



All praises are due to **Allah** the **Lord** of all the worlds, who accepts from **His** slaves deeds that are intended sincerely for **His** sake. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except **Allah** the uniquely One, who has no partners in **His** one-ness. And I testify that the Prophet **Muhammad** is the slave of **Allah** and **His** Messenger.

O Servants of **Allah**! As to what follows, I urge you and myself, to be aware that you are asked to obey **Allah** the Most Exalted in line with **His** orders. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Al-Anaam**:

“And to establish prayer and fear Him. And it is He to whom you will be gathered.” (S.6 V.72)

That is to say: the worshiper is speaking to his/her **Lord** by remembering **Him** and reciting **His** holy words, reflecting upon **His** Supreme status and adhering to the orders. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Taha**:

“...And establish prayer for My remembrance.” (S.20 V.14)

This means, to celebrate my remembrance in your prayers. So, the worshiper begins the prayer with **Takbir** (saying **Allah** is the Most Great). Thus, the worshiper begins their prayer saying: **Allahu Akbar**, acknowledging that **Allah** the Almighty is greater, more exalted and higher than anything else that can come to mind, and being in **His** presence is greater than this world and all that which is there in it. After **Takbir**, the worshiper recites **Surat Al-Fatiha**, humbly addressing their **Lord**. So, they praise **Him** and glorify **Him**, seeking **His** mercy and hoping for **His** guidance. In return, **Allah**, the Most Exalted, responds to their prayers, grant them what they have asked for and forgive them. On this account, **the Prophet SAW said**, **“If he stands to pray and praises Allah, lauds Him and glorifies Him as He deserved and shows wholehearted devotion to Him, his sins would depart leaving him (as innocent) as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him.”** Following the **Fatiha**, the believer recites verses from the holy **Qur'an**, contemplating on their meanings, following in this the commandments of **Allah** the Almighty.

O Servants of **Allah**! During bowing, the worshiper declares such glorification in words, glorifying their **Lord** and testifying **His** greatness and supremacy. So, they say, **“Subhana Rabi Al Adheem** (Glorious is my **Lord** the Magnificent),” repeating the phrase three times so that its meaning should settle in their heart. As the worshiper raises his head from bowing, they say, **“Allah** hears him who sends his praises to **Him**.” This means, **Allah** hears the praises of **His** servants and responds to their prayers. During prayer, the worshiper prostrates before his **Lord**, humbly submissive to and glorifying **Him**, saying, **“Subhana Rabi Al Aala** (Glorious is my **Lord** the Most High).” Saying these words is conducive to draw the worshiper nearer to their **Lord**. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Al-Alaq**:

“...But prostrate and draw near [to Allah].” (S.96 V.19)

On the same matter, **the Messenger of Allah SAW said**, **“The nearest the servant comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating himself (during prayer), so increase in supplication (in this state).”** Furthermore, while sitting for **Tashahhud** (testimony of faith) during prayer, the believer should praise **Allah** the Most Exalted and Sublime with the best of compliments, and call upon **Him** with sincere and fully devoted prayers. One should also invoke peace and blessings of **Allah** upon prophet **Muhammad SAW** and all of the righteous servants of **Allah**, and then ask their **Lord** to grant them whatever they wish. In this context, amongst the supplications that are recommended in the **Sunna** to be said after **Tashahhud** is the following: **“O Allah!** Please forgive my past and future sins and those sins which I did in secret or in public, and what I have transgressed the limit in, and what **You** know about me more than I do. **You** are **the One** who makes (some people) forward and (some) backward. There is none to be worshipped but **You**.” Concluding the prayer, the worshiper recites the **Salam** after they have filled their prayer with humble submission to **Allah** the Almighty, contemplation on the words of **His** holy Book and calling upon **Him** privately. As such, a feeling of tranquillity and happiness fill their heart because by the time they have completed their prayer, they become as clean of sins as they were on the day they were born. Please know that prayer is a great pillar of **Islam**, one that **Allah** the Almighty has enjoined upon us to observe regularly on its prescribed time. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah An-Nisaa**:

“...Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times.” (S.4 V.103)

The Messenger of Allah SAW said, **“Allah, the Most Exalted, has made five prayers obligatory. If anyone performs ablution for them well, offers them at their (prescribed) time, and observes perfectly their bowing and submissiveness in them, it is the guarantee of Allah that He will pardon him (his misdeeds).”** We are all urged, therefore, elders and youngsters, men and women, to maintain our prayers and offer them on their decreed time.

Friday Khutbah of Masjid Otsuka
August 12, 2022
Pray Well And Earn The Pleasure Of Allah



May the peace and the blessings of Allah be upon prophet Muhammad SAW, his family and all of his Companions. May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all those who will follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

- O Allah!** Guide us to the right path and accept all our worships
- O Allah!** Accept us for Your service and for the service of Islam and Muslims.
- O Allah!** Guide all the people in Japan and all over the world to Islam
- O Allah!** Grant safety and security in Japan and all over the world **Aamin ya Rabbil Aalamin**