
The Istikhaara Prayer

source: *silsilat ul-hudaa wa nnoor* – the series of guidance and light
tape no. 206 (a), tape no. 664 (b), tape no. 426 (c)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question no.10: (a) “What should the one making istikhaara¹ prayer say if he has two affairs on the same level and does not have an inclination toward either one, meaning 50-50?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)² answers: “What I understand from your question is that he does not have an **intention (to do something)**,³ therefore there is no istikhaara prayer upon him.”

Question no.10: (a) “Is the istikhaara prayer legislated for one who is confused about doing something or is it legislated for one who has made up his mind to do so?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “No, the istikhaara prayer does not remove confusion. **Istikhaara prayer is (done) after a person has made up his mind to do something**; so here, istikhaara is performed. Istikhaara prayer is not legislated for removing doubt and uncertainty regarding a matter which the Muslim has not made up his mind about.”

Question no.5: (b) “Is the du’aa (supplication) of istikhaara prayer before the tasleem or after it?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “**After** the tasleem.”

Question no.12: (c) “Is it allowed to repeat the istikhaara prayer?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “It is allowed if his istikhaara prayer was not (performed in the way in which it is) legislated, and it is enough for it to be not legislated if he makes istikhaara to his Lord by (merely) his words, and not by his heart. And he himself is aware of this inattentiveness, so then he is forced to repeat (the istikhaara prayer). As for if he himself did not feel any of that, **then he has innovated (if he repeats it)**.”⁴

¹ *istikhaara* means to seek (from Allaah) that which is best regarding something

² (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

³ this is in reference to the actual wording of the hadeeth in which the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: “If one of you intends to do something, then let him pray two ra’kah, then say [the du’aa of istikhaara]”; Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.6382

⁴ asaheeha translations