7886 - How to Make Du’a During Prayer

the question

I would like to know the proper way to make du’a during prayer, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did it. Is it after the prayer or between the two prostrations or whilst standing or when?

Summary of answer

There is not just one particular part of the prayer when du’a should be offered, rather there are several parts of the prayer where Prophet Muhammad offered du’a from the opening takbir to the final taslim.

Detailed answer

Table Of Contents

- Du’a in prayer: Specific part?
- The best du’a in prayer
- Du’a after prayer
- Du’a during prayer
- How to make du’a during prayer

Du’a in prayer: Specific part?

Note that there is not just one particular part of the prayer when du’a should be offered, rather there are several parts of the prayer where the scholars have stated that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) offered du’a, from the opening takbir to the final taslim.

It is also Sunnah to make du’a after the prayer and there are several du’as that we will mention below in sha Allah.

It should be noted that the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the best of du'as are those which are in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

The wording of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the best of wording, because he is the most knowledgeable of all people about the Arabic language, and the most eloquent in speech. Allah enabled him to express the most profound of meanings in few words, which is called conciseness of speech.

Abu Hurayrah said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say: "I have been sent with concise speech." (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 6611; Muslim, 523)

Al-Bukhari said: I heard that conciseness of speech means when many meanings which it would have taken books to write before are summed up in a phrase or two, and so on.

The best du'a in prayer

Based on this, if you want to say du'a in your prayers at the points at which it is prescribed and recommended (mustahabb) to say du'a, the best of du'as are those which are said in the wording of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

If you are not able to do that and you cannot memorize these du'as and dhikrs, then the best of du'a is that which avoids going to extremes in using fanciful language speech, and which avoids using rhyme to the point of absurdity, and which makes the du'a sincere and focused on the need in question, saying whatever is easy for you and whatever Allah enables you to say.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to a man: "What do you say when you pray?" He said: "I recite the tashahhud, then I say: Allahumma inni as-aluka al-jannah wa a'udhu bika min al-nar (O Allah, I ask You for Paradise and seek refuge in You from the Fire). I cannot murmur like you and like Mu'adh." The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "It is about them that we were murmuring." (Narrated by Abu Dawud, 792; classed as sahih by al-Albani in Sahih Abi Dawud)

Du’a after prayer

With regard to du’a after the salam, what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to do is to say, after finishing the prayer: Astaghfir Allah, astaghfir Allah astaghfir Allah (I seek the forgiveness of Allah, I seek the forgiveness of Allah, I seek the forgiveness of Allah). Then he would say all the dhikrs that are narrated at this time. Please see question no. 7646 .

Shaykh ‘Abd al-‘Aziz ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

“There is no sahih report to say that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to raise his hands following an obligatory prayer, or that his Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) did that, as far as we know. What some people do, raising their hands after the prayer, is a bid'ah (innovation) for which there is no basis. (Al-Fatawa, 1/74)

Ibn al-Qayyim said:

“With regard to du’a after the prayer facing the qiblah or facing the congregation, this is not something that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did at all. It is not narrated with a sahih or hasan isnad. As for doing that only after Fajr and ‘Asr prayers, he did not do that and neither did any of his successors (khulafa), and he did not teach his ummah to do that. Rather this is something that some people thought was good to do to make up for not offering Sunnah prayers after those prayers and Allah knows best.”

Du’a during prayer

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) offered most of the du’as that are connected to the prayer during the prayer, and he commanded us to offer them during it. This befits the state of the one who is praying, for he is facing his Lord and conversing with Him so long as he is praying. When he says the salam, that conversation comes to a close and he is no longer standing before Him and close to Him.

So why should he not ask of Him whilst he is conversing with Him and close to Him and turning to Him, and then ask of Him when he has turned away from Him? Undoubtedly it is better to do the opposite.

There is another subtle point to be made, which is that when the worshipper has finished praying, and he has remembered Allah and proclaimed His oneness, glorified Him, praised Him and magnified Him by reciting the dhikrs that are prescribed following the prayer, it is mustahabb to send blessings upon the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) after that, and to make du'a as he wishes, His du'a should come immediately after this second act of worship, not because it is after the prayer but because it is mustahabb for anyone who remembers Allah and praises Him and sends blessings upon the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to make du'a after that, as it says in the hadith of Fudalah ibn 'Ubayd: "When any one of you prays, let him start by praising Allah, then let him send blessings upon the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), then let him say du'a however he wishe s."

