

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

It is the duty of missionaries and office-bearers to constantly remind members of the Jamā‘at about the importance of congregational prayers.

We should become punctual in our congregational prayers and through them seek spiritual pleasure and bliss.

Every Ahmadi man and woman should be punctual in their prayers. And men in particular should strive to offer their prayers in the mosque in congregation

On 20th January 2017, Hazrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ* V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We all know that the Ṣalāt has been enjoined upon every Muslim and that the Holy Qur’ān is full of exhortations to this effect. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that Ṣalāt is the essence of worship and that forsaking salat brings one closer to infidelity and idolatry. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that children should be exhorted to offer Ṣalāt when they are seven years old, and when they reach the age of ten, the parents can, if necessary, use strict measures to make them regular in Ṣalāt.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Children hear these teachings about the importance of Ṣalāt in various gatherings, but they have no effect on them if they go home and see that their own parents are not punctual in their prayers. Such children will think that these commandments are not important, and they will then start ignoring all Islāmic commandments. Such parents remain deprived and will also deprive their children. Parents often worry about the material desires and progress of their children, but have scant regard for the things that truly matter. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that prayer is like an outpost that is set up on a country’s border to save it from attacks.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the greatest enemy of man from which he needs the protection is Satan and sinfulness and the desire of this world, and the thing that protects him is Ṣalāt with congregation. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that the reason why Ṣalāt with congregation merits 27 times greater reward is because it fosters unity.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is true that Ṣalāt is obligatory upon every individual believer and everyone needs to pay attention to it, but it is also the duty of the Jamā‘at and the office-bearers to keep reminding and raising awareness about it. I often stress on this commandment in my sermons, but it is the task of missionaries and other office-bearers of the Jamā‘at to convey this message again and again to every member. We will only become true Aḥmadīs if we offer our prayers punctually and derive spiritual pleasure from them.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) said that just as a drunkard drinks and keeps drinking until he becomes intoxicated, in the same way a believer should pray and keep praying steadfastly until he experiences spiritual pleasure. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this is the target we should bear in mind, and whether things are going well or badly we need to remain consistent in Ṣalāt until we receive spiritual pleasure out of it.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that not only our personal troubles, but the general worrisome condition of the world should create anguish in our hearts so that we offer fervent prayers. The situation in Pakistan is very troubling and the oppression has reached an extreme, therefore every Aḥmadī in Pakistan should strive to offer the prayers that bring spiritual pleasure.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I recently received a report from Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya Pakistan which said that thousands more Khuddam are now listening to my Friday Sermon. However, the figure of those who offer congregational prayers was only a third of those who listen to the Friday Sermon. The question is, what is the use of listening to the Sermon if we do not attend to our fundamental obligations?

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I stress the importance of congregational prayers in almost every second or third sermon. Also, considering the situation in Pakistan, if members still do not fully turn towards God, then when will they do so? Are we trying to test God by saying that we will not reform ourselves, and that it is His job to change our circumstances? In such a situation, we have no right to complain to God. God never says that once you have believed in the Promised Messiah (a.s) then you can do whatever you like, and that He will grant success nonetheless. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said, success will not come through slumber and heedlessness.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When we look at the Jamā'ats there is a lot of room for improvement. In some Jamā'ats the attendance in mosques is good but still many people miss one or two prayers. And the reason is that the office-bearers do not give this matter their full attention and their priorities seem to lie elsewhere.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Everyone listens to my sermons, but it is the duty of the office-bearers to constantly remind the members about it. If members become worshippers who find pleasure in worship, they will automatically be motivated to make financial sacrifices, and even many of the difficulties of other departments, such as *Umoor Aama* and *Qadā'* etc. will be resolved.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The overall situation of the world is such that war seems to be on the horizon. At such a time we need God's refuge, and, in the words of the Promised Messiah (a.s), we have to love the Lord of Miracles. One way to do this is to offer Ṣalāt in the prescribed manner and seek spiritual pleasure in offering it.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Some people think that the people of the West are progressing even without performing any worship, and we at least offer two or three prayers a day. They should remember that a punishment awaits those who forget God in the hereafter, therefore we should not follow in their footsteps. If we wish to save ourselves and our children, we should not look at them, but we should follow the teaching that God has given us. And the first thing God commands us after believing in Him is to offer Ṣalāt.

Every Aḥmadī man and woman should be mindful of this, and men in particular should strive to offer their prayers with congregation. In this age the Promised Messiah (a.s) has fully elucidated for us the importance, method and philosophy of prayer. Allāh has given us the honour of accepting him, but if we do not follow his teachings and rest content with offering just two or three prayers in a day, then our Bai'at is of no use.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may enable us to become regular in our prayers and that we offer them solely for His sake and for seeking His pleasure. May Allāh grant us spiritual pleasure in our prayers, and grant us the realization that we can only be saved from today's calamities and tribulations if we become God's true servants. May Allāh enable us to do so.
Amīn.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 25 January 2017