

Living for a Message
Sheikh Daood Butt

How to get closer to Allah by following the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) during our studies and everything in our life: The way of life of the prophet was a simple and pure way.

- Begin by setting an early morning alarm clock by using your phone, not a traditional alarm clock. Use the technology and maximize the benefits. Set an alarm that will bring you closer to Allah, put a recording that you know is literally going to alarm you when you hear it. Personalize your own alarm; Record the alarm in your own voice so you can wake yourself up.
- When you wake up, before you open your eyes you should say “alhamdulillah allathi a7in ba3d ma amatana”. Be thankful for waking up, imagine if you did not wake up today; Say alhamdulillah you have woken, alhamdulillah you can see, alhamdulillah you were able to sit up, before you have even prayed you have already praised Allah so much. Be thankful for every blessing Allah has given.
- You should always wonder how you can get closer to Allah, even if you pray extra, fast the extra days, you should also recognize the small things Allah has blessed you with. When we call others to salah we are also thanking Allah for giving you the opportunity to do that.
- Take your time while praying fajr or any prayer. Don't rush so that you can go back to sleep. Be thankful especially by taking more time to stay in sujood (that is when you are closer to Allah (SWA). In sujood that is when the most powerful part of your body- the brain is on the ground for the most powerful being (Allah SWT).
- Always think of death even in salah; remember that right now you can control your body by either praying or not but one day you won't be able to do that. When we put our heads to the ground just remember that one day you will be put under the ground, but now you have the ability to put your head down.
- Respecting others in all aspects of our lives from getting to the bus to go to school, or minding about others while driving. Don't over speed or push people to get on the bus; that is harming them. Try to remove harm for others and don't be the harm yourself. Adab, is something that we learn from the prophet. The highest level of iman is the shahada, the lowest level is removing something harmful from the road. When you over speed just because you are late, you are putting harm for others on the road instead of removing it.
- Don't cheat in your life. Try your best and leave everything to Allah (SWA). Hadith: prophet (SAW) mentioned that whoever cheats is not among us, especially those who cheat Muslims.
- Spread the salam; it should be the first thing you say when you get home even if you live alone. Say it to all the Muslims you meet on the way; this will build unity in the umma. Because of the harm that some Muslims get nowadays some Muslim sister or brothers need the support. When

you say alsalamalikom, you are not only fulfilling the sunnah of the prophet (SAW) but you are making them dua for peace and protection from Allah.

- Make dua when you enter your house; it helps remove all the evil from your home thus making yourself get closer to Allah (SWT).
- Don't judge others as we are all at different levels. Always remember that you don't know what you will be in the future.
- Acknowledge Allah's (SWT) creations around you. Don't be so lost in technology that you forget the presence of others around you. Communicate with your family and friends. Try spending time without your gadgets so that you can take in the beauty of this world- this will help you get closer to Allah (SWT) and you will realize how magnificent He is by all the creations around us. Connect with people; so that you can spread Islam.
- Leave a portion of your day for Quran recitation and memorization.
- Dua and dhikr are very essential. With all the free time you get, try to fill it with dua and dhikr. Pay attention to what adhkar you are saying so that you can get all the rewards. Just saying subhaAllah, Allah plants a massive tree that no eye has ever witnessed for you in Jannah.
- Pray as many sunnah and nawafil prayers as possible as they will help you protect the compulsory prayers.
- Implement the knowledge you have even of the small things before you acquire more knowledge.