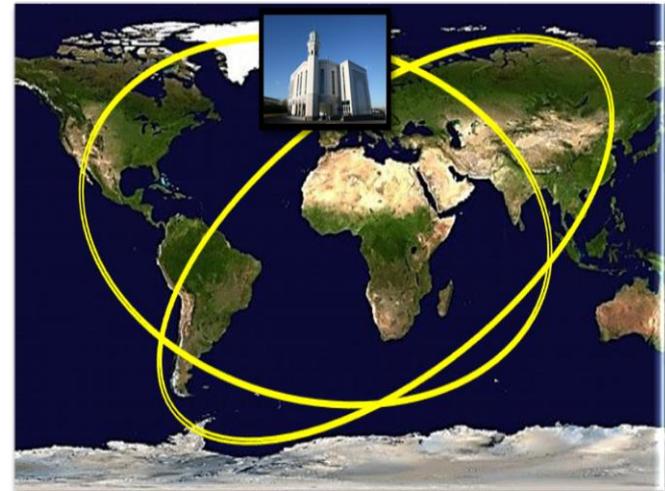


The Virtues of Congregational Salat



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
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Muslim Community**



**relayed live all across the
globe**

January 20th 2017

Summary

The Virtues of Congregational Salat

Huzoor ABA explained in light of the Promise Messiah (As) writings the importance of prayers, the proper method of offering prayer and its philosophy

Congregational prayers are obligatory on every able Muslim man. But people do not pay attention towards it and weakness in this matter is of grave concern.

Pakistan's every Ahmadi should pay attention towards Salat. Accomplishments can not be achieved through complacency and carelessness.

Regularity in Salat is essential. Persist in salat with humility, After this the pleasure in Salat is permanently achieved

We can only be rescued from today's calamities and catastrophes by fulfilling our obligation to submit to Allah

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Importance of Salat

Importance of Salat

According to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Salat is the essence of prayers. Abandoning Salat makes a man closer to disbelief and idolatry.

Congregational salat

He said, “On the day of Judgement, a person will be held accountable for Salat before everything else. If the measure (of Salat) is correct, then it means the person is successful and has been salvaged otherwise he will fail.”

Cause of Concern

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that children must be advised to offer Salat when they reach the age of 7. And at the age of 10, some strictness could also be applied to make them consistent in Salat.

The Promised Messiah (AS)

However, if parents themselves are not punctual in Salat then how can they expect their children to do so.

A Refuge

Parents show their concern to fulfil their own and their children's worldly desires and successes, but they do not pay heed to the matter of real concern.

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Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says

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“if there was a river at a person’s door and he took a bath in it five times a day, can you believe that any dirt would be left on his body.” His companions replied, “O Prophet of God, not a trace of dirt would be left.” At this, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, “That is the parable of the five prayers by which Allah removes sins and eliminates weaknesses.”

It means that not a trace of dirt is left on the soul of a person who offers five daily prayers. Thus, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) explained the importance of prayers with such a beautiful parable.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) further stated that a person who performed ablution at home, and then he set off heading to the mosque so that he could offer obligatory prayers he would be rewarded according to the number of steps he has to take to reach the mosque. One step will remove one of his sins, the next will elevate his (spiritual) status. This means that every step will gain him rewards.

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Importance of congregational prayers

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**The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)**

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The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, “shall I not tell you something with which Allah Almighty removes sins and elevates (spiritual) status.” The companions (RA) who were ever ready to finding ways to please Allah, and to achieve His nearness and be detached from their sins, implored, “O Prophet of God, do tell.” The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, “by performing ablution properly despite not feeling up for it, and by setting off for the mosque from afar and by waiting for the next Salat after offering one.” This keeps a person detached from sins. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, “Not only that, but this is kind of a frontier.”

Why are frontiers established? So that the country can be protected. And that the country's forces are immediately available in case of confrontation. Thus the biggest threat to a believer's Satan is from worldly desires that Satan generates. In order to be protected from such attacks, the congregational prayers serve as a frontier. It is a battalion of guardians that will protect from such attacks.

