

Acts of Salah with Evidence & Witr Prayer Evidences

The Fardh Acts of Salah

1) التحريمه – The State of Salah That Makes Things Unlawful

Quran:

وَرَبِّكَ فَكَبِّرْ ۝ ٣

And revere your lord. (Surah Muddaththir: 3)

The word “كبر” in this phrase stands for the initial takbir that makes things unlawful in the state of salah.

Hadith:

Reported from Ali Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, the Prophet ﷺ said. “The key of the prayer is purification, the state that makes the things unlawful in prayer is takbir (saying the initial ‘Allahu Akbar’), and the state that makes things lawful (again) is salam (saying ‘As-Salamu Alaikum’) at the end of the prayer.” [Reported by Muslim]

Reported from Abu Hurayrah Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, the Prophet ﷺ said, “When you stand up for prayer (before that) make the ablution properly, then face the Qiblah (direction), then say ‘Allahu Akbar’” [Reported by Muslim]

2) القيام – Standing

Quran:

وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ ۝ ٢٣٨

And stand up for Allah with devotion. (Surah Baqarah: 238)

One must stand in the prayer as it is one of the obligatory parts of the prayer.

Hadith:

Reported from Imran bin Hussain Radiyallahu Anhu, the Prophet ﷺ said to him, “Pray by standing up. If you can’t, then (pray) by sitting down. If you can’t, then (pray) on your side.” [Reported by Bukhari, from the book of Jumu’ah]

3) القراءة – Recitation

Quran:

فَاقْرَأْوا مَا نَزَّلَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ

Recite what is easy from the Quran. (Surah Muzzammil: 20)

Every rakat within salah must have recitation from the Quran.

Hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ said, “No one’s prayers complete until he performs ablution perfectly as it should be done, then (after standing in prayer) he says ‘Allahu Akbar’ and praises Allah and recites whatever he wants from the Quran.” [Reported by Tabarani]

4&5) الركوع والسجود – Bowing Down and Prostration

Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا

Oh, you who have believed, bow down and prostrate (Surah Hajj: 77)

Bowing down and prostrating is another essential part of prayer.

Hadith:

Reported from Ibn Abbas Radiyallahu Anhuma, he said, the Prophet ﷺ said, “I have been commanded to prostrate on seven bones: on the forehead, two hands, two knees, and two sides of the feet.” [Reported by Bukhari]

6) القعدة الأخيرة قدر التشهد – Last Sitting As Much As Reciting Tashahhud is Complete

Hadith:

Reported from Abdullah bin Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu, he said that the Prophet ﷺ grabbed his hand and taught him Tashahhud. Then he said, "If you complete it, your prayer will be complete." [Reported by Abu Dawud]

The Wajib Acts of Salah

7) قراءة الفاتحة وضم سورة أو ثلاث آيات – Reciting Surah Fatihah and Adding a Surah or Three Verses:

Hadith:

Reported by Ubadah Bin Samit Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "I heard the Prophet ﷺ say: There is no prayer except reciting surah Fatihah and (at least) two verses from the Quran!" [From Nasbur Rayah]

8) تعديل الأركان – Calmness in Performing the Acts of Salah

Hadith:

Reported from Abu Qatadah Radiyallahu Anhu, he said the Prophet ﷺ said, "The worst person is the one who steals from his salah." They (the sahaba) said "How can he steal from his salah?" He replied, "He doesn't complete its bowing (ruku) and its prostration (sujood) and he neither brings him back to rest in ruku' now in sujood." (This is how a person steals from his salah.) [Reported by Ahmad]

9) تعيين الأوليين للقراءة – Specifying the First Two Rakats For Recitation

Hadith:

Reported from Abu Qatadah Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "Indeed, the Prophet ﷺ would recite Surah Fatihah and two surahs in the first two rakats of Dhuhr prayer and only Surah Fatihah in the last two rakats." [Reported by Bukhari]

10) تحليل الصلاة بلفظ السلام – Completing Salah with Saying Salam

Hadith:

Reported from Ibn Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu, the Prophet ﷺ would say "As-Salamu Alaikum" turning his face toward his right and left even the whiteness of his cheek would be seen. [Reported by Tirmidhi]

The Sunnah Acts of Salah

11) رفع اليدين عند تكبيرة الأحرام – Raising Hands During Takbir-e-Tahrimah

Hadith:

