

Safeguard your prayers in Ramadan and the importance of the Qur'an

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It is crucial that we safeguard our prayers in the month of Ramadan

- Pray at the right time, **do not delay** your prayers
- Make sure that you pray **Fajr** (Dawn prayer) on time
- Pray with **humility, devotion and concentration**
- Offer **additional optional prayers**
- Try to pray **Night and Taraweeh prayers** in the mosque
- Try to **memorize other verses** in the Qur'an

Safeguard your prayers

“And those who safeguard their prayers”

Al-Mumenoun (The Believers) 23: 8

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was asked: What are the deeds most beloved to Allah? He said: **(Prayer at the proper time)**

Narrated by Bokhari.

In another narration: **(Prayer as soon as the time of prayer comes).**

The status of those who do not pray

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The covenant that differentiates between us and them is the prayer: anyone who leaves the prayer he has then rejected faith) Termedhi

(Accountability is lifted from three: The persons sleeping till he wakes up; and the young till he reaches puberty; and the insane person till he regains his mind) Termedhi & Abou Dawood

(Teach your young how to pray at age seven, and beat him (if he does not pray) by age ten) Termedhi

The importance of Salat Al-Fajr (Dawn prayer)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(You are going to see your Lord, as you see this full moon; if you are able not to miss the prayer before sunrise and before sunset then do that). The he recited: “Glorify the praises of your Lord before the sunrise and before it sets” Ta Ha 20: 130

Ahmad, Bokhari & Muslim

Pray Dawn prayer in time for it is witnessed

“Establish prayer at the sun’s decline till the darkness of the night, and the recitation of the Qur’an at dawn, for such a recitation at dawn is witnessed”

Al-Isra’a (Night Journey) 17: 78

Dawn prayer is **witnessed by the angels** of night & day, as they present at Dawn & afternoon prayers watching over us

Waking up in the early morning to pray Fajr

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Satan blows three knots at the back of the head of each one of you, at night, saying: “You have a long night so sleep. If one wakes up and praises Allah, one of the knots is loosened. If he does ablution, the second knot goes away. If he prays all the knots go away, and he wakes up energetic and feeling good. Otherwise he wakes up tired and feeling bad)

Narrated by Ahmad, Bokhari & Muslim

The angels are present in Fajr and Asr prayers

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(There are angels present with you by day and angels by night; they are present together during the Dawn and afternoon prayer; those who stayed with you at night ascend to Allah and He asks them, and He knows best, How did you leave My servants? They say: We left them praying, and we came and found them praying”

Bokhari (Kitab As-Salat, no. 555

Do not miss Asr (afternoon) prayer

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The person who misses Asr prayer as if he lost his family and his money)

Bokhari (Bab As-Salat) no. 552

(Whoever leaves the Asr prayer then his deeds will fail)

Bokhari (Bab As-Salat) no. 553

“Safeguard your prayers and the middle prayer, and stand up for Allah in devotion”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 238

The importance of Salat Al-Eisha'a (night prayer)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(One time the Prophet (PBUH) delayed the Eisha'a prayer, till women and children fell asleep, then he came out and said to the people in the mosque: **(No one on earth waits for this prayer except you)**)

Bokhari (Bab As-Salat) : 566

(Be glad, it is a blessing of Allah over you that no one else among mankind pray at this time except you)

Bokhari (Kitab As-Salat, no. 567)

Praying optional prayers at night

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to pray 11 Raka' each night after Eisha'a prayer

(Bokhari Bab At-Tahajjud) 1123

The Prophet (PBUH) used to stand up in prayer at night, for long time, till his legs would swell up. He was asked: Why do you do that seeing that Allah has forgiven your sins, whatever you have done before and what you may do later on? He said: **(Should I then not be a grateful servant of Allah!)**

Bokhari (Kitab At-Tahajjud) 1130

Recite of the Qur'an what is easy for you during optional night prayer

“O you folded in garments! Stand (to prayer) by night, but not all night; half of it, or a little less, or a little more, and recite the Qur'an in slow rhythmic tones”

Al-Muzzammil 73: 1-4

“Your Lord does know that you stand forth in prayer two thirds of the night, or half the night, or a third of the night, and so does a party of those with you; but Allah does appoint night and day in due measure; He knows that you are unable to keep count thereof, so He has turned to you in mercy; read therefore of the Qur'an as much as may be easy for you”

