

Salat or Contact Prayer A Gift from God

God reminds us in the Quran 67 times about the Salat or contact prayer. This has been decreed for us in order to grow our souls through a direct contact with our Creator. God mentions that Salat is decreed at specific times as it is stated in 4:103;

4:103	<p>فَإِذَا قُضِيَتْ الصَّلَاةُ فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ قِيَمًا وَقَعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِكُمْ فَإِذَا اطْمَأْنَنْتُمْ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَوْفُورًا</p> <p>And when you finish your contact prayer, then you shall commemorate God₆₂₂ while standing, sitting or lying on your side. And once you are secure, you shall continue upholding the contact prayer. Surely, contact prayer has been decreed upon the believers at specific times.</p>
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Salat has been decreed for us at least 5 times during the day in specific time intervals. These times intervals are:

Dawn, (24:58), during declining sun from the highest point towards the darkness of the night, (17:28), middle (2:238), early evening, (11:114) and after when twilight is over in the evening (24:58).

Above and beyond these specific times God also encourages us to do some voluntary prayers as it is stated in 17:79.

I want to emphasize that these are only reminders and the Salat cannot be taught or forced upon people, but it is inspired to people by God as it is stated by God in 21:73;

21: 73	<p>وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عِبْدِينَ</p> <p>And We made them leaders who guided according to Our command and We inspired them to be doers of good and to observe the contact prayers and to give the cleansing charity and to Us they were worshipers.</p>
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In the past decade, there have several attempts to reduce the numbers of contact prayers to three or two. These efforts will eventually cancel contact prayers

altogether and we should be alert and do not fall into the trap, or we fall into the same category of people described in 19:59;

19:59	<p>فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهْوَاتِ فَسُوفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غِيًّا</p> <p>Afterwards, another generation replaced them who then wasted the contact prayer and followed their lust. They will therefore soon find out the evils of this.</p>
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Finally a sincere study of the Quran reveals that the number of daily contact prayers is more than three and definitely more than two. This is stated in 2:238;

2:238	<p>حَفِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَى وَقَوْمُوا لِلَّهِ قَنِينًا</p> <p>Remember the contact prayers, as well as the middle prayer and rise up for God₂₀₅ humbly.</p>
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The word “salawat” which I have highlighted in red in the Quranic text in Arabic is plural and refers to a number greater than two and at least three. Now if we add the “middle prayer”, we end up with a minimum of four (4) daily contact prayers, however, an even number cannot have “middle”, so it has to be at least five (5) daily contact prayers.

Again remember that everything in this article is only a reminder, pointing to verses in the Quran. The sincere believers already know this since God has inspired them.