

Before we pray, we have to get ready to pray.

What kind of things do we have to do to get ready? ¹



¹ All references are taken from *al Mulakh-khas al fihiyyah* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan page 102

We have to make sure that the time for the prayer we are going to pray has started.²

We talked about the prayer times last time.



² Soorah an Nisaa (4) aayah 103

If we pray a prayer before its time has started, then that prayer does not count.



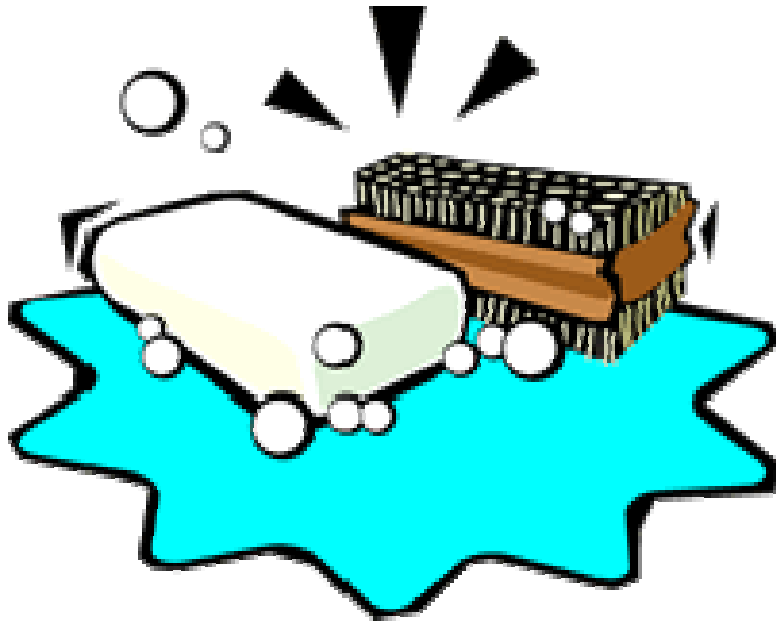
We have to cover the parts of our body that Allah told us to cover.



If we don't cover ourselves properly, we are like those people who don't do what Allah tells them to do.³

³ Soorah al 'Araaf (7) aayah 27

We have to make sure that on our clothes or our body there are no things which Allah has told us are dirty, like urine.⁴



⁴ Soorah al 'Mudath-thir (74) aayah 4

We also have to make sure that the place in which we are going to pray is clean too.



We make sure that we are facing towards
Makkah.⁵



Nowadays it is easy to find out the direction
of Makkah. Even many phones can tell us!

⁵ Soorah al Baqarah (2) aayah 144

But if we don't know and there is no one we can ask, then we pray in what we think is the right direction.



And if in that case, we don't pray in the right direction then we hope that Allah will forgive us.⁶

⁶ Soorah at Taghaabun (64) aayah 16

We have to decide in our hearts that we are going to pray our prayer.

In Arabic, this is called the *niyyah*.⁷

We are going to try our best to do our prayer and not let anything stop us from doing that
. إن شاء الله



⁷ “**Indeed actions are but by their intentions**” – hadeeth of ‘Umar, *radi Allaahu ‘anhu* reported by al Bukhaaree (1) and Muslim (4904)

We say to ourselves that we are going to pray for Allah.

We don't say this out loud; just silently in our hearts.



