

WHAT TO PRAY: SET PRAYERS: AMIDA: ACTIONS

AMIDA: ACTIONS: STANDING

Amida: Standing Up

Stand up when saying the amida. Unless you are not able to stand unaided, you may not lean on something if you would fall over if that item were removed.

Amida: Standing with Feet Together

Stand with your feet together to resemble the angels, who only have one leg, during the private amida and for kedusha.

AMIDA: ACTIONS: SITTING

Amida: Sitting for Concentration

You may sit during the amida (and other standing prayers) to avoid distraction, such as when you might be jolted in a moving vehicle or disturbed by people passing in the airplane aisle.

AMIDA: ACTIONS: STEPPING

Amida Actions: Steps Before and After

Stepping To Begin the Amida

After saying ga'al Yisrael, take three steps forward (any size of steps is fine):

- Step forward with your right foot,
- Step forward with your left foot, then
- Step forward with your right foot so that both feet are touching at the heels and at the balls (so that you are standing as if you had one leg, like the angels!).

NOTE Taking three steps backward immediately before taking three steps forward, as instructed in some siddurs, defeats the purpose of taking the three steps forward. The purpose of stepping forward is to symbolically approach Hashem. If you step backward and then take your three steps forward, you are back to where you began and have not approached Hashem at all!

If you do not have enough room in front of yourself to take three steps forward when beginning your amida, step back somewhat (at least a few seconds) before you say ga'al Yisrael. There is no need to take three steps back; a single large step that will give you room to take three steps forward is all that is needed.

By making a practice of taking three steps back, people have made the stepping backward part of the entire procedure, and it should not be.

Similarly, once you have finished saying the amida and walked three steps backward, wait at least three seconds before walking forward so as not to defeat the purpose of having stepped backward. Take as many steps as you need to get back to your seat--one step should suffice.

Amida Actions: Stepping Before Kedusha

You do not need to take three steps forward (or any steps at all!) before saying kedusha.

AMIDA: ACTIONS: HITTING YOUR CHEST

When To Hit Your Chest during Prayers

Hit your chest near your heart with your fist at:

- *Chatanu...* and *... fashanu...* in *slach lanu*,
- First line of *Avinu malkeinu* (except on *Rosh Hashana*),
- *Ve'al cheit* and *ve'al chataim* in the *al cheit* for *Yom Kippur*, and
- *Ashammu* on
 - *Rosh Hashana*,
 - *10 Days of Repentance*,
 - Fast days, and
 - *Selichot*.