

والناس في الصلاة على خمسة أقسام، فانظر في أي الأقسام تكون أنت؟  
 قَسَمُ مَعَاقِبٍ - نَسَأُ اللهُ السَّلَامَةَ وَالْعَافِيَةَ-، وَقَسَمُ مَحَاسِبٍ، وَقَسَمُ مَكْفَرٍ عَنْهُ،  
 وَقَسَمُ مَنَابٍ، وَقَسَمُ مَقَرَّبٍ مِنَ اللهِ، فَاللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ.  
 يقول نبي الهدى وإمام الرحمة محمد بن عبد الله -صلى الله عليه وسلم- وهو على  
 حجر عائشة الطاهرة -رضي الله عنها- يودع الدنيا بأزكى نفس حملته السماء،  
 وأطهر جسد حملته الأرض: "الصلاة الصلاة، وما ملكت أيمانكم".  
 إنها الصلاة أول ما يحاسب عنه العبد من العبادات ..  
 إنها الصلاة التي إن صلحت صلح سائر العمل، وإن فسدت فسدت سائر العمل .  
 إنها الصلاة الركن الثاني من أركان الإسلام .  
 إنها الفريضة التي لا تسقط عن العبد ما دام حي يعقل على أي حال كان وتحت أي  
 وضع .

Brothers and sisters in Islam, all praises are due to Allah who has guided us to be Muslims. All glory is due to Him who has clarified to us what our purpose in life is here on this earth.

As Allah tells us:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ٥٦

**“I didn’t create mankind and jinn except to worship me”**

From the greatest and most important forms of worship in Islam, is the prayer. The first thing a Muslim will be asked about after they die is the five daily prayers. If the five daily prayers are correct, the rest of the actions of worship are correct.

However if the prayers are incorrect or corrupted, then the rest of the actions of worship are corrupted and deficient as well. The five daily prayers can never be abandoned as long as a Muslim is alive, and has sound mind and intellect. The five daily prayers are the most important pillar of Islam, after the shahadah.

Brothers and sisters, the role that the five daily prayers play for the life of the mind, body and soul are detrimental to the health of one’s mind, body and soul. The five daily prayers in regards to the how important they are, are similar to the IV when a patient goes into the hospital or the emergency

room. The first thing that the patient gets hooked up to is the IV to give the patient the nutrients they need to survive. Similarly, the first thing that a Muslim gets hooked up to after knowing Allah and taking shahadah is the five daily prayers. Many emergency room patients will die if not hooked up to the IV, similarly a Muslim will die, losing his religion, his soul, his covenant with his creator when he abandons the five daily prayers.

Just how the iv is the nourishment for the sick body, the five daily prayers are the nourishment for the soul, the comfort of the mind, the relaxation of the body.

The five daily prayers are the communication, connection and life line for the Muslims.

Many of us experiencing difficulties, hardships, and problems in our daily may think about going to a counselor, mentor or advisor; but are hesitant because of their expensive fees. Be reminded that we have the best One who can remove our hardships, difficulties, and problems; who can be our best advisor, provide the best of guidance;

these counseling sessions are free of charge, no fees, no co-pay, all we have to do is keep our appointments, and be there on time.

The five daily prayers for the Muslim are the free counseling sessions with the one who has all the answers.

Furthermore, brothers and sisters; One of the differences between a Muslim and a non-Muslim is the prayer. A Muslim may fall into sins throughout the day, but if he is praying, the prayer will call him back to obedience and his minor sins will be forgiven. He won't stray that far away. However, if one leaves the five daily prayers, then he will stray far far away, maybe too far to come back. This is why the prophet Muhammad said that once a Muslim abandons the prayer, then he leaves Islam.

" إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ الَّذِي بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُمُ الصَّلَاةُ فَمَنْ تَرَكَهَا فَقَدْ كَفَرَ . "

**“The covenant that stands between us and them is the prayer, whoever abandons it has apostate/disbelieved”**

The prayer is the most important pillar of Islam after the shahadah, and the first thing we should invite new Muslims to start doing, as the Prophet Muhammad told Muadhth ibn Jabal when he went to Yemen:

"فليكن أول ما تدعوهم إليه: عبادة الله - عز وجل -، فإذا عرفوا الله فأخبرهم  
أن الله فرض عليهم خمس صلوات في يومهم وليلتهم"

**“let the first thing that you invite them to is the shahadah, if they get to know Allah, then tell them that Allah has obligated upon them five daily prayers.”**

