

Praying four rak'ahs on last Friday of Ramadhaan as expiation for missed prayers

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: I read a hadeeth from the Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) in which he said: "Whoever misses a prayer during his life and cannot remember what it was, let him get up on the last Friday of Ramadhaan and pray four rak'ahs with one tashahhud, reciting in each rak'ah the Opening of the Book (i.e., al-Faatihah) and Soorat al-Qadr fifteen times, and Soorat al-Kawthar the same number of times, and let him say in his intention: I intend to pray four rak'ahs as expiation for what I have missed of prayers." How sound is this hadeeth?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan: There is no basis for this in the Sunnah of the Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*). What is proven from the Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) is that he said:

**"Whoever forgets a prayer or sleeps and misses it, let him offer it when he remembers it.
There is no expiation for that except this"¹.**

With regard to the prayers that you missed previously, if you missed them because of sleep – for example – or because you were unconscious, or for some excuse that you thought made it permissible for you to delay them, then what you must do is make them up and offer them in order. If you missed them deliberately, then the more correct of the two scholarly views is that you must repent to Allaah, because the one who misses prayer deliberately is in a grave position, even if he does not deny that they are obligatory. The correct view is that he has become a disbeliever by doing that. So you must repent to Allaah if you missed them deliberately, and you must persist in offering prayers regularly in the future, and may Allaah accept your repentance.

But if you missed them because of sleep or unconsciousness, or something else that prevented you from offering them on time, then you have no choice but to make them up. As for offering this prayer that you mentioned at the end of Ramadhaan in this manner, there is no basis for that in Islaamic religion, and it will not make up for the prayers that you missed.

¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim