

## Delaying joining Tarawih prayer until Rukoo

Explained by Shaykh Uthaymeen

**Question:** Some of the people, when Tarawih prayer starts they wait until the Imam bows for Rukoo before entering the prayer, thus once he bows they enter the prayer and bow with him. Is this correct? Likewise if the Imam completes the first Rakah and then stands for the second Rakah, some people sit until he is about to bow for Rukoo, then they stand and bow with him. Is it permissible to do this?

**Shaykh Uthaymeen:** As for the people delaying joining Tarawih prayer until the Imam says the Takbeer for Rukoo, this action is not correct. Rather, I am undecided if his Rakah counts or not, because he deliberately delayed that which would have allowed him to recite Al-Fātihah. And the recitation of Al-Fātihah is a pillar of the prayer. It is not waived for the Imam, those praying behind him, or the individual praying alone.

Waiting for the Imam to bow in Rukoo then standing and bowing with him is no doubt incorrect and risky for his prayer; or at the least it is risky for this particular Rakah; that perhaps it will not count.

As for saying the Takbir along with the Imam while the person is sitting, and then when the Rukoo is near he stands and bows in Rukoo with the Imam; there is no harm in this. This is because Tarawih is a supererogatory prayer, and when the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم became older and heavier he would do this. The person begins sitting and he recites; when the Rukoo is near he stands and recites what is easy for him from the Quran and then he bows in Rukoo. Likewise if he bows in Rukoo with the Imam and then the Imam stands for the second Rakah while he remains sitting. And when the Imam is close to bowing for the second Rukoo he stands and bows with him. All of this is okay.

فتوى رقم 361 من مجمع فتاوى ابن عثيمين رحمه الله

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee