

Q-2.

Define meaning of prayers and its different categories. Also describe spiritual, moral and social impacts of Prayer?

Meaning of Salah

In literal term/sense, the word 'Salat' refers to dua / Prayer.

In terminology, it refers to the obligatory five daily Prayers. It is the second pillar of Islam and only worship obligated to be offered daily. It is obligated in the 10th years of Prophethood when the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was called upon the skies (Miraj). It is the first and only worship to be obligated in Makkah era.

Categories of prayer

Prayers is only worship that obligated five times a day.

Fajr — From dawn until just before Sunrise.

Zuhr — After mid day until afternoon

Asar — ^{From} Afternoon until just before sunset.

Maghrib — After sunset until the end of daylight.

Isha — From complete darkness until before dawn.

Between man and polytheism and unbelief is the abandonment of Salat.
(Muslim)

Impacts of 'Salah'

Day: _____

The importance of Prayer in Islam is great. It is the Second pillar of Islam. The word 'Salat' has been mentioned in Quran more than 60 times. It is the foremost duty of Muslims and chief pillar on which structure of Islam stands. It is the first thing that obligatory on Muslims and first deed which will be accounted for on the Day of Judgement.

"The first deed and man would be accounted for on the Day of Judgement is Salat. If it turn out good, all his other deed will also turn out good. If it turn out bad, all his other deed will also turn out bad."

(Tabrani) ۵

Prayers was made obligatory for all Muslims, whether they be rich or poor, Strong or weak, Black or white. Prayer allows the believer to enrich their spirituality and cultivate the Soul's right to love and worship the creator, Allah.

"Verily, I am Allah! There is none worthy of worship but I, So worship Me and offer prayer perfectly for My remembrance".

(Taha)

Moral and spiritual Impact

Spiritual Elevation:

Prayers are the source of getting close to Allah. It is a mean of talking to Allah (SWT). Hazrat Ali (R.A) says that when he wants Allah to talk to him, he recites the Quran, and when he wants to talk to Allah, he offers 'Salat'

"The nearest a Servant comes to his lord is when he is prostrating, so increase your prayers (in this state)"

(Muslim)

Cleansing from Sins:

Salat is the source of atonement of sins. Allah says in his noble Book.

"And establish salah. Indeed, salah prohibits immorality and wrongdoing, and the remembrance of Allah is greater."

(AL-Quran)

Connection between Allah and Man:

Prayers five times a day helps Muslims to constantly remember God and seek His forgiveness and pleasure. Prayers lift a person spiritually towards his or her creator and if it

is done with devotion and Sincerity, his or her heart will be filled with love and hope of paradise. Prayer enable believers to keep in constant touch with their creator, Allah.

A way to seek help from Allah:

"O you who believe! seek help through Patience and Salat."

(AL-Baqarah)

Prayers five times a day helps Muslims to constantly remember God and seek His forgiveness and pleasure and it make the man to keep steady in the face of temptation and pressure life.

Helps to stay away from Evil:

"Surely salat restrains one from shameful and evil Act"

(AL - Ankaboot)

The remembrance of Allah keep us away from sensual desires. To control lawful desires, the natural and straight way is to remember Allah, and to remember the punishment meant for sinners and to remember the rewards for those who follow the divine Commandments.

Makes one Punctual

"Prayer is enjoyed upon believers at stated time"

(AL-Nisa)

Punctuality is an important trait for an effective Islamic living. It paves the way for a peaceful and productive living and make you feel content and happy.

When asked our beloved prophet (PBUH) which act is best? He said: As 'Salat' at their fixed times, being dutiful to parents, stirring all which are vital traits of true believers.

Social Impacts of SalatStrengthens Social setup:

Salah increase social interaction among people. Muslims gathered in Masjid daily five times a day for prayer. These meetings give them a chance to stay connected with one another and Allah. It build our community and broadens our network with like minded individuals.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"Prayer in congregation is twenty-seven times superior to the prayer offered by a person individually."

(Hadith)

Instill Modesty

A Muslim has the right to kind treatment from his fellow Muslim. He should be greeted with smile and given a pleasant reception. Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) said,

"Do not view any good act as insignificant, even the act of meeting your brother with a cheerful face"

(Muslim)

Instill love and affection for other

Prayer promotes love and affection towards Muslims. Prayer cultivate love, strengthen interpersonal relationship and fulfilling of their duties to one another.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,

"None of you will attain (Perfect) faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself"

(Al-Bukhari)

Helps in Strengthen unity

Salah is prime examples of the Unity and the call of coming together in Islam, everyone rich-poor, young-old all ethnicities are enjoined to come to Salah and pray in congregation.

"Help one another in acts of Piety and righteousness. And do not assist each other in act of sinfulness. And be aware of Allah."

Verily, Allah is severe in punishment"

(AL-Maidah)

Salah Calms the Soul

Offering the five prayers engages us in a constant state of remembrance of Allah (SWT). This spiritual connection relieves our mind and body from the worldly stressors of life.

Conclusion

Salah is most primary and important obligation. Praying five times a day strengthens the foundation of faith. Prayer has significant impacts in our life. The main purpose of prayer is to connect with Allah and talk to him. It is also first deed and man would be accounted for on the Day of Judgement.