

12844 - The excellence of optional prayers

the question

What The excellence of optional Prayers?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

1. The mother of the faithful Umm Habibah Ramlah bint Abu Sufyan Radhiallahu 'anhu narrated that she heard the Prophet Shalallahu 'alaihi wa Salam saying: "A house will be built in paradise for every Muslim who offers twelve Rak'ah of optional salah other than the obligatory salah in day and night, to seek pleasure of Allah." Narrated by Muslim.

Note : these extra 12 rakaats of optional prayers, according to Imam Nasaai and Tirmithi are : 2 rakaats before the obligatory prayer of Early morning (fajr), and 4 rakaats before (Duhr) and 2 rakaats after it ,and 2 rakaats after the obligatory of early evening prayer (magrib) and 2 rakaats after the obligatory prayer of night (isha) prayer.

2. Abu Huraira Radhiallahu 'anhu said : "My Khalil (friend) (the Prophet Shalallahu 'alaihi wa Salam) advised me to observe three things and I shall not leave them till I die: 1. "To observe Saum (fasting) three days every (lunar) month; 2." To offer the Duha prayer; 3. To offer Witr prayer before sleeping." Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim.

3. Aisha radhiyallahu 'anha narrated that the Prophet Shalallahu 'alaihi wa Salam said : "The two rakaats before dawn (fajr) prayer are better than the world and all that it contains." Narrated by Muslim.

4. Aisha radhiyallahu 'anha narrated that the Prophet Shalallahu 'alaihi wa Salam was never

Islam Question & Answer

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more regular and strict in offering any Nawafil than the two rakaats (sunnah before) dawn (fajr) prayer. Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

5. Umm Habiba radhiyallahu ‘anha narrated that the Prophet Shalallahu ‘alaihi wa Salam said : “Whoever, observes the practice of offering four rak’ahs before Duhr prayer and four rak’ahs after it. Allah will shield him against the fire of hell.” Narrated by Abu Daud and At-Tirmithi.

6. One should make Witr as the last salah (prayer) (at night).

Abdullah bin Umar Radhiyallahu ‘anhu narrated that the Prophet Shalallahu ‘alaihi wa Salam said : “Make Witr as your last salah (prayer) at night.” Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

7. If anyone enters a mosque, he should offer two raka’ah before sitting.

Abu Qatada Radhiyallahu ‘anhu narrated that the Prophet Shalallahu ‘alaihi wa Salam said : “If any one of you enters a mosque, he should pray two raka’ats before sitting.” Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

8. Abu Huraira Radhiyallahu ‘anhu narrated that Allah’s Messenger Shalallahu ‘alaihi wa Salam said to Bilal Radhiyallahu ‘anhu “Tell me about the most hopeful act (i.e one which you deem the most rewarding with Allah) you have done since your acceptance of Islam because I heard the sound of the steps of your shoes in front of me in paradise.” Bilal said : “I do not consider any act more hopeful than that whenever I make ablution (wudoo) at any time of night or day, I offer salah (prayer) for as long as was destined for me to offer.” Narrated by Al-bukhari and Muslim.