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The Promised Messiah (pbuh) says

“The rationale behind putting more reward in congregational prayers is that it creates unity. The instructions to practically implement unity are so particular that even the feet are required to be aligned.” This means that while offering prayers in rows, feet should also be brought into line, for which heels must be aligned. He further says, “and the rows must be straight, and (worshippers) should be standing connected to each other. It means that they must act like one being.” By standing in rows, they will turn into one being, meaning there will be a dynamism in them.

“So that one’s illuminations can permeate into others. The disparity that gives birth to ego and selfishness, does not last (in such setting).” It means regardless of being rich or poor, everyone will be standing in one row. Some people are egocentric or have selfishness in their hearts which is rooted out with congregational prayers. He said, “bear this in mind that human being have the capacity to absorb another person’s spiritual enlightenment.”

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Messiah
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Congregational prayer and the community

One may be achieve a higher status of spirituality, through congregational prayers. Therefore, to accept the influence of piety, congregational prayers are essential.

With congregational prayers, on one hand, the unity is expressed that Allah wishes to create among His Community and on the other hand people get influenced by each other's good deeds. The company of more pious and spiritually advanced people enhances the weak ones.

Consequently, the weak ones will also excel in performing good deeds and will advance spiritually. When this unity is emerged and when spirituality advances, then the satanic forces are weakened and diminished

Obligations of an Ahmadi

Importance
of Salat

No doubt that prayers are obligatory on all true believers and they themselves are responsible for it,

...but we also have an established system in Jama'at.

Congregational salat

The Jama'at organization should also keep reminding people about congregational prayers.

I keep drawing attention of the Jama'at towards this subject in my sermons

Cause of
Concern

**The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)**

A Refuge

This is the responsibility of missionaries and the organization to disseminate my instructions to draw people's attention towards it.

In reality, we will only be able to fulfill the duty of being an Ahmadi when we start achieving spiritual pleasure and delight from our prayers.

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The Promised Messiah (AS) says

Importance
of Salat

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onal salat

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The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)

A Refuge

“I notice that when an addict and alcoholic doesn’t get intoxicated, he keeps on drinking. So much so that he gets drunk. A wise and shrewd person can take advantage from this example. He can do so by being steadfast and punctual in prayers and by never abandoning them. He should keep offering prayers, until he attains pleasure. “Just like this, the mind and all physical power are inclined towards achieving pleasure in Salat.” This requires a stronger will power. Only then consistency can be achieved.

“...Then with sincerity and passion, at least to the extent of the restlessness and pain of that alcoholic, a person indulging in prayers will definitely attain pleasure. After this there will be constant pain and anxiety, aching and restlessness to achieve pleasure in prayers.” While praying if that person expresses his pain before Allah, then Promised Messiah (pbuh) says, “he will definitely achieve that pleasure.” So the effort of attaining pleasure in Salat with determination, can at last soften the heart and gives pleasure.

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The Promised Messiah (AS) says

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The
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Messiah
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“Allah Almighty says that Salat keeps a person away from evil deeds.” Despite that we notice and some questions are raised that people still engage in foul behavior even though they offer prayers.

“According to the Promised Messiah (pbuh), the answer to this is, “they don’t offer prayers with spirit and truthfulness. Instead, they just perform physical actions as a custom or as a habit.” So we should always remember that since Allah says that prayers save us from foul deeds then it must be true. Allah’s word can not be false.

Those who still do evil deeds despite offering prayers, their prayers are superficial, they do not understand the spirit of prayers. Thus this is an extremely concerning issue. Each one of us should self-reflect our (spiritual) conditions

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If we achieve pleasure and delight from our prayers, or we are set to achieve it with full conviction then how is it possible that any one of us is not punctual in prayers.

Everyone gets a taste of this pleasure once in a while and it must have happened to all of us

When people go through hardships and adversities, we see that they cry and sob in their prayers. Even while carrying out their daily tasks they consistently engaged in prayers.

