

Khushu' — presence in prayer

The posture is fiqh; the attention is khushu'. Without it a prayer is performed correctly and barely inhabited.



★ The believers who succeeded

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ

"Certainly will the believers have succeeded: they who are during their prayer humbly submissive."

Qur'an 23:1-2

★ Heavy — except for some

"Seek help through patience and prayer, and indeed, it is difficult except for the humbly submissive." Khushu' is what lightens it.

Qur'an 2:45

★ What you are standing for

وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي

"And establish prayer for My remembrance." The purpose is inside the command: you are there to remember Him.

Qur'an 20:14

★ As though you see Him

Asked by Jibril about ihsan, he ﷺ said: to worship Allah as though you see Him — and if you do not see Him, He sees you.

Sahih al-Bukhari 50 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Iman

★ Know what you are saying

The Qur'an forbids approaching prayer until you know what you are saying. Learn the meaning of the words your tongue repeats.

Qur'an 4:43

★ Glancing about is theft

Asked about looking here and there in prayer, he ﷺ called it a way of stealing, by which Satan takes a portion of a servant's prayer.

Sahih al-Bukhari 751

★ Expect the whispering

"Satan comes and puts him in doubt till he forgets how many rak'ah he has prayed." Distraction is expected; returning is the work.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1232

★ Two rak'ah, undivided

Wudu as the Prophet ﷺ made it, then two rak'ah "during which he does not think of anything else" — and past sins are forgiven.

Sahih al-Bukhari 164

★ The warning is to the prayerful

وَيْلٌ لِّلْمُصَلِّينَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ

"So woe to those who pray — who are heedless of their prayer." It is said of people who do pray, not of those who do not.

Qur'an 107:4-5