

Salawat — sending peace upon him ﷺ

The command is in the Qur’an and the wording was taught by him. The texts also say where it belongs: in the prayer, after the adhan, before a request, and on Friday.



★ The command

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

“Indeed Allah and His angels send blessings upon the Prophet. O you who have believed, send blessings upon him and ask for peace upon him.”

Qur’an 33:56

★ How to say it

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ

Ka’b ibn ‘Ujrah asked how. “Say: O Allah, send prayer upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as You did upon the family of Ibrahim” — then the same with barakah.

Sahih al-Bukhari 4797 • 6357

★ Returned tenfold

مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً وَاحِدَةً صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَشْرَ صَلَوَاتٍ

“Whoever sends one prayer upon me, Allah sends ten prayers upon him” — and ten sins are erased, and ten degrees raised.

Sunan an-Nasa’i 1297 • sahih

★ After the adhan

إِذَا سَمِعْتُمُ الْمُؤَذِّنَ فَقُولُوا مِثْلَ مَا يَقُولُ ثُمَّ صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ

“When you hear the muezzin, say what he says, then send prayer upon me.” Then ask Allah for al-wasilah, a rank in Paradise for one servant.

Sunan Abi Dawud 523 • sahih

★ The miser

الْبَخِيلُ الَّذِي مَنْ ذُكِرْتُ عَنْدهُ فَلَمْ يُصَلِّ عَلَيَّ

“The miser is the one before whom I am mentioned and he does not send prayer upon me.” Miserly with words, which cost nothing.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3546 • sahih • at-Tirmidhi: gharib

★ On Fridays

فَأَكْثِرُوا عَلَيَّ مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ فِيهِ فَإِنَّ صَلَاتَكُمْ مَعْرُوضَةٌ عَلَيَّ

“Send much prayer upon me on that day, for your prayers are presented to me.” Asked how, after his death, he spoke of the bodies of the prophets.

Sunan Ibn Majah 1085 • sahih

★ The angels carry it

إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَلَائِكَةً سَيَّاحِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَلْغُونِي مِنْ أُمَّتِي السَّلَامَ

“Allah has angels who travel the earth, conveying to me the salam of my ummah.” Distance is not treated as an obstacle.

Sunan an-Nasa’i 1282 • sahih

★ In the prayer

Ka’b’s question was asked because the tashahhud already greeted him. The Shafi’i school holds the salawat in the final sitting obligatory; others hold it a sunnah.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3370 • fiqh: the schools differ

★ Before you ask

A man supplicated without sending prayer upon the Prophet ﷺ. “This one has hurried.” The order given was: praise Allah, send salawat, then ask.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3477 • hasan sahih (at-Tirmidhi)