Abandoning the five daily prayers is a means of misguidance, weakness, uncertainty, mischief, and loss in this world and the next. When the inhabitants of the paradise see the inhabitants of the hellfire, they will ask them:

مَا سَلَكَكُمْ فِي سَقَرٍ - قَالُوا لَمْ نَكُ مِنَ الْمُصَلِّينَ ٤٣

**“What caused you to enter the Hellfire, they will reply: We were not from those who used to pray”**

Brothers and sisters in Islam, the five daily prayers in Islam is of utmost importance. It is a means of success in this world and the next, as Allah the Most Magnificent described His believing servants in the Quran saying:

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ \* الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ)

**“The Believers have succeeded, those who have focus, concentration, humility in their prayers.”**

Allah told us that the believers will succeed, as long as they pray, and as long as they are focusing, concentrating and training themselves to have humility, tranquility, peace and comfort in their prayers.

The Prophet Muhammad used to say to Bilal ibn Abee Rabah:

"أَرِحْنَا بِهَا يَا بِلَالُ"

**“call the iqamah so that we can find comfort in our prayer”**, and the Prophet Muhammad said:

"وَجَعَلْتُ قُرَّةَ عَيْنِي فِي الصَّلَاةِ".

**“the comfort of my eyes is in my prayer”**

May Allah make the five daily prayers a comfort for our minds, bodies and souls, as it was for the Prophet Muhammad and his righteous companions.

Brothers and sisters in Islam, Muslims in regards to their prayers and how they perform them can be categorized into five categories. Yes, when we pray, basically we all do the same movements, the qiyaam, the rukoo, the sujood, the jalsah, the tasleem; however we may say different supplications in the prayer, or read different surahs in the prayer and we may be focused 100%, 80%, 50%, 30%, or even 5% may Allah help us all to focus and concentrate more in our prayers. So the reward and benefit we receive from our prayers depends solely on how sincere we are while praying, how much focus and concentration we have in our prayers, and how good we avoid distractions in our prayers. The prophet Muhammad said:

" إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَنْصَرِفُ وَمَا كُتِبَ لَهُ إِلَّا عَشْرُ صَلَاتِهِ تُسَعُّهَا ثَمَنُهَا سَبْعُهَا سُدُسُهَا  
 خُمُسُهَا رُبْعُهَا ثُلُثُهَا نِصْفُهَا " .

**“A man may pray his prayer and it may only be written a reward of one tenth part of his prayer, or a ninth part, or an eight part, or a seventh part, or a sixth part, or a fifth part, or a third part, or half of it, is recorded for him.” (Abu Dawud: 796)**

The servant is only rewarded for the part of the prayer that he was focusing, concentrating and dedicating himself completely to Allah and the prayer.

May Allah grant us khushoo, focus, peace and tranquility in our prayers so that we can be from amongst the successful.

## **Second khutbah**

Brothers and sisters in Islam, Muslims in regards to their prayers can be categorized into five categories. So what category do you fall into. Those who pray



and will be punished, those who pray and will be held to account, those who pray and will only receive and expiation of their sins, those who pray and will receive good reward, and those who pray and find closeness to Allah.

**The first category** are those who pray, but they will be punished because of their prayer. The Prophet Muhammad informed us about them, when he said:

خَمْسُ صَلَوَاتٍ افْتَرَضَهُنَّ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى مَنْ أَحْسَنَ وُضُوءَهُنَّ وَصَلَّاهُنَّ لَوَقْتِهِنَّ وَأَتَمَّ رُكُوعَهُنَّ وَخُشُوعَهُنَّ كَانَ لَهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَهْدٌ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ لَهُ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَفْعَلْ فَلَيْسَ لَهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَهْدٌ إِنْ شَاءَ غَفَرَ لَهُ وَإِنْ شَاءَ عَذَّبَهُ " .

**“Allah, the Exalted, has made five prayers obligatory. Whoever perfects his ablution, and perfects the prayers, praying them on time, while perfecting their rukoo and their khushoo in them, it is the guarantee of Allah that He will pardon/forgive them. Whoever does not do so, there is no guarantee/promise for him from Allah. This individual may either be forgiven by**

**Allah if He wills, or punished by Allah if He wills.” (Sunan Abee Dawud: #425)**

They are the ones who are negligent and wrong themselves, and their souls. They are negligent in making wudoo, rushing through it, they are negligent in praying on time, they are always delaying their prayers for invalid/unacceptable/unexcusable reasons. If he does pray congregational prayer he always comes late. This lack of dedication and concern of his prayers manifests in his behavior and demeanor. This is why you find many of these people constantly miserable, angry, sad, depressed and uncomfortable in this world and he will be even worse in the Hereafter. The prayer to the people of this category is like a heavy burden that is lifted off their shoulders once they perform it, this is why they rush through it pecking at the ground in sujood like roosters, and not straightening their backs in rukoo, and the likes.

