

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President

Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

The purpose of mankind's creation is to worship. Some sayings of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام regarding the observance of prayers, how to find pleasure in worship and the upholding of Tauḥīd.

Prayer is the essence of worship. Only through this essence can we fulfil the purpose of worship.

Only by perfectly following Tauḥīd can one develop love and reverence for faith and find delight in worship.

On 15th April 2016, Ḥazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh has reminded believers again and again about the observance of prayers and how this is incumbent upon them. To worship is the purpose of man's creation but he has turned away from this purpose. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that those who turn away from this true and natural purpose of life and live their lives like beasts with eating and sleeping, their aims are deprived of Divine blessings. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Islām commands us to offer the five-daily prayers. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام has taught us the true manner and wisdom of prayers and urged us to realize their importance and to offer them with proper decorum.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that becoming lax in offering Fajr prayer due to bad weather or the shortness of the nights, or offering Zohr and Aṣr together on the pretext of being busy is not correct. People should offer their prayers punctually at their mosques or prayer centres. If office-bearers and workers of the Jamā'at and life-devotees become mindful of this then there can be significant increase in prayer attendance.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that while prayers serve to fulfil the purpose of our creation, they also save us from calamities and tribulations. Therefore we need to offer Istighfār regularly. People who don't find time for prayers on account of being busy should be most fearful. We should wake up for Tahajjud and pray with love and fervour. Sometimes the day prayers are missed on account of jobs, but we should remember that God is the Provider and should offer our prayers on time.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that when a drunkard does not feel intoxicated by wine, he keep drinking cup after cup until he feels some kind of intoxication. The wise can benefit from this example by persevering in prayers and trying to find pleasure in them. He should also pray that he may find that pleasure. Just like the drunkard has a certain pleasure in mind the attainment of which is his objective, so should all the faculties of the believer be directed at finding pleasure in prayer. And then if there is born in him a prayer out of anguish and fervour, I say truly then he will find that pleasure. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام also says good deeds do away with bad ones. Thus we should bear these bounties and pleasure in mind and pray that we may

experience the *Ṣalāt* that is experienced by the truthful and the virtuous. The prayer that has in it the spirit of truthfulness does away with evil deeds and has the power to bestow goodness. The spirit and essence of *Ṣalāt* is the supplication that is accompanied by delight and fervour.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) described the wisdom behind every posture of the *Ṣalāt* and the effect they have on us and that it is important that our words and actions become one in *Ṣalāt*. As we stand and bow and prostrate, so should our hearts undergo a similar experience.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that punctuality and regularity in *Ṣalāt* is very important. When *Ṣalāt* becomes an ingrained habit and the mind is focused towards God, then slowly the time comes when one experiences the state of complete detachment whereby one receives light and pleasure. Remember that inclining towards the world amounts to severing ties with God. *Ṣalāt* is in fact the physical demonstration of Tauḥīd. Whenever people have come to God truly remorseful and penitent, He has always blessed them. God desires that we come to Him with a pure heart. I tell you truly that God has wondrous powers and limitless blessings and bounties, but to see them you have to cultivate the eye of love. If there is true love, God hears prayers and helps. We should strive to abide by His commandments and accordingly worship and offer prayers and fulfil other obligations. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that if a person is not established on Tauḥīd and his heart is not filled with awe and love for the faith, he will not find pleasure and delight in *Ṣalāt*. *Ṣalāt* is the best teacher and the most useful means of teaching servitude to God. Therefore, become punctual in prayers. May our heart and soul do justice to *Ṣalāt*.
Āmīn.

At the end of the sermon Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at about the sad demise of Asghari Begum Ṣāḥiba, wife of Sheikh Rehmatullah Ṣāḥib of Karachi. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) led her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan,

Dated: 21 April 2016