Al-Tirmidhi said: "(It is) a sahih hadith. It was also classed as sahih by al-Hakim, and al-Dhahabi agreed with him. Zad al-Ma'ad, 1/257, 258)

How to make du'a during prayer

With regard to the points during the prayer at which du'a should be offered, we will sum this up for you as follows:

1. After the opening takbir of the prayer and before starting to recite al-Fatihah. This is called Du'a al-Istiftah (opening supplication):

Abu Hurayrah said: When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) started to pray, he would remain silent for a while. I said: "May my father and mother be sacrificed for you, O Messenger of Allah. What do you say when you are silent between the takbir and recitation?" He said: "I say: Allahumma ba'id bayni wa bayna khatayaya kama ba'adta bayna al-mashriqi wa'l-maghrib. Allahumma naqqini min khatayaya kama yunaqqa al-thawb al-abyad min al-danas. Allahumma ighsilni min khatayaya bi'l-thalji wa'l-mai wa'l-

barad (O Allah, put a great distance between me and my sins, as great as the distance You have made between the East and the West. O Allah, cleanse me of sin as a white garment is cleansed from filth. O Allah, wash away my sins with snow and water and hail).” (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 711; Muslim, 598)

2. Du’a al-Qunut in Witr

Al-Hasan ibn ‘Ali said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught me words to say in Witr: “Allahumma ihdini fiman hadayta wa ‘afini fiman ‘afayta wa tawallani fiman tawallayta wa barik li fima a’tayta, wa qini sharra ma qadayta, fa innaka taqdi wa la yuqda ‘alayk, wa innahu la yadhillu man walayta wa la ya’izzu man ‘adayta, tabarakta Rabbana wa ta’alayt (O Allah, guide me among those whom You have guided, pardon me among those whom You have pardoned, turn to me in friendship among those on whom You have turned in friendship, and bless me in what You have bestowed, and save me from the evil of what You have decreed. For verily You decree and none can influence You; and he is not humiliated whom You have befriended, nor is he honoured who is Your enemy. Blessed are You, O Lord, and Exalted).” (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 464; al-Nasai, 1745; Abu Dawud, 1425; Ibn Majah, 1178)

This hadith was classed as hasan by al-Tirmidhi and others, and as sahih by al-Albani in Irwa’ al-Ghalil, 429.

3. Du’a when standing up from bowing, at times of calamity.

This is called Qunut al-Nawazil. This may be recited in all the obligatory prayers depending on the situation, and the worshippers behind the imam should say Amin. Please see question no. 20031 .

4. Du’a whilst bowing.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say: “Subhanak Allahumma Rabbana wa bi hamdika Allahumma ighfir li (Glory and praise be to You, O Allah our Lord. O Allah, forgive me).” (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 761; Muslim, 484, from the hadith of ‘Aishah)

5. How to make du’a in sujud

This is the best of du’a, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The closest that any one of you may be to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so say a lot of du’a at that time.” (Narrated by Muslim, 482, from the hadith of Abu Hurayrah)

There are many ahadith concerning this, for which we do not have room to mention here.

6. Du’a between the two prostrations.

One should say: “Allahumma ighfir li warhamni wajburni wahdini warzuqni (O Allah, forgive me, have mercy on me, enrich me, guide me and grant me provision).” (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 284; Ibn Majah, 898 – from the hadith of Ibn 'Abbas; classed as sahih by al-Albani in Sahih al-Tirmidhi. And there are other du’as.)

7. Du’a after the tashahhud and before the salam.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “When any one of you has finished the last tashahhud, let him seek refuge with Allah from four things and say: Allahumma inni a'udhu bika min 'adhabi jahannam wa min ‘adhabil-qabri wa min fitnat il-mahya wa’l-mamat wa min sharri fitnat il-masih id-dajjal (O Allah, I seek refuge with You from the torment of Hell and from the torment of the grave and from the trials of life and death and from the evil of the trial of the Dajjal).” Narrated by al-Bukhari, 1311; Muslim, 588 (this version narrated by Muslim), from the hadith of Abu Hurayrah. Then after that he may pray for whatever he likes of the good things of this world and the Hereafter, because of the hadith of Ibn Mas’ud: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught them the tashahhud then he said at the end: “Let him ask for whatever good things he wishes.” (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 5876; Muslim, 402.)

There are many du’as which may be recited during the prayer, but we cannot quote all of them in this answer. We have referred to a few of those that have been narrated. Our advice to the questioner – and to every Muslim – is to have a copy of al-Adhkar by al-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him), which is a lengthy book. If he would like to have something shorter then he should get a copy of al-Kalim al-Tayyib by Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah, edited by al-Albani (may Allah have mercy on them all).

For more about du’a, please see these answers: 5666 , 195085 , and 22438 .

And Allah knows best.