

RAMADAN

IMMERSION



Imam Khalid Latif

Chapter 5: On Regular Devotions (continued)

- Imam Al-Haddad advised us to have a wird (litany) of salaah, however, it is important to note that one should not do nawafil (optional) prayers, without having the sunnah prayers in line first.
 - A notable example is the two before fajr, in which the Prophet SAW stated that they are better than everything in this world.
 - One cannot claim to love the sunnah without trying to do their best in following the sunnah.
 - There have been people who have struggled immensely with their prayers but are now on point with their fardh and sunnah prayers.
- Make a plan to make up your faraidh (mandatory) prayers, if you have a significant amount you have missed.
 - Calculate to the best of your ability and make them up to the best of your ability.
- After having the mandatory and the sunnah prayers as a habit, one goes towards the night prayer.
 - The night prayer is better than the one during the day, like concealed charity is better than charity done in public (after the obligations, of course).
 - Imam Al-Haddad is putting an emphasis on the night prayers, qiyaam-ul-layl & tahajjud.
 - The difference between these two is that tahajjud is done after sleeping and waking up and qiyaam-ul-layl is done at any time at night.

- Imam Al-Haddad tells us that there is immense benefit at getting up at night, since it is a way to defeat shaytaan and defeat the nafs.
- By getting up in the middle of night you are able to actualize prayer being better than sleep.
- The month in which we are in, Ramadan, is where we see our potential for the coming months.
- Start with the faraidh and make them your anchor.
 - Then, strive to do the sunnah prayers.
 - Then, try to do the prayer in the night.
 - Every night there is an opportunity for what you seek in this world and the next.
- Imam Al-Ghazali once cited a story of Imam Al-Junaid, one of the imams of Islamic spirituality. One of the people of Imam Al-Junaid's time saw him in a dream after his passing. He told him in the dream, that all the large gatherings of speeches he would do gave him no benefit, but rather the couple of rikat he got up in the night for gave him the benefit.
 - Remember to go at a pace that makes sense for you.
 - Be consistent so you can be gradual in your growth.
- There are many virtues of the night prayer noted within the hadith.
 - A spiritual master once said that he endured the night prayer for twenty years, and in the second twenty, he found the bliss in it.
 - Committing to prayer will not be an overnight experience, rather you keep going and Allah will create openings.
- Imam Al-Haddad also mentions other spiritual masters who find a sense of immense inward and outward peace within the night prayer.
 - They did not do this within their first prayer, but rather yielding to the process that has been described for generations.
 - This night prayer gives you an inward peace to take on the world.

- This prayer is so important, it was made obligatory for the Prophet SAW and the early generation of Muslims.
- Imam Al-Haddad adds an important advice on the importance of these prayers, do it according to your energy.
 - Some of us have more energy than others.
 - Some of us have different responsibilities.
 - Some of us may have only small surahs memorized.
 - Do what you absolutely can and do not belittle your capacity.
- There are many awrad for us to look into, specifically the Wird of Imam Nawawi (author of the popular 40 Hadith collection) and Wird al-Latif, by Imam Al-Haddad himself.
- Remember that no one becomes an expert before they are a novice and that everyone has room to grow.