

26280 - Ruling on wudoo' for one who breaks wind a great deal

the question

I lose my wudoo' when I am praying and when reading Qur'aan, by breaking wind either with a noise or with just a smell. I repeat my wudoo' every time it breaks, but there is a Muslim sister who told me, "You do not have to repeat your wudoo' so many times, you can pray with one wudoo'; if it breaks then you can do wudoo' a second time, but if it breaks a third time then you do not have to repeat wudoo'." Is this correct? What should I do in this situation?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

If you lose your wudoo' when praying and you are certain because there is a sound or a smell, then you have to repeat your wudoo' and your prayer, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "If any one of you breaks wind during prayer, let him stop and do wudoo', then repeat the prayer." (Narrated by Abu Dawood, 205; al-Tirmidhi, 1164, with a hasan isnaad). And he (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "The prayer of any one of you will not be accepted if he breaks wind, until he has done wudoo'." (Agreed upon; al-Bukhaari, 135; Muslim, 225)

But if this happens to you constantly, then you have to do wudoo' for prayer when the time for prayer begins, then pray fard and naafil - before the time for that prayer ends - and it does not matter if you pass wind during that time, because this is the matter of necessity and the one who is continually breaking his wudoo' is excused and does not have to do wudoo' until the time for the next prayer begins. There is a great deal of evidence for that, including the aayah (interpretation of the meaning):

Islam Question & Answer

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“So keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him as much as you can”

[al-Taghaabun 64:16]

A hadeeth narrated by ‘Aa’ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) speaks of a woman who suffered from prolonged non-menstrual bleeding (istihadah), to whom the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “... then do wudoo’ for every prayer.” (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 228).

With regard to reading or reciting Qur’aan, there is nothing wrong with reciting from memory even if you do not have wudoo’, except in the case of janaabah (impurity following sexual activity), in which case you should not read until you have done ghusl. But you should not touch the Mus-haf unless you are pure from both major and minor impurity, unless the problem is continual, in which case you should do wudoo’ at the time for each prayer, and read Qur’aan from the Mus-haf and recite from memory, because of the rulings on prayer referred to above. May Allaah help us all.