

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 10.02.2017

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَدْعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَنْتُمْ مُوقِنُونَ بِالْإِجَابَةِ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُ دَعَاءَ مَنْ قَلْبٍ غَافِلٍ لَاهٍ

A BELIEVER'S INVOCATION: PRAYER

A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

There is a great blessing in this mortal world which gives us peace, makes us stronger in the face of adversity, and keeps our ideals for the future alive. This blessing is “prayer.” Prayer is a source of grace and abundance bestowed upon us by the Almighty Lord. Prayer is an expression of our faith and submission to Allah, and our believer’s mentality. It is the manifestation of the awareness that we have a Lord who never abandons us even for a moment and does not leave us alone. Prayer is the admission of our helplessness with gratitude and praise in the face of Allah’s sublimity.

Honorable Believers!

Prayer is the discovery of existence. When we pray, we realize our needs, our limits, our physical and spiritual resources. We express that we are aware of our boundaries and power, the reason for our creation, and our responsibilities. We know ourselves, we know our Lord. We earn our Lord’s favor as He enjoins in the Quran:

قُلْ مَا يَعْبَأُ بِكُمْ رَبِّي لَوْلَا دُعَاؤُكُمْ
my Lord care for you if not for your prayer?”¹

Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is the demonstration of us being servants to Allah. We express with our prayers that we acknowledge Allah’s will and decree. All our worship is essentially supplicating to Him expecting His favor. We know that prayer is what instills spirit and meaning to all worship. Worship, or the believer’s mentality, becomes complete with prayer. That’s why our Prophet (s.a.w.) said

الدُّعَاءُ مِثْلُ الْعِبَادَةِ or “Prayer is the essence of worship.”²

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is both an invitation and accepting the invitation. Our Lord calls us to pray by enjoining, اذْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ ... “Call upon Me; I will respond to you.”³ And He blesses us with good news of answering our prayers saying,

أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ
“I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me.”⁴ All we have to do is to prayer to our Lord with this mindset. And ask for His favor, assistance, abundance, and forgiveness.

Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is not the humble begging of a lazy, irresponsible, senseless, coward person. On the contrary, it

is the epitome of determination, effort, and good intention. Prayer is not just uttering the same sentences. Reflection is the mind’s prayer. Love and mercy are the heart’s prayer. Asking for forgiveness, on the other hand, is only the tongue’s prayer. But the tongue’s prayer will be futile if the mind and heart don’t pray. As a matter of fact, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: “Pray to Allah sincerely believing it will be answered. Allah does not respond to prayers from a frivolous and indifferent heart.”⁵

Honorable Believers!

Prayer means meeting our brothers and sisters. It means solidifying our brotherhood and love for the Ummah. We cannot act selfish when we pray. We cannot only think for ourselves. We pray also for brothers and sisters around the world knowing praying on their behalf will be accepted. Because the Prophet (s.a.w.) told Caliph Umar who asked for permission to go to the Hajj: “O brother! Make us partners in your prayer, remember us.”⁶

Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer means aspiring noble values. The prayers that our Prophet taught us do not only include asking for material needs. On the contrary, his prayers ask for morals and virtue, merits that elevate a human being. His prayers are about ensuring love, respect, fondness, mercy, justice, and peace in society. His prayers are a desire to be guarded against dishonor, living in abomination and in constant need of others, and against immorality.

Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty never spare us the abundance and power of prayer. May He grant us to be among the happy ones whose prayers are answered. Come! Let us supplicate to our Lord on this blessed time of Friday with the prayers our Beloved Prophet taught us:

“O Allah! We ask of You the right path, piety, dignity, and generosity of the heart.”⁷

“O Allah, we seek Your shelter against mischief, sedition, and bad character.”⁸

“O Allah, we seek refuge in You from knowledge that is of no use, from heart that does not tremble, from soul that is not satisfied, and from prayer that is not answered.”⁹

“O Lord! Grant us goodness in the world. Grant us goodness in the Hereafter. Protect us from the torment of the Fire.”¹⁰

O Lord! Make the Ummah of Islam glorious again! Grant Your mercy upon our martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the survival and peace of our nation and country! Grant patience to their relatives and our nation! Grant us to be among those who embrace and preserve the noble values the martyrs have died for!

¹ Al-Furqan, 25/77.

² Tirmidhi, Deavât, 1.

³ Ghafir, 40/60.

⁴ Al-Baqarah, 2/186.

⁵ Tirmidhi, Deavât, 65.

⁶ Ibn Majah, Menâsik, 5.

⁷ Muslim, Zikir, 72.

⁸ An-Nasa’i, Istiaze, 21.

⁹ Muslim, Zikir, 73.

¹⁰ Al-Baqarah, 2/201; Bukhari, Deavât, 55.