

PRAYER (SALAAH)

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

Salaah is the chief pillar of religion, the mainstay of conviction, the chief of good works and the best act of obedience.

The following verses from the Holy Qur'an are noteworthy:

'...And perform Salaah in order to remember Me!'
(Sura 20 verse 14)

'...For Salaah restrains (one) from shameful and indecent acts.'
(Sura 29 verse 45)

There are numerous Ahadith concerning Salaah.

'Allah has no regard for a prayer in which a man's heart is not present as well as his body.'

'A person gets credit only for the part of his Salaah which he is conscious of.'

'If a man's Salaah does not deter him from indecency and mischief, he gains nothing from Allah but remoteness.'

'The salaam is nothing but submissiveness and humility.'

The above verses from the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith prove that the fundamental elements of Salaah are humility and conscious awareness and that merely going through the motions, in a state of heedlessness, has little value for the life hereafter. We pray for His gracious help and guidance.

Extracted from Imam Ghazali's Inner Dimensions of Islamic Worship.