Reported from Wail Bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "I saw the Prophet ﷺ raise his hands up to his ears while opening the prayer" [Reported by Abu Dawud]

12) وضع اليدين تحت السرة – Placing the Hands Below the Naval

Hadith:

Reported from Wail Bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu, he said "I saw the Prophet ﷺ placing his right hand on his left hand below the naval in salah." [Reported by Ibn Abi Shaiban in in his Musannaf and this hadith is authentic]

Reported from Ibrahim Nakh'i, he said. "[A person] will place his right hand on his left hand below the naval in salah." [Reported by Ibn Abi Shaiban and chain of narration is good]

13) لا يرفع يديه إلا في تكبيرة الإفتتاح – No Raising Hands Except During Takbir-e-Tahrimah

Hadith:

Reported from Abdullah bin Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "How will it be that I will pray with you like the prayer of the Prophet ﷺ?" Then he prayed and didn't raise his hands except during the first takbir. [Reported by Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, Ahmad and the chain of narration is authentic]

Reported from Aswad, he said, “I saw Umar Bin Khattab Radiyallahu Anhu would raise his hands (in salah) during the first takbir then he wouldn’t repeat it.” [Reported by Tahawi]

Note: Imam Nemawi said in his “Athar-Us-Sunnah’ that raising hands in the prayer besides the Takbir-e-Tahrimah is not displayed from the prayer of the four great caliphs of Islam who were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali Radiyalla Anhu.

Reported from Kulaib Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, “Indeed, Ali Radiyallahu Anhu would raise his hands during the first takbir (Takbir-e-Tahrimah) of the prayer, then he wouldn’t raise them after that.” [Reported by Tahawi and the chain of narration is sound]

Reported from Abu Ishaq Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, “The companions of Abdullah bin Mas’ood and the companions of Ali Radiyallahu Anhu would not raise their hands except in the opening takbir of the prayer and then they wouldn’t repeat that.” [Reported by Ibn Abi Shaibah from his Musannaf and the chain of narration is sound]

Reported from Jabir bin Samurah Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ came to us and said, ‘Why do I see you raising your hands (in the prayer) like the tails of the head-strong/wild horses? Be calm in the prayer.’” [Reported by Muslim]

Note: Raising hands during salam is like raising hands done throughout the prayer so therefore it should be prohibited throughout the whole prayer if the Prophet ﷺ prohibited it in one part in order to remain calmness throughout the prayer.

The Prophet ﷺ said to be calm in the whole prayer so only applying this rule to salaam does not make sense as that is the end of the prayer.

Confusion: Wail Bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu reported that he saw the Prophet ﷺ raise his hands during ruku and prostration.

On the contrary Abdullah Bin Mas’ood Radiyallahu Anhu reported that the Prophet ﷺ wouldn’t raise his hands except during the opening takbir.

Clarification: Imam Abu Jafar Tahawi Rahimahullah narrated a hadith with chain of narrators that are good which was originally reported from Mughirah that he said, “I said to Ibrahim An-Nakh’i Radiyallahu Anhu that Wail Bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu saw the Prophet ﷺ raising his hands during the opening takbir during the ruku and during his raising head from the ruku.” He replied, “If Wail Bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu saw the

Prophet ﷺ doing this once then Abdullah bin Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu saw him not do this fifty times.”

14) The Place to See During Salah

Ibn Sirin (a great tabe'i) said that it is recommended not to move the sight of the eye beyond the prayer mat. [Reported from Fat-hul Bari]

15) How to go to Sajdah

Wail bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu reported, “I saw the Prophet ﷺ would put his knees before his hands and he would raise his hands before his knees.” [Reported from Jami'ut Tirmidhi and the chain of narrators is good]

16) Placing the Face Between the Two Palms

Wail bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu reported that the Prophet ﷺ would put his face between his two palms during the prostration. [Reported by Muslim]

17) ترك القراءة خلف الإمام – No Reciting Surah Fatihah Behind the Imam

Hadith:

Reported from Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, “The Prophet ﷺ taught us, ‘When you stand in salah, someone of you should lead you. And when the Imam recites then be quiet.’ [Reported by Muslim and the hadith is sound]

Reported from Jabir Radiyallahu Anhu, he said the messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The one who has an Imam (in prayer) then the recitation of the Imam is the recitation for him.” [Reported by Imam Tahawi from his Sharhu Ma'anil Athar and the chain of narrations is sound]

