



TEKS
KHUTBAH
NEGERI PAHANG
SIRI 04/2024

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER: THE STRENGTH OF THE
UMMAH**

26 April 2024 | 17 Syawal 1445H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, Allah will be pleased with us in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Congregational prayer in the mosque is a practice that is expected of every Muslim. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 4 (*Surah An-Nisa*) verse (*ayat*) 102,

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَإِذَا كُنْتَ فِيهِمْ فَأَقَمْتَ لَهُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَلْتَقُمْ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْهُمْ مَعَكَ

Which means: *“When you [Prophet] are with the believers, leading them in prayer, let a group of them stand up in prayer with you ...”*

This verse was an order for Muslims to pray in congregation during wartime. Certainly in a peaceful atmosphere, the command to pray in congregation is stronger. The reward for those who perform congregational prayers in the mosque is very great. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim,

مَنْ غَدَا إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ أَوْ رَاحَ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ نُزُلًا كُلَّمَا غَدَا أَوْ رَاحَ

Which means: *“He who goes to the mosque at dawn or dusk (for Salat), Allah prepares a hospitable abode for him in Jannah, every time when he walks to it or comes back from it.”*



Congregational prayer is the foundation for building a strong Muslim society. For that reason, when the Prophet (PBUH) migrated to Madinah, the first step he took was to build a mosque, which was used for performing the five daily congregational prayers. This daily gathering creates strong unity among Muslims. Every day they will meet and greet each other and discuss issues that are happening in the Muslim community. A large gathering in the house of Allah will intimidate the enemies of Islam and we will receive abundant mercy and peace from Allah the Almighty.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Remember, unity is the foundation of strength for Muslims. When there is division, Muslims will be weak. This is what we are facing today. The practice of congregational prayer teaches us all to prioritize unity and unification, starting with the instructions to obey the guidance of the Imam or leader and always reminding and advising each other when mistakes are made. These are acts that unite and strengthen the Muslim community (*Ummah*). The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari which means:

“The Imam is to be followed. Say the Takbir when he says it; bow if he bows;”

In congregational prayer, the *ma'mum* (the followers) is commanded to straighten the line when they stand up to pray as part of a symbol of unity. Standing next to each other will connect the hearts of Muslims and cause them to love one another. The Prophet (PBUH) has

warned us all that not straightening the lines can cause our hearts to contradict each other and will lead to arguments that will weaken the Muslim community (*Ummah*).

Based on a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim, every time the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) wanted to perform prayer, he ordered his companions to line up by saying,

اسْتَوُوا وَلَا تَخْتَلِفُوا فَتَحْتَلِفَ قُلُوبُكُمْ

Which means: “Stand in straight rows and do not differ among yourselves, or else your hearts will differ due to discord.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The strength of Islam can only be built when members of the Muslim community (*Ummah*) have great, pious and virtuous personalities. During the time of the Prophet (PBUH), the companions and *salafussoleh* (the pious predecessors) had great personalities to the point of being willing to sacrifice their property and souls to uphold the religion and the Muslim community (*Ummah*). Among the factors that developed their exceptional personalities is performing congregational prayers in the mosque. They understood that this practice is proof of the perfection of Faith. They took heed of the words of the Prophet (PBUH) as narrated by Imam Tirmizi:

Which means: *“When you see a man frequenting the mosque, testify that he is a believer.”*

The early generation of Muslims led by the Prophet (PBUH) was very worried about neglecting congregational prayer because not caring about congregational prayer in the mosque was a characteristic of the hypocrites. Let us ponder upon the words of a companion named Ibnu Mas’ud:

Which means: *“We found that there is no one who is negligent in praying congregational prayers in the mosque unless he has been identified as a hypocrite.”*

Alhamdulillah, today the awareness of congregational prayer is increasing through the efforts of mosques that have successfully organized a program called *“subuh seperti Jumaat”*. Let us work hard to perform congregational prayers in the mosque for the great rewards and hopefully this practice will be part of our contribution in building the strength of Muslims community. Take our children to the mosque so that they get used to praying in congregation, and at the same time can understand that congregational prayer is an important life-long commitment.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ
الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ

يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٨﴾

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ
مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ
لِيَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.