



Prior Knowledge

Why do Muslims pray and what is the ritual?

For **Muslims**, the five daily prayer times (called salat) are among the most important obligations of the Islamic faith. Prayers remind the faithful of God and the many opportunities to seek His guidance and forgiveness.

What are the main features and functions of a local mosque?

The simplest mosque would be a prayer room with a wall marked with a “mihrab” - a niche indicating the direction of **Mecca**, which **Muslims** should face when praying. A typical **mosque** also includes a minaret, a dome and a place to wash before prayers.

What are the feelings that go with submission and prayer?

Being submissive tells God that He can not only trust, but use you. Submission is an act of obedience. We often tell the Lord that we will follow Him. That we will go where He tells us to go, do what He tells us to do and we ask Him to use us in the way that He sees fit.

New Knowledge

Why are the Five Pillars of Islam significant for many Muslims?

The most important **Muslim** practices are the **Five Pillars of Islam**. The **Five Pillars of Islam** are the five obligations that every **Muslim** must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to **Islam**. They are the declaration of faith (shahada), prayer (salah), alms-giving (zakat), fasting (sawm) and pilgrimage (hajj).



How are babies welcomed into the world by their Muslim families?

Muslims believe it to be the word of God. Babies are welcomed into the world by having the **adhaan** recited into their right ear. Prayer is very important to a **Muslim's** daily life and for many **Muslims** takes place five times a day. **Muslims** often use a prayer mat to pray because the prayer space needs to be clean.

Why do Muslims give to charity?

Muslims see wealth as ultimately belonging to **Allah**, and giving Zakah helps to make people more equal. Helping one another is also seen as helping **Allah**. **Zakah** donations help **Muslims** to purify their souls by not being greedy. It is said that the giver of the money will receive a 'hundred-fold' back in the afterlife.

What is the significance of Hajj and what impact does it have on those who travel to Mecca?

During the **Hajj** the **Pilgrims** perform acts of worship and they renew their sense of purpose in the world. **Mecca** is a place that is holy to all **Muslims**. It is so holy that no non-Muslim is allowed to enter. For **Muslims**, the **Hajj** is the fifth and final pillar of Islam.