Reported from Ibn Umar Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, “If anyone of you prays behind the Imam, then the recitation of the Imam suffices him. And when he recites alone, he should recite himself. And Abdullah bin Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu wouldn't recite (anything).” [Reported by Muslim in his Al-Muwatta and its chain of narration is sound]

Reported from Abdullah bin Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "The one who recites behind the Imam, I wish his mouth would be full of dust." [Reported by Imam Tahawi in his Sharhu Ma'anil Athar and its chain of narration is good]

Reported from Abu Jamrah Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "I asked Ibn Abbas Radiyallahu Anhu, 'Should I recite when the Imam is in front of me?' He replied, 'No.'" [Reported by Imam Tahawi in his Sharhu Ma'anil Athar and its chain of narration is good]

18) يُؤمن الإمام والمأموم سرا – Imam and Muqtadi Will Say Amin Silently

Hadith:

Reported from Abu Hurairah Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, the Prophet ﷺ said, "When the imam says 'Amin', you should say 'Amin' because if anyone saying 'Amin' coincides with that of the angels, all of his previous sins will be forgiven." [Reported by Bukhari]

Reported from Wail bin Hujr Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, "The messenger of Allah ﷺ led us in prayer so when he recited 'وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ', he said 'Amin' and he concealed his voice with it." [Reported by Ahmad]

Acts of Witr Salah

1. الوتر واجب – Witr is Wajib

Hadith:

Reported from Abdullah bin Umar Radiyallahu Anhuma, he said, the Prophet ﷺ said, "Pray Witr as the last of your prayer at night." [Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

Note: This hadith is the evidence that indicates that Witr prayer as a mandatory act because it is prophetic commandment.

The Prophet ﷺ prayer Witr prayer continuously until he passed away.

Imam Hasan Basri said, "All Muslim scholars unanimously agreed its becoming Wajib."

Imam Tahawi also mentioned this similar view in his Sharhu Ma'anil Athar.

1) الوتر ثلاث ركعات – Witr Consists of Three Rakats

Hadith:

Reported from Ubai bin Ka'ab Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, the Prophet ﷺ would pray Witr with Surah Al-Ala' (in the first rakah), Surah Al-Kafiroon (in the second rakah), and Surah Al-Ikhlās (in the third rakah). [Reported by Abu Dawud and the chain of narration is sound]

2) لا يسلم في ركعتي الوتر – There is no Salam in the Second Rakah of Witr

Hadith:

Reported from Ubai bin Ka'ab Radiyallahu Anhu, he said, the Prophet ﷺ would recite in Witr with Surah Al-Ala' in the first rakah, Surah Al-Kafiroon in the second rakah, and Surah Al-Ikhlās in the third rakah and he wouldn't make salam except at the end of these three rakahs [Reported by Nasai]

3) في كل ركعتين تشهد – There is Tashahudd in Every Two Rakahs

Hadith:

Reported from Fadhl ibn Abbas Radiyallahu Anhuma, he said, the Prophet ﷺ said, "There is a Tashahudd in every two rakahs." [Reported by Ibn Majah, Tirmidhi, and Imam Ahmad]

4) القنوت قبل الركوع – Dua Qunoot is Before the Ruku

Hadith:

Ibrahim An-Nakh'i reported that, "In Ramadan or in any other month, reciting Qunoot in Witr prayer is Wajib and it should be recited before going to ruku. If you want to recite Qunoot, make Takbir first and when you want to make ruku, make Takbir (again)." [Reported by Imam Mohammad As-Shaibani and the chain of narration is sound]

It is reported that Abdullah bin Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu would recite surah Ikhlās in the last rakah of the Witr prayer and he would raise his hands (with takbir) and then recite Dua Qunoot before going to ruku. [Reported by Mubarakpuri in Tuhfat ul-Ahwazi and Bukhari in the Book of Raf ul-Yadhayn]

5) لا تشبه في صلاة المغرب – Similarity Between Maghrib and Witr Prayers

Hadith:

Reported from Abul Aliyah, he said, "The companions of the Prophet ﷺ taught us that Witr prayer should be like Maghrib prayer except that we recite a surah in the third rakah. So it (Witr) is the Witr of the night and Maghrib is the Witr of the day." [Reported by Imam Tahawi from his Sharhu Ma'anil Athar]