They oppress themselves, robbing themselves of rewards. They are the worst types of thieves as the Messenger of Allah told us:

أَسْوَأُ النَّاسِ سَرِقَةً الَّذِي يَسْرِقُ مِنْ صَلَاتِهِ» . قَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَكَيْفَ يَسْرِقُ مِنْ صَلَاتِهِ؟ قَالَ: لَا يَتِمُّ رُكُوعَهَا وَلَا سَجُودَهَا .

**Abu Qatada reported God’s Messenger as saying, “The worst individuals are those who steal from their own prayers. The Companions asked, how can someone steal from his own prayer? He replied: “By not performing his rukoo and his sujood perfectly” (Musnad Imam Ahmed #22642)**

Even the great companions knew that perfecting rukoo and sujood in the prayer is an important pillar of the prayer being accepted, as Abu Hurairah said:

إن الرجل ليصلي ستين سنة و ما تقبل له صلاة لعله يتم الركوع ، ولا يتم السجود ، ويتم السجود ولا يتم الركوع "

**“A person may pray for sixty years, he may perfect the rukoo but not perfect the sujood, or he may perfect his sujood but not perfect his**

**rukoo**” (Musanaf ibn Abee Shaybah #2992 with a fair chain of narration)

Allah tells us about them:

(فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ \* الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ) [الماعون:4-5]

**“Woe to those who pray and are unmindful and inattentive in their prayers”**

**The second category**, are those who pray and will be asked about their prayers and held accountable. They guard their prayers by praying on time and making wudoo with care and fulfilling the pillars of wudoo and prayer. However, his wudoo and prayer are wasted due not being able to control the whisperings of shaytaan and distractions in his prayer.

He has little to no khusoo at all, but a little more than the first category. His lack of khushoo is shown outwardly upon his limbs as well as in his heart.

He doesn't seek refuge in Allah from the shaytaan coming to whisper him in the prayer, as the Prophet Muhammad advised us to do:

أَنَّ عُثْمَانَ بْنَ أَبِي الْعَاصِ، أَتَى النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ قَدْ حَالَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ صَلَاتِي وَقِرَاءَتِي يَلْبِسُهَا عَلَيَّ . فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " ذَاكَ شَيْطَانٌ يُقَالُ لَهُ خِنْزَبٌ فَإِذَا أَحْسَسْتَهُ فَتَعَوَّذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنْهُ وَاتَّقِلْ عَلَيَّ يَسَارِكُ ثَلَاثًا " . قَالَ فَفَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ فَأَذْهَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَنِّي .

**Uthman b. Abu al-'As reported that he came to Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) and said, O Allah's Messenger shaytaan distracts me and whispers to me in my prayer and interferes with my reciting of the Qur'an and he confuses me. Allah's Messenger replied: "That is a shaytaan known as Khinzab, and when you feel affected by him in your prayer, then seek refuge with Allah from him and spit/blow three times to your left." Then Uthman said: "I tried that and Allah dispelled Khinzab from me." (Saheeh Muslim #2203)**

If you are constantly being affected by whisperings of Shaytaan in your prayers, try what the prophet Muhammad diagnosed for this illness. It's better than anything anyone could ever prescribe.

This category of people, are those who are looking around everywhere, turning to the left, the right, pulling out their phones, text messaging while in prayer, constantly moving or fidgeting without a valid excuse, and many times this category of people don't even remember or understand what was recited in the prayer. The prophet Muhammad told us about looking around in the prayer and what it will result in:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، قَالَتْ سَأَلْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنِ الْإِنْتِفَاتِ فِي الصَّلَاةِ فَقَالَ " هُوَ اخْتِلَاسٌ يَخْتَلِسُهُ الشَّيْطَانُ مِنْ صَلَاةِ الْعَبْدِ ".

**Aishiah said: I asked the messenger of Allah about looking around during the prayer. He replied: “It is how the shaytaan steals from the servant during the prayer” (Saheeh Bukhari #751)**

These individuals will be held to account because their hearts were not completely focused on their prayers and their minds, eyes, bodies and senses were pre-occupied with other things.

