

Friday Prayers

Friday Prayer Focus

Muslims do not think of communion with God, knowing God or hearing from God, as being part of their normal prayer experience. In Islam normal daily prayer is a focused ritual exercise which is an expression of worship and honor toward Allah. Personal requests are possible in Islam but the formal ritual prayers are definitely the most important prayer activity for Muslims.

Prayer in Islam is generally not meant to bring one's self into direct personal contact or communion with Allah. Even when Muslims speak of prayer as communication with Allah they are never thinking that Allah will actually speak back to them. The communication is always one way. Only within the small Sufi Muslim minority can one speak of meeting God. However, beliefs and practices among Sufis place the emphasis more on being submerged in the divine, than knowing God in a communication oriented and relational sense. Among believers in the Messiah, knowing God in a relational sense is a key aspect of the faith (John 17:3). According to orthodox Islam, God never speaks to humans directly and actually he has not even spoken to anyone indirectly (through angels) since the time of Mohammed. Muslims universally believe that Mohammed was the last and the greatest of the prophets. According to them, Mohammed brought the final spoken revelation from God, which eventually became the book we know as the Qur'an.

Prayer is encouraged as a means of restraining Muslims from social wrongs and moral deviancy. According to a traditional saying, Mohammed when asked, "What is the best deed?" He replied, "To offer prayers at their fixed times." When asked again, "What is next in goodness?" He replied, "To be good and dutiful to your parents." When asked again, "What is next in goodness?" He replied, "To participate in Jihad in Allah's Cause." Prayer is often seen as a meritorious activity in Islam.



The Kho People

Toward noon today thousands of Kho in the high mountainous region of Northern Pakistan will be praying in their local mosques. Almost none of them will have even ever asked the question "Does God ever speak to man today?" Many will think that their prayer will earn them merit before God.

This people group numbers about 320,000 people. There are no known believers in this people group. No one is seeking specifically to reach them at the present time. The Kho appear to be very resistant to the Gospel. Most of them live in the upper valleys, where farming is very difficult due to the dry, rugged mountain terrain.

The heart language of the Kho is Khowar. It is spoken in homes and villages, and through it, children receive their informal education about the customs, traditions, values and beliefs of Kho society. Khowar's oral tradition is full of well-loved poems and songs, passed down from generation to generation.

See The Kho people of Pakistan on youtube.com

▶ Prayer REQUESTS

- ▶ *Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of these people who seem very resistant to the Gospel.*
- ▶ *Pray that the Lord will raise up believers who are willing to invest long-term service for the tribes of northern Pakistan.*
- ▶ *Pray that the Kho people will receive dreams and visions of Jesus.*