

[Nawafil](#)

### 1. Fardh

Fardh is an Arabic word, which means compulsory or obligatory. The Five daily prayer i.e., Fajr, Dhuhr, 'Asr, Maghrib and 'Isha are obligatory prayers. It is a sin to intentionally skip a Fardh Prayer. If a prayer is missed because of forgetfulness or due to some unavoidable circumstances, then offering the missed Prayer as soon as possible will rectify this mistake.

### 2. Sunnah

The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, offered extra Raka'at of Prayer in addition to those of Fardh Prayers. These are called Sunnah Prayers. It is considered necessary by all jurists to offer these prayers. The willful neglect of Sunnah Prayers is censurable in the sight of Allah.

Following are the Sunnah Prayers:

- a. Two Rak'at of Sunnah Prayer should be offered before the Fardh Prayer of Fajr. However, if a person joins the congregation without having offered Sunnah due to circumstances beyond his control, he can offer these after the Fardh prayer.
- b. Four Rak'at of Sunnah Prayer before Fardh and two Rak'at after the Fardh in Dhuhr Prayer. In case one is unable to perform four Rak'at Sunnah before the Fardh in Dhuhr Prayer, one should offer these after the congregational Fardh Prayer. (Note: Followers of Hanfi school of thought offer two Sunnat while some other Muslims offer four Sunnat after Fardh in Dhuhr Prayer.)
- c. Two Rak'at of Sunnah after the Fardh of Maghrib Prayer.
- d. Two Rak'at of Sunnah after the Fardh of 'Isha Prayer.

### 3. Wajib

Wajib prayers are necessary and willful neglect is considered sinful. However, if someone misses any of these due to unavoidable circumstances, Qadha (make-up of missed prayer) is not required.

The following are Wajib Prayers:

- a. Three Rak'at of Vitr after 'Isha
- b. Two Rak'at of Eidul-Fitr and Two Rak'at of Eidul-Adha
- c. Two Rak'at are offered while performing the Tawaaf of K'aba.

### 4. Nawafil

Nawafil plural form of an Arabic word Nafil which means voluntary or optional prayer.

Following are some of the Nawafil Prayers:

- a. Eight Rak'at of Tahajjud
- b. Two Rak'at after the four/two Rak'at of Sunnah at the end of Dhuhr Prayer
- c. Four Rak'at before Fardh of 'Asr Prayer
- d. Two Rak'at after the two Rak'at at the end of Maghrib Prayer
- e. Four Rak'at of Ishraaq Prayer
- f. Two Rak'at offered when one enters a mosque
- g. Two Rak'at offered when seeking blessing fro God Almighty
- h. Two Rak'at offered as Salat-ul-Hajaat
- i. Two Rak'at offered as Thanksgiving Prayer

One may offer as many Nawafil Prayers as one wish. However, Nawafil should not be offered during the forbidden times for Prayers. Nawafil should not be offered between 'Asr and Maghrib Prayer. It is preferable to offer Nawafil Prayers at home rather than in a mosque. However, it is matter of personal choice and there is no compulsion in this matter.

Source: <http://www.islam.com/salat/typesofprayers.htm>

## **A guide to SALAT (Prayer)**

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Source: [http://islam.worldofislam.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=75&id=160%3Aa-guide-to-salat-prayer&Itemid=48](http://islam.worldofislam.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=75&id=160%3Aa-guide-to-salat-prayer&Itemid=48)

### **Forbidden times of Prayer**

Uqbah bin Amir said, There were three times at which Allah's Messenger (pbuh) used to forbid us to pray or bury our dead:

(i) When the sun began to rise until it was fully up. (ii) When the sun was at its height at midday till it passed the meridian. (iii) When the sun drew near to setting till it had set. (Muslim)

### **Forbidden Times for Nafil Prayer**

(i) Abu Saeed AlKhudree reported Allah's Messenger (pbuh) as saying, **No Salat is to be said after the Fajr prayer until the sun rises, or after the Asr Prayer until the sun sets.** (Bukhair and Muslim)

Only Nafil prayer is forbidden at these times but a missed Fard prayer can be offered. Most of the Ulama of the Muslim Ummah allowed the offering of missed Fard prayer after Fajr and Asr because of the following Hadith:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, **Who has forgotten the prayer he should pray it whenever he remembers it.** (Bukhari and Muslim)

(ii) A Nafil prayer cannot be offered once the Iqamat for Fard prayer has been said. **Abu Hurairah narrated that Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, When the Iqamat has been said, then, there is no Salat valid (Nafil or Sunnat ) except the Fard prayer for which the Iqamat was said.** (Ahmad and Muslim)

It is seen in practice that many people continue with the Sunnat prayer even though the Iqamat has been said for the Fard prayer especially in the Fajr prayer. They feel that the 2 Raakat Sunnat of Fajr can only be offered before the Fard. This practice is against congregation philosophy, discipline of Jamaat, and a clear violation of Hadith. They should offer 2 Rakaat Sunnat of Fajr immediately after the Fard or after sunrise.

### **PLACE FOR SALAT**

A place or a building which is used for the purpose of worship and Salat is called a Masjid (mosque). A Hadith tells us that This means that wherever a Muslim might be, he can offer his Salat but the reward of a Salat offered in a mosque is far greater than that offered in an ordinary place. The following points should be noted when choosing a place for Salat:

(a) The place should be clean and pure. Salat in a dirty, filthy and impure place such as a rubbish tip, slaughter house, bathing place and a camel pen is forbidden. (b) The place should be free from danger. The danger could be due to someone or something that may disturb the worshipper. (c) A prayer place

where the worshipper might hinder the movement of others should be avoided, e.g. busy pavements, public roadways etc. (d) It is forbidden to pray on the roof of Baitullah (Kabah). (e) It is forbidden to pray on top of or facing towards a grave.

## **DRESS FOR SALAT**

### **Men**

(i) The dress for men should be such that it covers from the navel to the knees at least. (ii) The shoulders should not be left uncovered. (iii) Salat can be prayed in one garment if it covers the body from the navel to the knees as well as the shoulders. (Bukhari and Muslim.)

If, however, the garment is not long enough to cover the shoulders then parts of the body between the navel and the knees should at least be covered.

### **Women**

The dress of the woman should be such that it covers her whole body from head to foot leaving only the face and the hands uncovered. A Salat offered in transparent clothing is not valid. Also, tight-fitting clothing which shows the shape of the body should be avoided.