Al-Muzzammil 73: 20

When you feel tired stop, then resume your prayer when you feel energetic

The Prophet (PBUH) entered the mosque, and found a rope stretched between two pillars. He said: (**What is this rope?**). They said: This belongs to Zainab, when she feels tired she holds on to it. He said: (**No, take it down; let one of you pray when he has energy; when he feels tired he should stop and sit down**)

Bokhari (Kitab At-Tahajjud) 1150

Dua'a and prayer in the last third of the night

“They used to sleep but little at night; and in the hours of early Dawn they were praying for forgiveness”

Adh-Dhareyat 51: 17 & 18

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Our Lord, glory be to Him, descends to the lower heaven in the last third of the night and says: “Who is calling on Me, and I will respond to him? Who is asking Me, and I will give him? Who is seeking My forgiveness and I will forgive him?”)

Bokhari (Kitab At-Tahajjud) 1145

The best prayer to Allah is the prayer of Dawood

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The prayer most beloved to Allah is the prayer of Dawood; and the fast most beloved to Allah is the fast of Dawood: He used to sleep half the night, and stand up (in prayer) one third of the night, and sleeps one sixth; and he used to fast one day, then breaks his fast the next day)

Bokhari (Kitab At-Tahajjud) 1131

Pray with devotion, humility and concentration

“The believers will succeed. Those who are humble and devoted in their prayers”

Al-Mumenoun (The Believers) 23: 1 & 2

Prophet Muhammad warned us that some people their prayers are not lifted over their heads or accepted

Obligatory & optional prayers

Fard (Obligatory) prayer

Fajr (Dawn) 2

Zuhr (Noon) 4

Asr (Afternoon) 4

Maghrib (Sunset) 3

Eisha'a (Night) 4

Total **17**

Sunnah (optional)

2 before the Fard

2 & 2 (2 & 4) before & after Fard

0

2 after Fard

2 after FARD

2 **Duha**

3 **Witr**

13-15

Ten Raka' Sunnah Muakkada optional prayers

Ibn Omar (May Allah be pleased with them both) said: **I learned from the Prophet (PBUH) ten Raka't: Two before Zuhr (noon), and two after; and two after Maghrib (Sunset) in his home; and two after Eisha (night prayer) at his home; and two before Fajr (Dawn prayer); at that hour no one was allowed to enter and see the Prophet (PBUH)**

Bokhari (Kitab At-Tahajjud) 1180

Night prayers in Ramadan

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to pray 8 Raka' after Eisha'a (night prayer), followed by 3 Raka' Witr.

At the time of Omar, **Obai** used to lead the Muslims in prayer in Ramadan and prayed 20 Raka' followed by 3 Raka' Witr.

The night prayers in Ramadan are only optional, not obligatory, meaning that one praying these optional prayers is rewarded, but one not praying them is not punished.

Greater reward for praying in congregation

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The Prayer of a man in congregation is twenty five times higher in degree than his prayer alone at home or his place of work; because if one of you does his ablution and does it well, then comes to the mosque with no intention except to pray, then every step that he takes Allah raises him a degree, and removes from him a sin, till he enters the mosque; when he is inside the mosque he is considered to be praying as long as he is waiting for the prayer, and the angels pray on his behalf as long as he stays in his place that he prays in, saying: “O Allah forgive him, O Allah have mercy on him, O Allah accept his repentance”, as long as he does not harm others or negate his ablution)

Ahmad, Bokhari, Muslim Abou Dawood & Ibn Majja

Dawn and Night and sunset prayers in the mosque are very valuable

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(If people only knew what (value) is in night and Dawn prayer they would come even if they had to walk on their knees)

Ibn Majjah

(If people only knew what (value) is in responding to the call to prayer and in being in the first row, then the only way is to compete they would compete in it; and if they knew what (value) is in coming early they would compete among each other; and if they only knew what is in prayer by darkness and at Dawn, they would come even walking on their knees)

Malik, Ahmad, Bokhari, Muslim & Nesa'ee

Only the Arabic Qur'an is accepted in prayer, and Al-Fatiha must be recited in every Raka'

Since Muslims pray five times each day of their lives it is not difficult to remember few verses of the Qur'an, especially Al-Fatiha (Opening chapter of the Qur'an).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us that those who find difficulty in reciting the Arabic Qur'an will be rewarded double for their effort.

