

Kinds of Ṣalāh

1 Farḍ (compulsory) الْفَرَضُ

These are the Ṣalāh which a Muslim must perform. There are two types of Farḍ Ṣalāh:

- (i) Farḍ 'Ain فَرَضُ عَيْنٍ These Ṣalāh must be performed by every Muslim, e.g. the five daily Ṣalāh;
- (ii) Farḍ Kifāyah فَرَضُ كِفَايَةٍ These Ṣalāh do not have to be performed by every Muslim; if some members of the community do them, others will be excused from doing them, e.g. Ṣalātul Janāzah.

2 Wājib* (obligatory) الْوَاجِبُ

These are Ṣalāh which also have to be performed and they come next in importance to Farḍ, e.g. Ṣalātul 'Īd and Ṣalātul Witr.

3 Sunnah (recommended) السُّنَّةُ

These are Ṣalāh which Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ himself did or approved of. There are two types of Sunnah Ṣalāh:

- (i) Sunnah Mu'akkadah سُنَّةٌ مُؤَكَّدَةٌ The Ṣalāh which the Prophet ﷺ regularly performed;
- (ii) Sunnah Ghair Mu'akkadah سُنَّةٌ غَيْرُ مُؤَكَّدَةٌ The Ṣalāh which he ﷺ occasionally performed.

4 Nafl (optional) النَّفْلُ

These are Ṣalāh which you can do on your own initiative to come closer to Allāh.

* The followers Hanafi fiqh make a distinction between Farḍ and Wājib. Followers of other fiqh do not make this distinction.

Essentials of Ṣalāh فَرَائِضُ الصَّلَاةِ

The following actions are Farḍ (compulsory) in Ṣalāh:

- 1 Niyyah النِّيَّةُ
Having the correct intention for Ṣalāh.
- 2 Takbīratul Iḥrām تَكْبِيرَةُ الْإِحْرَامِ
Saying *Allāhu akbar* at the beginning of the Ṣalāh.
- 3 Qiyām الْقِيَامُ
Standing upright.
- 4 Qirā'ah الْقِرَاءَةُ
Reciting *Sūratul Fātiḥah*
- 5 Rukū' الرُّكُوعُ
Bowing so the back is horizontal, arms straight resting on the knees.
- 6 Sujūd السُّجُودُ
Prostrating with the palms of both hands, the forehead, the tip of the nose, the knees and the toes of both feet touching the ground; there must be enough space between the arms and the chest and the legs and the belly so that they do not touch each other but remain apart.
- 7 Qu'ūdul Akhīr الْقُعُودُ الْآخِرِ
Sitting in a kneeling position, the right foot upright on the toes and the left foot in a reclining position under the buttocks. This is done at the end of the last rak'ah of Ṣalāh.
- 8 Salām السَّلَامُ
Turning the head to the right saying *Assalāmu 'alaikum wa raḥmatullāh* and then to the left repeating *Assalāmu 'alaikum wa raḥmatullāh*. This means the completion of Ṣalāh.

Wājibatus Ṣalāh وَاجِبَاتُ الصَّلَاةِ

The actions listed below should also be done in our Ṣalāh. They are called Wājibatus Ṣalāh (necessary actions in Ṣalāh). They are next in importance to the eight Farḍ actions.

- 1 Reciting *Sūratul Fātiḥah* in every rak'ah of every Ṣalāh.
- 2 Reciting a small *Sūrah*, a long verse or three short verses in each rak'ah of