**The third category** of those who pray are those who guard their prayers, praying on time, fulfilling the pillars, obligations and essentials. They will only receive an expiation of their sins, and the reward will be very little if any. However their khushoo, focus and concentration is weak, but more than the second category. He has khushoo outwardly, he is not fidgeting, and moving around a lot, but he is still fighting with doubts and whisperings of shaytaan in his head.

عن أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ . رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ . أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " إِنَّ أَحَدَكُمْ إِذَا قَامَ يُصَلِّي جَاءَ الشَّيْطَانُ فَلَبَسَ عَلَيْهِ حَتَّى لَا يَدْرِي كَمْ صَلَّى ، فَإِذَا وَجَدَ ذَلِكَ أَحَدَكُمْ فَلْيَسْجُدْ سَجْدَتَيْنِ وَهُوَ جَالِسٌ " .

**Narrated Abu Huraira:**

**Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "When anyone of you stands for the prayers, shaytaan comes and puts in his mind until he forgets how many rak`at he has prayed. So if this happens to anyone of you, he should perform two prostrations of Sahu while sitting. (Saheeh Bukhari #1232)**

Abdullah ibn Abaas reports that the Prophet said:

فَعَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا؛ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: (يَأْتِي أَحَدَكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ فِي صَلَاتِهِ، فَيَنْفُخُ فِي مَقْعَدَتِهِ فَيُحَيِّلُ إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ أَحَدَثَ، وَلَمْ يُحَدِّثْ، فَإِذَا وَجَدَ ذَلِكَ فَلَا يَنْصَرِفُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ صَوْتًا أَوْ يَجِدَ رِيحًا) أَخْرَجَهُ الْبَزَّازُ. وَيُؤْخَذُ مِنْ كَلَامِ الْحَافِظِ ابْنِ حَجْرٍ فِي "التَّلْخِيصِ الْحَبِيرِ" (128/1) أَنْ  
إِسْنَادُهُ قَوِي.

**“Shaytaan comes to you while you are praying and blows in your rear-end/back side to make you think or imagine that you have passed gas/wind, and it did not really happen. If one of you experiences this while praying, then do not**



## **leave the prayer until you hear something or smell something from your backside”**

It's like he's in a boxing match. He wins one round and the shaytaan wins another round. He is fighting with the shaytaan in his prayer so that shaytaan does not steal the prayer and its reward from him. He is engaging in jihaad in his prayer. Half of his prayer he's thinking about fighting shaytaan and the other half is about Allah and His magnificence. If he keeps striving he will eventually attain success, if he keeps repelling shaytaan and fighting against his whisperings and allies, as Allah says:

(وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا) [العنكبوت: 69].

**“Those who fight/struggle in our cause, we will indeed guide them to our path”**

He will receive an expiation of his sins, but his reward will be little if any at all. Solely because his prayer was not completely and entirely dedicated to Allah. He was dedicating half of it to fighting shaytaan, thinking about him, worrying about him;

and not completely dedicated to Allah alone. As all acts of worship should be.

Dearly beloved Muslims, people of worship, people of prayer.

**The fourth category** of those who pray are those who will receive a good reward for their prayer. They establish the prayer on time, fulfilling the pillars and essentials of the prayers, and focusing and concentrating in the prayer with khushoo. This category of people receive an expiation for sins as well as a reward for their prayer. Their hearts become engrossed in safeguarding the prayer so that nothing is wasted from it. His whole concern is directed towards establishing the prayer, its completion, and perfection, as it should be. He is focusing on fulfilling the obligations, pillars, sunan, wajibat of the prayer; but is still lacking that complete love, compassion, longing for Allah. He is like a commanded soldier who has to listen to his general. He obeys him, even though sometimes he may not like him, or like everything that he is told to do. He has not reached the highest category yet

of complete love, devotion, and dedication to his Lord. His love is developing and he is training himself to love his master and leader.

**The last category** of those who pray are those who pray like the previous category. They are constantly obedient to their master. However on top of this they are from those who seek constant closeness to their Lord, they are completely devoted to their Lord, dedicated to Him, His religion, and everything He orders them to do. They know that whatever their creator tells them to do it is for their own good, and whatever their creator prohibits them from, it is for their own good as well. This category of people look forward to the five daily prayers, they wait for it to come in. This category of Muslims are constantly looking forward to pray with anticipation. They know that the prayer time, is the time within their day to realize true comfort, relaxation, and a relief of their everyday stress, difficulties and hardships. Now is their one-on-one time to talk with their Lord. Their counseling

session, their time to meet their advisor, the best mentor and leader.

