

87749 - List of things that invalidate the prayer

the question

Is there a set number of things that invalidate the prayer? I hope that you can explain that if so.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allaah.

The things that invalidate the prayer are well known, but the number differs according to differences among the fuqaha'. They are as follows:

- 1 - That which invalidates wudoo', such as breaking wind or eating camel meat.
- 2 - Uncovering the 'awrah deliberately. But if it is uncovered by accident and what is uncovered is only a little, or if a lot becomes uncovered but he covers it immediately, then the prayer is not invalidated.
- 3 - Turning away from the qiblah to a large extent.
- 4 - Presence of najaasah (impurity) on one's body or clothes, or in the place where one is praying. If he notices it or remembers it during the prayer and removes it immediately, then his prayer is valid. Similarly, if he does not find out about it until after the prayer is over, his prayer is still valid.
- 5 - Excessive continuous movement during the prayer for no essential reason.
- 6 -Omitting one of the pillars (essential parts) of the prayer, such as bowing and prostration.
- 7 - Deliberately doing an extra pillar, such as bowing.
- 8 - Deliberately doing some pillars before others.

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

9 - Deliberately saying the salaam before completing the prayer.

10 - Deliberately changing the meaning whilst reciting.

11- Deliberately omitting one of the obligatory parts of prayer, such as the first tashahhud. But if a person forgets, his prayer is valid but he must do the prostration of forgetfulness (sujood al-sahw).

12 - Deciding to stop praying.

13 - Laughing out loud. Merely smiling does not invalidate the prayer.

14 - Deliberately speaking. If one speaks by mistake or out of ignorance of the ruling, the prayer is not invalidated.

15 -Eating and drinking.

See: Daleel al-Taalib li Nayl al-Mataalib by Shaykh Mar'i ibn Yoosuf al-Hanbali (p. 34). And Duroos Muhimmah by Shaykh Ibn Baaz.

And Allaah knows best.