Allah knows what is in our hearts.⁸

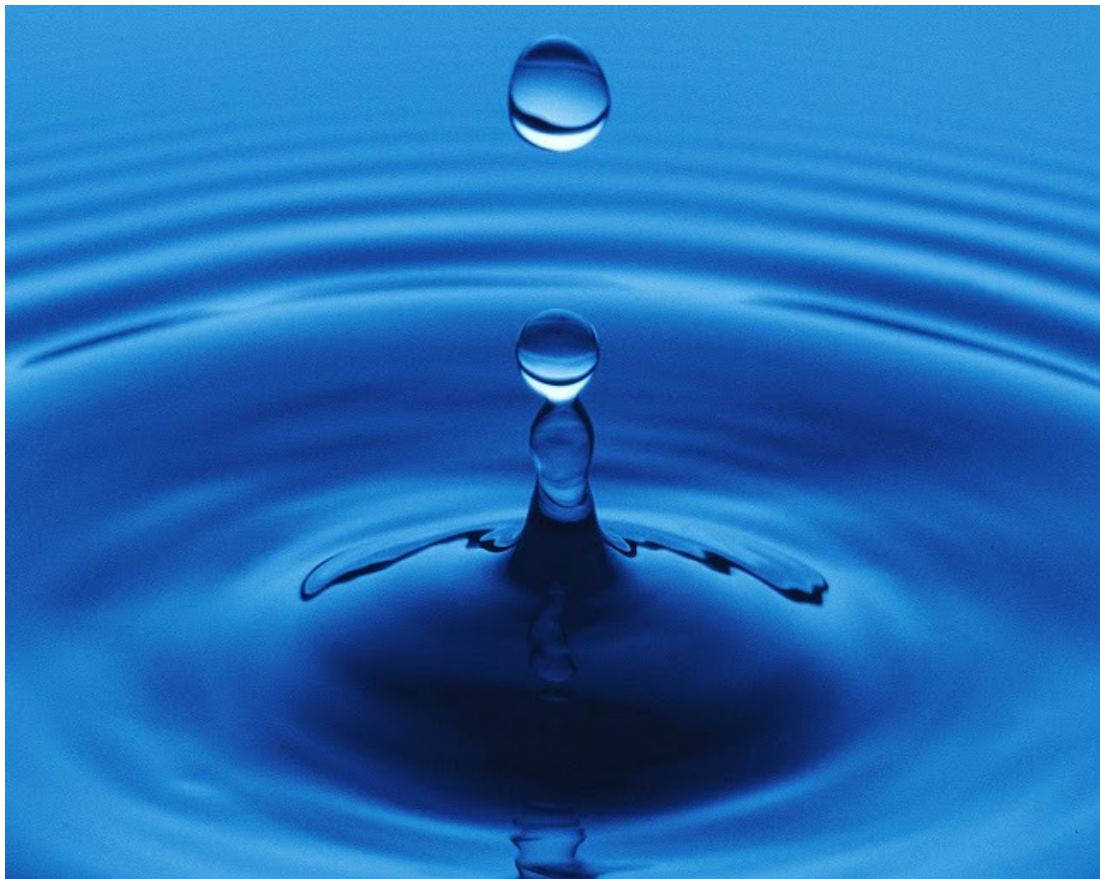
We don't need to say it out aloud to Him.

⁸ Soorah at Hujaraat (49) aayah 16

These are called the *shuroot* of the prayer.

This means those things we have to do before we pray.

Next time, we will talk about one of the other *shuroot* - how we wash ourselves before the prayer **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.



Test yourself!

Say whether each of these is true or not:

- 1) There are only four prayers that we have to pray every day.
- 2) Before we pray, we have to make sure it is the right time for that prayer.
- 3) If we pray a prayer at the wrong time, we might not get any reward from Allah for that.
- 4) We can pray without any clothes on.
- 5) If we find things on our clothes that Allah tells us are dirty things, then we should clean them off.
- 6) We are not allowed to pray in dirty places, like the toilet.

Fill in the missing words:

- 1) We pray towards a city called ***** in Saudi Arabia
- 2) We hope that Allah will ***** us if we try to pray in the right direction but we make a mistake.
- 3) When we make the *niyyah* for our prayers, that means that we decide in our ***** that we are going to do our prayers.
- 4) We don't have to *** our *niyyah* out aloud.

Revision:

- What is a fard prayer?
- How many fard prayers are there each day?
- Which prayer do we pray just after the sun has set?

Homework for next time!

- Which parts of our body do we wash before we pray?
- Why do we wash those parts of our body?
- What do we wash our bodies with before we pray?

Answers:

True or false - 2,3,5,6 are true. The other answers are false.

Fill in the blanks - Makkah, forgive, heart, say

Key points for teachers:

The child will hopefully be of an age that they can understand the concept of a *shart*, if the concept is explained to them.

A *shart* (plural *shuroot*) of something is that which if it is not done, means that the whole action it is a *shart* for is nullified. But doing one of the *shuroot* does not automatically mean that the whole of the act of worship is now accepted by Allah.

So for example, the *niyyah* is a *shart* for the prayer. If the *niyyah* is not made, then the whole prayer is nullified, regardless of how nicely the person performs the other parts of the prayer.

But even if the person does make the *niyyah* correctly, it does not necessitate that the whole of the prayer is now definitely accepted by Allah – for there are other things apart from the *niyyah* that must occur for the prayer to be accepted as well. And there are other things that may nullify that person's prayer, even if his *niyyah* is correct.

For the purposes of teaching the child however, it may be best to restrict the concept of a *shart* to something which has to be done before the prayer or else the prayer is not correct.

These *shuroot* of the prayer are taken from the texts of the Qur-an and the authentic hadeeths.

A *shart* occurs outside the action it is a *shart* for – in this case, the *shuroot* of the prayer occur *before* the prayer.

The shuroot of the prayer:

The person praying must be:

- Muslim
- Be at or above the age of understanding (seven years old)
- Sane

They must also:

- Have removed *najaasah* (impurities) from their body, clothes and place of prayer.
- Have made *wudhoo*
- Cover their *'awrah* (that area of the body that must be covered according to Islamic law)
- Face towards the Qiblah
- Have made the *niyyah* (intention) when they enter the prayer
- Be praying the prayer in its correct time