

## 610 - Repentance for neglecting prayer

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### the question

I am 38 years old man. till the age of 25 I  
didn't pray. please advise me what I have to do for this?

### Detailed answer

Remember how Allaah has blessed you by bringing  
you back to Islam after you have been neglecting salaah, and keep on doing the  
prayers at the right times. Do more naafil (supererogatory or extra) prayers  
to make up for the fard (obligatory) prayers that you have missed, as was advised  
in the saheeh hadeeth narrated by Hurayth ibn Qubaysah, who said: I came  
to Madeenah and prayed, O Allaah, send me a righteous companion.

I went and sat with Abu Hurayrah and said: I asked Allaah to bless me  
with a righteous companion; tell me a hadeeth that you heard from the Messenger  
of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon  
him), so that I may benefit therefrom. He said: I heard the Messenger  
of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon  
him) say that the first thing for which a person will be brought to account  
on the Day of Resurrection will be his prayer. If it is sound, he will be successful,  
and if it is lacking in any way, he will be doomed. If his obligatory prayers  
are lacking, the Lord will say: Look and see whether My slave has any  
voluntary prayers which may be used to make up what is lacking in his obligatory  
prayers. Then all his deeds will be examined and dealt with in the same  
way. (Reported by al-Tirmidhi, no. 413; see  
also Saheeh al-Jaami, 2020).

Abu Dawood reported from Anas ibn Hakeem al-Dabbi that he came to Madeenah and  
met Abu Hurayrah. He said: He asked me about my lineage so I told him  
about it, then he said: O young man, shall I not tell you a hadeeth?

I said, Of course, may Allaah have mercy on you, and I think he mentioned it from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). He said: The first thing that people will be asked about on the Day of Resurrection will be their prayers. Our Lord will say to His angels (although He knows best): Look at My slaves prayers: are they complete or is something lacking? If they are complete, they will be recorded as such, but if something is lacking, He will say: Look and see if My slave has any voluntary prayers to his credit. If this proves to be the case, He will say: Make up his (missing) obligatory prayers with his voluntary prayers. Then the rest of his deeds will be dealt with in the same manner. (Saheeh al-Jaami, 2571)