Many times you may find that your counselor, mentor or advisor may be busy, may not answer your phone calls, may not respond to your emails, may not open the door when you knock, may be late for their appointment, and sometimes may not even show up to meet you because they're too busy with other clients.

However, be reminded brothers and sisters...that Allah is always there for us. He will never abandon us. He is always listening. He is always ready to respond, to guide, to help, to aid, to give, and to remove all difficulties. All we have to do is knock on the door.

You told us Ya Allah:

وَأِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ".

**When My servants ask you 'O Prophet' about Me: I am truly near. I respond to one's prayer when they call upon Me. So let them respond**

**‘with obedience’ to Me and believe in Me, perhaps they will be guided ‘to the Right Way’.**

And the knock on the door is thru prayer and supplication to Allah.

ربنا إنا طرفنا بابك فافتح لنا أبواب خيراتك

Allah orders us to supplicate to him and the best time to supplicate to him is in our five daily prayers, and the closest we are to our Lord is in prostration/sujood:

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ  
جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ٦٠

**“Your Lord has proclaimed, “Call upon Me, I will respond to you. Surely those who are too proud to worship Me will enter Hell, fully humbled” (Al Ghafir:60)**

Brothers and sisters, prayer time is the time to speak to our creator and tell him all that is bothering us, worrying us, troubling us, even though He already knows all of these things. He orders us to do so, so that He alone can completely alleviate all of our pains and discomfort. All other remedies will only provide temporary comfort and relief. As for Allah, then the comfort He provides is eternal. Only Allah can completely and perfectly alleviate for us of all of our difficulties and hardships in this world and the next.

The people in this category are the best, they have perfected their Islam, are certain about their iman, and have graduated to a level of ihsaan. They are those who are in the masjid before the mu'adhin and the imam come in. When the imam says: Allahu Akbar to enter the first rakat of the prayer, they put everything away and aside, and these individuals realize and know that nothing is greater or more important than Allah and thinking about him, supplicating to him at this time and place. These people are in their prayer, standing and

focusing with khushoo, outwardly as well as inwardly, they are praying as if Allah is standing right in front of them. Even though they don't see Allah, they know Allah is watching them, supervising them, overseeing them. These people pray with 'Ihsan', perfecting their prayers, their khushoo, their movements and their supplications in the prayers.

May Allah enable us to reach this category.

Brothers and sisters, work on perfecting your prayers, work on focusing, concentrating, and making your prayers solely for Allah.

Our sins are numerous, our acts of disobedience are endless, weighing us down in this world, and they will be even heavier in the Hereafter. May Allah save us. One of the best ways, brothers and sisters to release some of the burdens of those heavy sins, is thru prayer, is by making rukoo and sujood to Allah.

إِنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عُمَرَ رَأَى فَتًى وَهُوَ يُصَلِّي قَدْ أَطَالَ صَلَاتَهُ وَأَطْنَبَ فِيهَا فَقَالَ مَنْ يَعْرِفُ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ رَجُلٌ: أَنَا فَقَالَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ: لَوْ كُنْتُ أَعْرِفُهُ لَأَمَرْتُهُ أَنْ يُطِيلَ الرُّكُوعَ وَالسُّجُودَ فَإِنِّي سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ: ( إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا قَامَ يُصَلِّي أُتِيَ بِذُنُوبِهِ فَوُضِعَتْ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ أَوْ عَاتِقِهِ فَكَلَّمَا رَكَعَ أَوْ سَجَدَ تَسَاقَطَتْ عَنْهُ )

**Abdullah ibn Umar ibn Al Khattab saw a man who was praying and was making his qiyam/standing and recitation extremely long. So he said: “If I knew him I would advise him to make his rukoo and sujood longer, because I heard the Prophet Muhammad say: “When the servant comes to pray, he comes with all of his heavy sins on his head and shoulders, and every time he makes rukoo or sujood the sins fall off.” (Al Bayhaqee in his Sunan 3/10 and Saheeh Jami #1671)**

Whoever makes their five daily prayers, the delight and pleasure of their days and nights, and makes their prayers the comfort of their mind, bodies and souls, will have nearness to Allah. Happiness, bliss and success in this world and the next. These individuals will love and long to meet Allah in the Hereafter and Allah will love to meet them.