Muslims can pray anywhere except cemeteries or dirty places

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(I was given five things, no prophet before me was given these things: I was given victory by throwing fear (in my enemies), the distance of one month; the earth is made for me as pure and as a place to pray in, Therefore any man from my nation who should pray let him pray; and spoils of war were allowed for me; and the prophet used to be sent especially to his people, and I was sent to all mankind; and I was given the power of intercession)

Muslim, Termedhi, Bayhaqi & Tabarani

Prayers atone for our sins

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Do you see if there is a river by your doorstep and you wash in it each day five times, will any dirt remain after that?) They said: No, no dirt will remain. He said: (this is the example of the five daily prayers, with it Allah atone the sins)

Bokhari (Kitab As-Salat) no. 528

There is no atonement for a missed prayer except prayer

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Whoever forgets a prayer let him pray when he remembers it; there is no atonement for it except that) Then he recited: “And establish regular prayer for My remembrance” Ta Ha 20: 14

Bokhari & Muslim

(Whoever forgets a prayer or misses it because he was asleep its atonement is to pray that prayer when he remembers it)

Muslim

The reward of those who wait for prayer in the mosque

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The Angels pray on behalf one of you as long as he is in his place of prayer, as long as he does not cancel his ablution, saying: “O Allah forgive him, O Allah have mercy on him. One of you is in prayer as long as the prayer prevents him from leaving, nothing is preventing him from returning to his family except the prayer)

Bokhari (Bab-As-Salat, no 659).

(One of the seven shaded and protected by Allah on the Day of Judgment, is a man whose heart is preoccupied with the mosques)

Bokhari (Bab-As-Salat, no 660)

The person leading the prayer should be the one who knows the Qur'an the best

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The person who should lead them in prayer is the person who knows the Book of Allah better than others)

Bokhari (Bab-As-Salat)

Two times that prayer is disliked

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) related that the **Prophet (PBUH) did forbid praying after Dawn prayer till the sun rises, and after Asr till it sets (Bokhari & Muslim)**

Similar Hadeeth in Bokhari & Muslim after Abi Sa'eed Al-Khudry.

In Muslim: No prayer after the Dawn prayer till the sun rises

The Imam should not prolong his prayer when leading others

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(There are among you those who make people hate to pray with them; if any one of you is leading others in prayer let him shorten his prayer, for among them are those who are weak, and the elderly and the person who is pressed and worried about something)

Bokhari (Bab As-Salat, no 702)

In another narration (If one of you is praying alone by himself, he can prolong the prayer as long as he wishes)

Bokhari (Bab-As-Salat, no 703)

(I stand up in prayer intending to prolong my prayer, but I hear the cry of the boy, then I shorten my prayer fearful that otherwise I make it difficult on his mother) Bokhari (Bab As-Salat, no 707 & 709)

Keep your lines straight

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Keep your lines straight, because keeping the line straight is part of establishing regular prayer)

Bokhari (Bab As-Salat, no 723)

(The Imam is made so that you follow him, therefore do not do things different from what he is doing; when he bows down you bow down; when he says: “Allah hears the one who praises him”, say: “Our Lord all praise is due to You”; when he prostrates, you too prostrate; if he prays sitting down, you pray sitting down all; and establish the straight line in prayer, because the straight line is part of establishing regular prayer)

Bokhari (Bab As-Salat, no 722)

The benefits of the Qur'an

- 1-The Qur'an is a cure for the ills in our hearts
- 2-The Qur'an is a mercy from Allah
- 3-The Qur'an is a guidance
- 4-The Qur'an is a criterion that distinguishes right from wrong
- 5-The Qur'an reminds us of our accountability
- 6-The Qur'an intercedes on our behalf

The Qur'an is a cure for the ills in our hearts

“We sent down of this Qur'an that which is a cure (for the ills of the hearts) and a mercy to the believers; but to those who are wrongdoers it adds nothing but loss after loss”

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 82

The Qur'an cures our greed, arrogance, restlessness, ignorance and despair, and gives us hope, faith, patience, humility and contentment.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Applied the Qur'an in his character & behavior and serves as an example for us

The Qur'an is a mercy from Allah

The Qur'an explains our duties in serving Allah and our accountability to Him.

The Qur'an explains our goals in life

The Qur'an gives us principles and guidelines that govern our character & behavior

The Qur'an tells us what we should avoid and not do, because it is wrong and forbidden; and what we should do and excel in.

