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Rulings related to Masjids (mosques)

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Definition of the Masjid

First and second questions from Fatwa No. 1319

Q: 1- What is the meaning of Masjid (mosque), literally and technically?

A: Literally, the Masjid means the place of prostration. Technically, it means any place prepared so that Muslims may offer the five obligatory Prayers in congregation in it. It may be used in a broader sense. In this case it means any place in a person's house where they may offer Naafilah (supererogatory) Prayers or obligatory Prayers in case they (for men) have a legal excuse that prevents them from going to the masjid in which the congregational prayer is performed. In this regard there is a Hadith related by Al-Bukhari and others on the authority of Jabir who said: The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (I have been conferred upon five (things) which were not granted to anyone before me (and these are): Allah made me victorious by awe, (by His frightening my enemies) for a distance of one month's journey, and the earth has been made for me (and for my followers) a place for praying and a thing to perform Tayammum, therefore any of my followers can pray whenever the time of any prayer is due...)

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions! Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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