

So how do Muslims remember God and show gratitude?

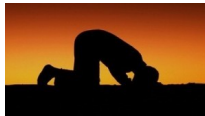
Muslims remember God in many ways, but there are five key pillars which every Muslim is expected to follow:

1. Shahadah (testimony):

To recognise, believe and bear witness that nobody has the right to be worshipped except God alone and that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the final prophet of God.

This is the most important aspect of faith and reason why God has created us. God states in the Quran regarding this:

“And I did not Create the jinn and humans except that they should worship Me (alone).” (Quran 51:56)



2. Salaat (prayer):

To perform the five daily prayers; each prayer takes approximately five minutes and Muslims perform these to remember God and to show appreciation for everything He has given to us, such as our hearing, sight, clothes, food, family etc.

3. Zakaat (charity):

To donate 2.5% from one's savings to charity once a year. This helps to purify the shortcomings within ourselves and our wealth, and reminds us to remember and help those who are less fortunate.

4. Sawm (fast):

To fast consecutively during the month of Ramadhan. God states in the Quran that:

“O you who have believed, we have decreed fasting upon as it was decreed upon those before you, so that you may become of the righteous (God-conscious).” (Quran 2:183)

When one makes a conscious decision to fast then at times of hunger, one is reminded of why he/she is fasting because our Creator has ordained it for us. Hence, a Muslim in the state of fasting remembers God throughout the day and appreciates the favours and blessings which He has given to us.

5. Hajj (pilgrimage):

To visit Mecca and perform the pilgrimage at least once during one's lifetime. This is a command from God in the Quran and all Muslims are expected to fulfil this as long they are able to afford it.

These are the five pillars of the faith and this is Islam – a religion centred on recognising and worshipping One God alone, who is the Creator of everything.

To find out more about Islam, this topic or for more leaflets:

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

What Is Islam?

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Islam is the fastest growing faith in the world but it is arguably among the most misunderstood as well. Hence, in this leaflet, we've decided to provide our readers with a quick insight into what is Islam and we kindly request you to please take a few minutes to read through it.

What is Islam?

Islam is a religion based on worshipping God alone and recognising the fact that all the Prophets including Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT), were all sent by this same God to deliver this same message – this message is Islam:

Say, "We have believed in Allah (God) and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (who) submit to Him (God alone)." (Quran 3:84)

Hence, in Islam all the prophets were Muslims and so were their followers. This includes Mary and the prophet John (the Baptist) (PBUT), the disciples and the children of Israel, because they all believed and worshipped the same God alone.

So who is God?

In Islam, God was always there from the very beginning and He will always be there.

He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything around us; including us. He was never created and will never die.

Sleep and tiredness never inflicts Him, and it is through His Kindness, Might, Power, Mercy, Love and Patience that he effortlessly provides for His Creation every day and every second; both in this world and the next.

"Allah! (God) There is no god but He - the Living, the Self-subsisting, the Eternal. No slumber can seize Him, nor Sleep. To Him belongs everything within the heavens and on earth." (Quran 2:255)

God has no partners and no children, and having created everything on His own, He makes it clear many times in the Quran that nobody has the right to be worshipped and recognised as a God and Creator except Him alone.

"Allah (God)...none has the right to be worshipped except Him alone, the Creator of all things." (Quran 6:102)

This is the biggest and most important distinction between Islam and other faiths.



So why has God created us?

This is a powerful question and the answer is very simple – in Islam God has made us to test us to see if we are willing to look beyond what is directly in front of us and to recognise Him as the Creator of everything.

Take the example of the current President of the United States. Hypothetically speaking, some may argue that he is the most powerful man on Earth. Yet, imagine if tomorrow, all of the human race and animals were to suddenly disappear and all that was left on this Earth was only the President – even though, he may be the most powerful man on Earth, there would be no one left to recognise or to appreciate his status.

In Islam, God has made us for a similar purpose; our purpose is to recognise Him and His status as our Creator and Sustainer. This is why God asks us to think:

"Did you honestly think that We had created you for play, and without any purpose, and that you would not be brought back to Us?" (Quran 23:115)

So what is the purpose of our existence?

Islam encourages us to surrender and submit to the boundaries set by God. Why has God set these boundaries? To make us more conscious of Him so that we don't forget Him.

For example: When a Muslim consciously abstains from eating by fasting or when they pray – this serves to remind the Muslim that the reason they are doing this is because they believe, accept and remember the existence of their Creator and everything He has given to us.

"So remember Me; I will remember you. And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me." (Quran 2:152)

Muslims show that they believe in God with certainty by accepting and following His commands.

Hence, a Muslim spends their life striving to adhere to these boundaries, and in doing so, they fulfil their purpose in life by recognising their Creator, worshipping Him and showing gratitude for everything He has given to us.

On the other hand, a person who does as he or she pleases will consequently never really spend much time thinking about God, and will eventually forget Him.

"They have forgotten Allah (God), so He has forgotten them. Surely the hypocrites are the defiantly disobedient." (Quran 9:67).

