

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Jumada II/Rajab 1445

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Why Pray?

People pray in many different ways and for many different reasons. Some pray only when they have problems:

Bad Weather Friends

If you are afflicted in the middle of the sea, you forget your idols and sincerely implore Him alone. But as soon as He saves you to the shore, you revert. Indeed, the human being is unappreciative. (17:67)

And some pray only when things go their way:

Fair Weather Friends

Among the people there is the one who worships GOD conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity befalls him, he makes an about-face. Thus, he loses both this life and the Hereafter. Such is the real loss. (22:11)

Others pray when things go well, out of thanksgiving to our Creator:

We responded to him [Zachariah] and granted him John; we fixed his wife for him. That is because they used to hasten to work righteous-

ness, and implored us in situations of joy, as well as fear. To us, they were reverent. (21:90)

For me, prayer provides a way of expressing the love I have for God. It also gives a way for my soul to connect with our awesome King and Master. But perhaps the most important reason I pray comes from the fact that my soul yearns to do so!

The Quran tells us God's own hands created us out of earthly material. He then blew into us from His spirit:

He is the One who perfected everything He created, and started the creation of the human from clay. Then He continued his reproduction through a certain lowly liquid. He shaped him and blew into him from His spirit.... (The Quran 32:7-9)

To me this indicates that a tiny part of His sacred breath forms our souls. Thus, those souls yearn to reunite with their Creator, who also created our bodies (as the above verses show).

As I understand it, *Salat* allows our souls direct contact with God. So, by praying we nourish our souls and allow them to grow.

If we continue to pray throughout our lives and obey the other forms of worship, our souls can grow enough to withstand and enjoy God's awesome energy. As Submitters we know we must also bear witness to God that there is *no* other god, give charity, fast during the month of Ramadan if we are physically able to, and make the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca when and if we can afford it.

Because we pray the Contact Prayers, *Salat*, five times a day it especially nourishes our souls. When I perform the *Salat*, I feel its blessed words flowing over me like water flowing on parched earth. And just as the water softens soil and allows it to germinate the seeds of many beautiful plants, the *Salat* prayers soften my heart, filling it with the joy and awe of a direct contact with my Merciful Master and Creator.

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GOD's Inclination towards Mercy

One blessed day after meditation on GOD, I was inspired, "I want you to know that you did nothing out of your own, you are a by-product of My inclination towards mercy." MāshāAllāh, what a merciful GOD.

It's humbling to know that our creator redeems us out of His inclination towards mercy. That for no other reason than His Mercifulness are we still here, MāshāAllāh!

Repentance: Cleaning the Slate

[9:11] If they repent and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), then they are your brethren in religion. We thus explain the revelations for people who know.

[2:160] As for those who repent, reform, and proclaim, I redeem them. I am the Redeemer, Most Merciful.

[11:61] To Thamūd we sent their brother Sāleh. He said, "O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god beside Him. He initiated you from the earth, then settled you in it. You shall seek His forgiveness, then repent to Him. My Lord is always near, responsive."

So why should we not worship and strive in the cause of the Most Merciful and ask His forgiveness every day and night to make it back? What could be more important, since the GOAL of our third and final chance is to be redeemed.

[7:102] We found that most of them disregard their covenant; we found most of them wicked.*

**7:102 This life is our last chance to redeem ourselves, but most people are

proven to be stubbornly rebellious and evil (see the INTRODUCTION).

Among the gifts from the Most Merciful to help us make it back is meditation—an important form of worship. [39:9] Is it not better to be one of those who meditate in the night, prostrating and staying up, being aware of the Hereafter, and seeking the mercy of their Lord? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only those who possess intelligence will take heed.

May GOD keep guiding us on the right path, inshaAllah.

Abeer

HOARDING

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ISSN 1089-053X

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[73:4] ... And read the Quran from cover to cover.

[96:1] Read, in the name of your Lord, who created.

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Translated from the Original by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D.