But when their desires are fulfilled and they are out of woods then there are many who become less-committed to their prayers

we should always and with utmost effort keep this target before us that regardless of the situation, in hardships or prosperity, we should keep trying for such pleasure and delight in prayers that can make us intoxicated

A report from MKA Pakistan

Importance
of Salat

It is a matter of grave concern that the report says that those who pray in congregation are only 1/3rd than those who listen to the Friday sermon. Similarly, those who offer prayers regularly are also far less than those who listen to the Friday sermon.

Every few weeks I discuss offering of Salat and importance of offering congregational prayers in my sermons. If there is no impact of these sermons, then there is no use of mere statistics.

Congregati
onal salat

Cause of
Concern

Even after such adverse condition of Ahmadis in Pakistan, if their attention is not drawn towards God, then when will it happen. Do we want to test Allah (God forbid)? That we will stay the same and its God's responsibility to resolve our situation.

**The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)**

A Refuge

To achieve success, there is a need to shape oneself according to Allah's commandments.

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Pakisatn's Ahmadis

Importance
of Salat

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Cause of
Concern

**The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)**

A Refuge

In Pakistan, Animosity and antagonism against Ahmadis is being openly expressed. Also, generally speaking, oppression has crossed its limits. In Pakistan, Ahmadis should not only offer Salat that achieves them pleasure and delight but they should try to populate their mosques as well.

Pakistan's every Ahmadi should pay attention towards it.

Accomplishments can not be achieved through complacency and carelessness.

Accomplishments will be achieved by alert and vigilant guards (like swift horses) on frontiers.

Accomplishments will be achieved by establishing frontiers on the borders.

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Congregational prayer and the community

Importance of
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Concern

The Promised
Messiah (AS)

A Refuge

There are
weakness in
offering
congregational
prayers.

Sometimes the
reason is that
organization of
Jama'at is not
drawing their
attention towards
this matter.

Then, not everyone
listens to my
sermons.

The very reason
behind establishing
a system is to give
attention to moral
training

If we have such
worshippers who
say prayers full of
pleasure and
delight, then
financial system will
be improved by
itself. As standard
of righteousness
rises, issues
involving Internal
Affairs and Qaza
will be resolved to a
great extent.

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Refuge of Allah in a dangerous world

Importance
of Salat



These days, the world affairs are such that the danger of war and destruction are becoming more and more inevitable

Congregati
onal salat



In such a state, it is only the refuge of Allah Almighty that can save us.

Cause of
Concern



If you want to be saved from such calamities then as the Promised Messiah (As) said, we will have to fall in love with the God who is Master of All Affairs.

**The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)**



And there is only one way to show such love that we try to attain pleasure and delight by shaping our prayers according to His desires

A Refuge



We should bear in mind that agony is destined for those who forget God. Therefore, do not follow these people.

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2017

Refuge of Allah in a dangerous world

Importance
of Salat

Every Ahmadi man and woman should pay attention towards offering Salat and Ahmadi men should specifically pay attention to offering congregational prayers.

Congregati
onal salat

Cause of
Concern

In this day and age, Promise Messiah (AS) has explained in detail the importance of prayers, the method of saying prayer and its philosophy

**The
Promised
Messiah
(AS)**

A Refuge

However, despite believing in him we do not follow the fundamental commandments and are following the example of non-Ahmad Muslims who consider offering a couple of prayers to be sufficient. Then there is no use of this pledge of allegiance.

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The Promised Messiah (AS) explains what is Unity?

Importance of Salat

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The Promised Messiah (AS)

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“Bear this in mind and remember this again that to bow before anyone save Allah is akin to cutting ties with Listen, for the (acceptance of) prayer **“Pray unto Me; I will answer your prayer,”** (40:61) a truthful soul is required. If the soul is devoid of humility and humbleness, then saying such prayers are not less than parrot-fashion.”

The need is to produce the true spirit. Humility, humbleness and lowliness should be practiced. Allah Almighty accepts prayers done with humility.

Then the Promised Messiah (pbuh) explained that different positions of Salat such as standing, sitting, bending and prostrating, display restlessness. In restlessness, a person keeps changing positions such as standing, sitting and bending and prostrating and because of the outwardly display of restlessness, the heart should feel pain and anxiety. And when this anxiety is achieved in all positions then pleasure will also be attained while standing, sitting, bending and prostrating..