If we did not have the Qur'an we would be lost

The Qur'an is a mercy from Allah

“We send down of the Qur'an that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe; to the unjust it causes nothing but loss after loss”

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 82

The Qur'an is a guidance from Allah

“Say: “To the believers it is a guidance and a cure; as to those who do not believe they have deafness in their ears, and they are blind as to the Qur'an”

Fusselat (Explained in detail) 41: 44

“Indeed this Qur'an guides to that which is most right, and gives the glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a magnificent reward”

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 9

The Qur'an is an admonition and reminder

“O mankind there has come to you an admonition from your Lord and a healing for the illnesses in your hearts, and for those who believe a guidance and a mercy”

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 57

“So admonish with the Qur'an such as fear My warning”

Q' af 50: 45

The Qur'an is a criterion that distinguishes right from wrong

“Blessed is He Who sent down the Criterion to His servant, that it may be an admonition to all creatures”

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 1

A criterion that distinguishes right from wrong

The Qur'an reminds us of our accountability to Allah

“And fear the day when you shall be brought back to Allah, then shall every soul be paid what it earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 281

“Allah has revealed the most beautiful message in the form of a book, consistent with itself, yet repeating its teachings in various aspects; the skin of those who fear their Lord tremble thereat; then their skins and their hearts soften to the celebration of Allah’s praises. Such is the guidance of Allah. He guides therewith whom He pleases, but such as Allah leaves astray can have none to guide”

Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39: 23

The Qur'an intercedes on our behalf on the Day of Judgment

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Fasting and the Qur'an intercede on behalf God's servant on the Day of Judgment: Fasting will say: "My Lord I prevented him from his food and desires during the day, allow me to intercede on his behalf"; and the Qur'an will say: "My Lord I prevented him from sleeping at night, allow me to intercede on his behalf"; and both will be allowed to intercede)

Termedi & Ahmad

(Read the Qur'an for it comes on the Day of Judgment interceding on behalf those who knew it. Read the two roses: Al-Baqara & Al-Imran, for they come on the Day of Judgment as two clouds, covering and protecting, and pleading on behalf those who knew it and used it)

Muslim

Our obligations toward the Qur'an

1- To **read** it as frequently as we can, with concentration & humility and devotion

2-To **understand** its message

3-To **apply** its teachings in our character & behavior

4-To **teach** it to others

Read the Qur'an slowly and with concentration

“Move not your tongue concerning the Qur'an to make haste therewith. It is for Us to collect it and promulgate it. But when We have promulgated it follow its recital, it is for Us to explain it and make it clear”

Al-Qiama (Resurrection) 75: 16-19

“It is a Qur'an which We have divided (into parts from time to time), in order that you might recite to people at intervals and We have revealed it by stages”

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 106

The best among you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it to others

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The best among you is he who learns the Qur'an and teaches the Qur'an to others)

Narrated by Othman in Bokhari 5027

Those who are preoccupied with the Qur'an will get the best reward from Allah

Abou Sa'eed Al-Khudri related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) said:

(Whoever is preoccupied with the Qur'an that he does not ask Me, I will give him better than I give those who ask Me; the distinction of the words of Allah over other words is similar to the status of Allah over His creation)

Termedhi

Those who excel in the Qur'an and have memorized the Qur'an are with the angels

Aesha related that the Prophet (PBUH) said:

(The person who reads the Qur'an and have memorized it is with the angels honorable and righteous; and the one who reads the Qur'an and does his best but it is difficult on him he has two rewards)

Bokhari 4937

We should read the Qur'an often lest we forget its verses if we neglect it

Ibn Omar related that the messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

(The example of the person who knows the Qur'an is that of the person who has camels that are tied; if he takes care of them he will be able to keep them, but if he let them get loose it will run and disappear)

Bokhari 5031

(If the person who knows the Qur'an recites the Qur'an by night or by day he will remember it; but if he neglects it he will forget it)

Muslim

(It is bad for one of you to say: "I forgot this verse and this verse, but he was made to forget; study the Qur'an, for it is easy to forget and likely to disappear from the hearts of men than the camels)

Bokhari 5032

**The Qur'an is easy to remember if we study it,
but easy to forget if we neglect it**

“We have made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember: is there anyone that will receive admonition?”

