

Written Khutbah

5 pieces of Advice for Ramadhan

Authored by

Abul Abbaas Naveed Ayaaz

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eMail

admin@madeenah.com

madeenah.com

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{فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا}

"So whoever hopes for the meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord." [18:110]

...To proceed,

O Muslims, we are living in blessed days, the days of Ramadhan which Allah has honoured us with; however these days are limited, for this reason Allah (the Blessed) described them as:

{...أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ }

{...a limited number of days} [02:183]

So, the days of Ramadhan are blessed however they are numbered and quick to pass. I offer 5 important pieces of advice so we can truly benefit from these days.

First: We should understand why we fast; what is the wisdom behind fasting? We fast:

- To develop piety, to feel close to Him; and to show Shukr (gratitude) to Allah.
- We fast in submission to His command, as He is the one who obligated it upon us.
- We fast hoping for His mercy, forgiveness and reward; and fearing His punishment.
- We fast hoping to attain Paradise, and be saved from the Fire.

All these beautiful meanings are contained within the word 'Taqwa', as Allah (the Blessed) said:

{يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ }

{O you who believe, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you so that you may attain Taqwa} [02:183]

Second: The real essence of fasting is not merely abstaining from food and drink, as this is attained by many people, and Allah does not benefit from our hunger and thirst, neither did He legislate it to punish us through hunger. Rather the real essence of fasting is the state of your heart, mind, tongue and soul throughout this month. The Prophet (sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam): "**Whoever does not give up false speech and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink**" [Al-Bukhari]

Third: Ramadhan is the month of worship; it is the month of fasting in the day and praying at night; it is the month Dhikr and Du'a; it is the month of the Qur'an. So, we must rectify our intentions, and increase our efforts throughout this month.

Fourth: Allah distinguished this blessed month from all other months in many ways, and one of its distinctions is that it is the month of the Qur'an. When Allah (the Blessed) wanted to explain why this month is distinguished from other months, He said:

{شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ }

{The month of Ramadan in which the Qur'an has been sent down as guidance for mankind, containing clear signs of guidance and distinguishing (the truth from falsehood)} [02:185]

Ibn Rajab said: "This Ayah proves the encouragement to study the Qur'an in Ramadhan, and to come together to do this."

أقول قولي هذا واستغفر الله لي ولكم ولسائر المسلمين ، إنه هو الغفور الرحيم

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ ، وَبَعْدَ

O Muslims, the fifth and final piece of advice to help us in benefitting from Ramadhan is: that whilst we are in the Dunya (worldly Life), we should always be in preparation for the Aakhirah (Hereafter). As Muslims, we live and die for our Aakhirah. So, increase in your good statements and actions. Take your provisions now, for the journey to the Hereafter. And the greatest provision we can take is Taqwa:

{وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ}

{And whatever good you do - Allah knows it. And take provisions; verily, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding} [02:185]

The real life, the eternal life, the abode of bliss is in the Hereafter so we should not become deceived by this life. Allah (the Blessed) said,

((مَا عِنْدَكُمْ يَنْفَدُ وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ بَاقٍ))

{Whatever you have will end, but what Allah has is lasting} [16:96]

So, let us not waste these precious hours and days, and let us increase in our efforts so we may reap the rewards of the Aakhirah.

■ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

■ اللهم أعز الإسلام والمسلمين وأذل الشرك والمشركين

■ رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

■ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

■ رَبَّنَا لَا تُغْنِ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

■ اللهم اغفر لنا ولوالدينا وللمسلمين والمسلمات والمؤمنين والمؤمنات الأحياء منهم والأموات إنك أنت الغفور الرحيم

■ وصلى الله على نبينا وسلم.