The Promised Messiah (AS) says

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The Promised
Messiah (AS)

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“When a person breaks ties with everyone except Allah by making an effort and by beseeching His blessings, then Allah descends His love upon him. And when such love of Allah Almighty descends upon a person then according to the Promised Messiah (as) his sins burn into ashes. After this the pleasure in Salat is permanently achieved. Thus, instead of complaining or thinking that our prayers do not give us pleasure, we need to try to establish this special relationship with God.

We need to analyze our conditions whether we are merely performing actions or are fulfilling the requisites of true Salat..

“Establishment of Salat and its punctuality are very important. So that it turns into an unbreakable habit and the thought of turning towards Allah becomes prevalent. After this the time gradually comes when a person inherits light and pleasure in complete isolation.”

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Salat and Laziness

Firstly the habit of Salat and making oneself regular in Salat is essential. Regardless of whether, the person finds them outwardly beneficial or not. But he still offers them because they are obligatory.

This habit is essential understanding that he has to turn to God only in one way or the other for every need.

If this determination prevails then a time will come when the rights of offering Salat will also be fulfilled and pleasure will also be achieved in Salat.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) once said, “laziness only occurs when a person does not know the importance of Salat and he gives more importance to someone other than Allah. If he has complete faith in Allah, then how is it possible that he displays laziness.”

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The Promised Messiah (pbuh) says

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The Promised
Messiah (AS)

A Refuge

To save yourself and your generations from adverse effects of current events unfolding in the world today, it is of utmost importance to bow before God with ultimate sincerity.

The best way of bowing is taught by Allah and his Prophet (peace be upon him) and in this age the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) that we pay attention towards establishing and safeguarding our Salat.

Promised Messiah (peace be on him) says: “bear in mind that by entering in this community, worldly desires should not be your objective. Instead, **Allah’s pleasure should be your objective.** Because this world is a place to pass through and we will all pass through one by one... According to a Persian saying, night is bound to pass whether it is cold or hot.” .

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“Keep the worldly desires completely separate. Do not mingle them with religion. Because this world is mortal and religion and its fruits are eternal. **The worldly life is very short.** Who knows for how long we will live. When we do not know when death will overtake us, it is a grave error to stay unmindful of God. A person who will be anxious about the hereafter, Allah Almighty will help him in this world

Allah Almighty has promised that when a person becomes a real believer, He differentiates between him and others.

Be punctual in prayers and stayed engaged in feeling remorse for your actions and seeking forgiveness from Allah. Defend the rights of human race. And do not cause harm to anyone. Advance in truthfulness and purity. Then Allah Almighty will bless you in every way. Advise your women at home as well that they are punctual in prayers and stop them from malice, complaints and backbiting. Teach them purity and truthfulness. **I can only advise you, it is now incumbent upon you to act upon it.”**

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The Promised Messiah (AS) says

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A Refuge

“Pray in your daily prayers five times a day. It is not forbidden to pray for your needs in your own language. Salat cannot be pleasurable unless there is special attentiveness in it. And the special attentiveness of heart is not achieved until there is **humility**. Humility is achieved when a person understands what he says. Therefore passion and humility can be created by imploring in your own language.

.. After the conventional prayers) and supplications (of Quran and Prophet Muhammad's, **do pray in your own language** too. Allah has kept a special blessings in the traditional words of Salat. Salat is another name of prayers. Therefore, pray in Salat that He may save you from the calamities of this world and of the hereafter and your end is blessed and all your tasks are accomplished according to His desires. Pray for your wives and children too. Become a pious person and keep away from all sorts of evils.”

Importance of
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The Promised
Messiah (AS)

A Refuge

- *May Allah enable us to protect our Salat.*
- *May He enable us to be punctual in Salat.*
- *May Allah enable us to offer our Salat with utmost sincerity in order to achieve Allah's pleasure.*
- *May Allah creates pleasure and delight in our Salat.*
- *May we never show sluggishness in our prayers.*
- *May we understand the truth that we can only be salvaged from today's calamities and catastrophes when we are able to fulfil the obligation of submitting to Allah.*
 - *May Allah enable us to do so*