Make
Wudu & Salah
Like
The Prophet

5th Edition

By
Shaykh Muhammad S. Adly
Imam of Masjid Almuslimiin
And
Director of the Islamic Center
of Columbia SC USA

Allah, The Almighty, said - which means:

"O you who believe! When you intend to offer prayer, wash your faces and your hands (forearms) up to the elbows, rub your heads, and wash your feet up to the ankles. If you are in a state of Janaba¹, purify yourself (bathe your whole body). But if you are ill or on a journey or any of you comes from answering the call of nature, or you have been in contact with women (i.e. sexual intercourse) and you find no water, then (perform Tayammum) with clean earth and rub therewith your faces and hands. Allah does not want to place you in difficulty, but He wants to purify you, and to complete His favor on you that you may be thankful." (Qur'an 5:6)

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah said: "When a Muslim servant or a believer makes ablution and then washes his face, every sin to which he turned to look with his two eyes goes out of his face with the water, or with the last drop of water. Then, when he washes his hands, every sin which his two hands have wrought, goes out of his hands with the water, or with the last drop of water. When he washes his feet, every sin which his two feet have walked to, goes out with the water or with the last drop of water, so much so that he comes out pure from all sins." (Muslim)

Wudu/Ablution

In preparation for the prayer, the worshipper must perform Wudu (ablution). Without Wudu, the prayer is invalid and will not be accepted. To perform the complete ablution adopting the method of our beloved Prophet , it is necessary to make Niyya, which is a firm intention. The worshipper should intend that the act of performing Wudu is for the purpose of preparation for the prayer. Niyya should be made in the heart because it is an action of the heart and not of the tongue. Niyya by words is not approved by Prophet Muhammad . There are several steps to performing wudu. Performing most of these actions three times is recommended, but one or two times is sufficient for wudu. After Niyya, the worshipper begins the Wudu by saying,

1. "Bismillah"

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

This means: In the name of Allah.

^{1.} A state of impurity due to sexual intercourse or discharge.





2. Wash both hands up to the wrists thrice, making sure that no part of the hands are left dry. Start with the right hand, and then wash the left hand.

3. Rinse your mouth three times taking the water into your mouth with the right hand.





4. Clean the nose by taking water in your right palm, sniffing it into your nose, and then blowing the water out using your left hand. The same handful of water used to cleanse the mouth can also be used to draw (or sniff) water into the nostrils.





5. Wash your face three times, from ear to ear and forehead to chin, making sure that no part of the face is left dry.

Men must take a handful of water with the right hand and rub it beneath the chin. Men must pass the fingers through the beard.



6. Wash your right forearm from the tip of your fingers up to, and including the elbow thrice. Make sure that no part is left dry. Then wash your left forearm in the same manner.



7. Next, wet your hands and wipe over your head. Begin with the forehead and continue to the hairline at the neck. Then bring your hands back to the forehead.

der width apart. Directing the face towards the *Qiblah* is a necessary condition for every *Salah*. Second, the individual who is getting ready to pray should have a *Sutra* (partition) in front of him. This should be an object with a height of approximately one foot. Third, the worshipper should have the intention in his heart to perform the prayer which he wants to fulfill, whether it is a *Fard* (Obligatory) prayer such as *Dhuhr*, *Asr* or *Isha*, or a *Sunnah* (optional) prayer. The presence of intentions (*Niyyah*) in the heart is necessary prior to the *Salah*.

Then, the worshipper raises his hands to the level of the shoulders or the ear lobes, while pronouncing *Takbirat-ul-Ihram*, which is to say

اَلَّهُ اَكْبَر "Allahu Akbar"

"(Allah is the Greatest)" while looking downward to the place where his forehead will touch the ground. From this point on, and until the end of the *Salah*, the worshipper is prohibited from engaging in any activity other than the prayer or responses to emergencies.



Next, the worshipper puts his right hand over his left hand and wrist, and puts them both over his chest.

It is recommended that the worshipper recite the following *Du'aul–Istiftah* (Opening Supplication):



سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ وَتَبَارَكَ اسْمُكَ وَتَعَالَى جَدُّكَ وَلاَ إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ

"Subhanaka Allahumma wa bihamdika wa tabaraka Ismuka wa ta a'ala jadduka wa la ilaha ghayruk."

This means: "Praise and glory is to Allah. Blessed is your Name, Exalted is your Majesty and Glory. There is no true God but you."

After reciting the opening supplication, the worshipper says:

أَعُوذُ بِاللهِ مِنَ الشَّيطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

"A 'uthu billahi min ash-shaytanir-rajim."

This means: "I seek refuge with Allah from Shaytaan the accursed."