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5- Answering the phone during Salah

Fatwa No. 1870

Q: Some people offer Salah (Prayer) at home. When the phone rings and keeps ringing for a long time, is it permissible - in such a case - for the performer of Salah to go forward or backwards a few steps to answer the phone, then say Takbir (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]") or raise his voice with recitation to inform the caller that he is offering Salah as is the case of opening the door for a person who is knocking or raising the voice to inform him?

A: If a person is offering Salah and the phone rings, they may pick up the phone even if they go a few steps forward or backward or to the right or left provided that they should face the Qiblah. He should say: "Subhana Allah (Glorified be Allah)" to inform the speaker on the phone. It is authentically reported in Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim (that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) used to offer Salah while holding Umamah, the daughter of his daughter. He used to put her down when he knelt down and carry her when he stood up.) According to the narration of Muslim "while leading people in Salah". It is also narrated by Ahmad and others on the authority of `Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) that she said: (Once the Messenger (peace be upon him) was offering Salah while the door was closed. When I came, he (the Messenger) walked to open, then returned to his position. She added that the door was in the same direction of the Qiblah.

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Al-Bukhari and Muslim also narrated that (The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: If something happens to you during prayer you should say 'Subhana-llah' (Glory be to Allah), and clapping is only for women.)

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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