

MERITS OF RECITING ṢALAWĀT

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

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رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ إِنَّهُ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

“THE MERCY OF ALLAH AND HIS BLESSINGS BE UPON YOU AHL AL-BAIT.
VERILY HE IS THE PRAISEWORTHY AND GLORIOUS.”

With the passing of every day of our lives, we must take the opportunity to get closer to Allah (SWT). One of the ways we can do this is by sending blessings upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his Pure Progeny (peace be upon all of them). One is recommended to recite this salawat throughout their lives as a way to achieve this goal. Why is there so much importance laid on this act and what exactly is the reward of one who recites the Ṣalawat?

In the Holy Qur’an, in Surah al-Ahzab, Āyah 56 we read:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

“Surely Allah and His angels bless the Prophet; O you who believe! call for (Divine) blessings on him and salute him with a (becoming) salutation.” (Qur’an 33:56)

In this ayah, it says that Allah and the Angels send blessings on the Holy Prophet (and his family) and He commands those who believe to do the same – send blessings and follow (submit) to his ways. The Ṣalawat is the only act in which Allah (SWT) joins the Angels and the believers too are commanded to take part in it.

In Usul al-Kafi by Shaikh Muhammad ibn Ya’qub al-Kulayni, quotes the 6th Imam, Ja’far as-Ṣadiq (peace be upon him) as having said that:

مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ عَشْرًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ وَ مَلَائِكَتُهُ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ وَ مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ وَ مَلَائِكَتُهُ أَلْفًا أَمَا تَسْمَعُ قَوْلَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ ((هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّي عَلَيْكُمْ وَ مَلَائِكَتُهُ لِيُخْرِجَكُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَ كَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا.))

“One who sends 10 Ṣalawat on the Prophet and his family, Allah and the Angels send 100 Ṣalawat upon him, and one who sends 100 Ṣalawat upon the Prophet and his family, then Allah and the Angels send 1000 Ṣalawat upon him. Have you not heard the words of Allah, glorious and magnified be Him, “He it is who sends blessings upon you and so too do His Angels so that it may take you out of the darkness into the light and verily He is merciful to the Believers.”

What are some of the merits of sending Ṣalawat?

1. One who sends Ṣalawat on the Holy Prophet, then Allah and the Angels will send blessings upon that person.
2. One who sends Ṣalawat resembles the Angels, and thus as a result of this one is also entitled to a part of the special mercy that the Angels receive due to the recitation of the Ṣalawat.
3. One who sends Ṣalawat on the Prophet and his family, reaches to a point where he becomes the friend of Allah (Khalilul’illah) due to the great status that the Ṣalawat itself has.
4. Recitation of the Ṣalawat will result in one being closer to the Prophet on the Day of Judgement.

5. One who recites Şalawat every day and night will be worthy of receiving the intercession of the Holy Prophet on the Day of Judgement.
6. When we say “O’ Allah, send blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad” then the Prophet replies to us by saying, “And upon you be peace.”
7. One attains the pleasure of Allah and becomes close to the Holy Prophet by the recitation of this Şalawat. The 6th Imam, Ja’far ibn Muhammad as-Şadiq (peace be upon him), quoted his fore-fathers reaching to the Holy Prophet as having said the following, “Your sending Şalawat upon me results in the acceptance of your requests and desires and Allah becomes pleased with you.” Also the Prophet had said that, “The most worthiest of people on the Day of Judgement will be those who sent the most Şalawat upon me in the world.”

Recitation of Şalawat entitles one to receive benefits both in this world and in the next

Some of the worldly benefits are the following:

- a) For every 100 Şalawat recited, 100 legitimate desires and wishes will be fulfilled by Allah (SWT).
- b) When one recites Şalawat out loud, hypocrisy will be removed from one’s heart.
- c) The duas of one will become pure and sincere.
- d) Poverty will be removed from one.
- e) If one can not find something or has forgotten where he put something, then by the recitation of Şalawat, it will be brought back or found.
- f) Şalawat degrades the Shaitan and puts out the fire of hell.

Some of the benefits in the next world

- a) One who sends 10 Şalawat, Allah and the Angels send 1000 Şalawat upon him, and whoever Şalawat sends 1000 Şalawat upon, the fire of hell won’t affect him.
- b) The worthiest and closest person to the Prophet on the Day of Judgement will be the one who sent the most Şalawat upon him in this world.
- c) Intercession by the Prophet will become compulsory upon the one who recited Şalawat upon Muhammad and his family (peace be upon him and his family).
- d) On the Day of Judgment, Şalawat will appear as a light (nur) on the person’s head, right side, left side and above him.
- e) One who recites the Şalawat, Allah will give him the reward of 72 martyrs (shahid).
- f) The heaviest thing on the Day of Judgement will be the Şalawat (recited by a person) and it will also light up his grave.

Of course, one must remember that this reciting just as with other acts of worship must be with complete sincerity and not for any other reason other than seeking the pleasure of Allah (SWT) and acting in compliance to His command.

May He give us all the ability to perform the Şalawat with the utmost devotion and attain the benefits of it, both in this world and in the next.

اللهم صل على محمد و آل محمد و عجل فرجهم