Al-Qamar (The Moon) 54: 22

“And the messenger will say: “O my Lord truly my people treated this Qur'an with neglect”

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 30

The Qur'an controls previous divine revelations

“To you We sent the Book in truth, confirming the Book that came before it, and guarding it in safety; so judge between them by what Allah has revealed to you, and follow not their vain desires diverging from the truth that has come to you”

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 48

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said: **(The Qur'an controls and safeguards all books before it)** Narrated by Bokhari

“We have without doubt sent down this message, and We will assuredly guard it”

Al-Hijr (Rocky tracts) 15: 9

The Qur'an controls previous divine revelations

- *The divinity of Jesus Christ and the Trinity are rejected in the Qur'an, as it explains that Jesus is only human, and there is only One God
- *God is the God of all the people, not a special God for the Jews. He knows what He is doing and does not regret His actions. He punishes those who do wrong, but is kind, forgiving and merciful
- *God's prophets & messengers do not commit major sins and serve as examples in their noble character and righteous behavior

Last verses of the Qur'an revealed shortly before the Prophet's death

"When comes the help of Allah and victory"

An-Nasr (Victory) 110: 1

"This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favors upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion"

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 3

"They ask you for a legal decision, say: "Allah directs you about those who have no descendants or ascendants as heirs"

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 176

"Now has come to you a messenger from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that you should suffer, ardently anxious is he over you; to the believers he is most kind and most merciful"

At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 128 (35 days before the prophet's death)

"And fear the day when you shall be brought back to Allah, then shall every soul be paid what it earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly"

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 281 (21 days before the prophet's death)

The Qur'an was completed before Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) died

Jebreel (the angel Gabriel) used to come in Ramadan and teach the prophet (PBUH) the Qur'an every night. In the last year before his death Jibreel came twice, and the Prophet knew that he was about to die.

The Qur'an was written on pal-leaves and stones and cloth, as well as memorized in the heart of men. There were scribes who wrote verses of the Qur'an, and there were those companions of the Prophet (PBUH) who memorized the Qur'an in his lifetime. So **the Qur'an was safeguarded in written and oral forms. God promised to safeguard the Qur'an from alteration**, in contrast to the Torah which was entrusted to the Rabbis

The Qur'an was collected from its sources twice after the Prophet's death

Once in the reign of **Abou Bakr**, because many of those who memorized the Qur'an were killed in the battle of **Yamama**, so Omar advised Abou Bakr to collect the Qur'an from both its written and oral sources and write it down. **Zaid Bin Thabit** did that. (Bokhari 4986)

The second time was in the reign of **Othman** because people differed in the way they recited the Qur'an. The Qur'an was therefore written in the **language of Quraish** and copies of this Qur'an were sent to all regions (Bokhari 4987)

The Qur'an came down gradually over 23 years

“Those who reject faith say: “Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once?” Thus it was revealed, that We may strengthen your heart thereby, and We have rehearsed it to you in slow well-arranged stages gradually. And no question do they bring to you but We reveal to you the truth and best explanation”

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 32 & 33

*It would have been impossible for the Prophet and his companions to recite, understand, apply or teach the Qur'an if it came all at once

*The Qur'an came down gradually to answer questions and solve problems that faced the Muslims

*The Qur'an came gradually to give hope and strengthen the heart of the prophet as he faced difficulty and challenges

The Qur'an came down gradually

Aesha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: **The first thing revealed of the Qur'an was a Surat (chapter) that mentioned heaven and hell, till people began to accept Islam then came down what is lawful and what is unlawful. If the first thing revealed was: do not drink alcohol, they would have said: "We will never leave alcohol ever", and if it came down: do not commit adultery, they would have said: "We will never leave Zena (adultery)**

Bokhari 4493

The prohibition of alcohol passed through four stages: There is some good and some evil in alcohol; The evil is more than the good; do not pray when intoxicated; then final prohibition in chapter 5, verse 90 & 91

Jebreel taught Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the Qur'an, and the Prophet (PBUH) taught his companions their Islam

“Indeed it is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds, with it came down the spirit of faith and truth to your heart and mind, that you may admonish in the clear Arabic tongue”

Ash-Shura'a (The Poets) 26: 192 & 193

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said: (The Prophet (PBUH) was the most generous among mankind in goodness, and he was most generous during the month of Ramadan, because Jibreel used to meet him every night in the month of Ramadan till it ends. The messenger of Allah (PBUH) would recite the Qur'an to him; When Jibreel met the Prophet, the Prophet was most generous in ways of goodness than the blowing wind that brings rain)

Bokhari 4997

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Pray as you see me pray)

(Take your rites after me)

Bokhari