

Signs of deeds being accepted

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on 10 October 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God

Imam Muslim narrated from the noble companion Sufyan Ibn Abdullah that he said, 'I said, 'Messenger of Allah, say to me in Islam a saying about which I will ask no one after you,' He said, 'Say I believe in Allah then be upright.'"

Reflect, oh servants of Allah, on this collective will which clarifies the characteristics of every Muslim until he dies. It is to be truly upright without any deviation, weakness or retreat. It is the true integrity of the tongue (Say I believe) and the integrity of heart and limbs (then be upright) then consistency, coherence and harmony between the full integrity of the tongue, heart and limbs on the religion of Allah without contradiction.

Oh Muslims,

The righteous early generation used to strive to complete and perfect their deeds then to worry whether those deeds were accepted or not. Those were described by the verse "And those who dispense their charity with their hearts full of fear, because they will return to their Lord" [Al-Mumenoon 23:60]

Al-Tirmithi narrated that Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said, "O Messenger of Allah, is the verse "And those who dispense their charity while their hearts fear that to their Lord they must return" referring to someone who commits fornication, drinks alcohol and steals and still fear Allah? The prophet (pbuh) said, "No, O daughter of as-Siddiq, but it refers to one who fasts, performs salah and gives charity, and fears that it may not be accepted from him."

A righteous man said: if I knew that Allah has accepted a weight of a grain of mustard seed (of my deeds) then that will be better for me than the whole world; that is because Allah says "Allah only accepts from those who are righteous" [Al-Maeda 5:27]

Malik bin Dinar said: fearing that the deed is not accepted is harder than doing the deed itself.

Accepting the deed is known only by Allah but there is a sign for everything and there are signs for accepting the deed by Allah. Continuity of the good deed is among those signs, it was said: the reward of one good deed is to be followed by another good deed.

What is after Ramadan?

Are we still active in worshipping Allah and seeking to be close to him after Ramadan?

Mushafs became cold as those who held them became fewer and fewer, Carpets of the mosques are complaining of the fewer number of people who prostrating on them, Mosques are missing their visitors who filled them during Ramadan.

It seems the travelling angels who seek people in mosques and knowledge circles are missing the faces they used to see during Ramadan, the faces which shed tears and the souls which felt joy by the remembrance of Allah.

Do you know Allah only in Ramadan? The worst of people are those who do so.

Oh servant of Allah, shall you go back to your lord and outstretch the ties of love with your lord and your creator.

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said: Allah the Almighty said:

I am as My servant thinks I am. I am with him when he makes mention of Me. If he makes mention of Me to himself, I make mention of him to Myself; and if he makes mention of Me in an assembly, I make mention of him in an assemble better than it. And if he draws near to Me a hand's span, I draw near to him an arm's length; if he draws near to Me an arm's length, I draw near to him a fathom's length; and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running”

Allah almighty has described his great bounty and enormous generosity and his closeness to his servants. As much as the servant gets closer to Allah then Allah gets closer to him, indeed Allah is close to his servants as the verse stated “When My servants ask thee concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calleth on Me: Let them also, with a will, Listen to My call, and believe in Me: That they may walk in the right way” [Al-Baqara 2:186] and in a hadith the prophet (pbuh) said: “a servant becomes closest to his Lord while he is prostrating. So supplicate more and more while prostrating” [Muslim].

The last three sentences of the hadith “And if he draws near to Me a hand's span, I draw near to him an arm's length; if he draws near to Me an arm's length, I draw near to him a fathom's length; and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running” show the great meaning that the bounty of Allah is a lot more than the deeds of the servants and that is what the servant is given is a lot more than what he deserves.

Allah says in another hadith “My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing Nawafil (praying or doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) till I love him, so I become his sense of hearing with which he hears, and his sense of sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he grips, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks Me, I will give him, and if he asks My protection (Refuge), I will protect him; (i.e. give him My Refuge) and I do not hesitate to do anything as I hesitate to take the soul of the believer, for he hates death, and I hate to disappoint him.” [Al-Bukhari]

And “So long as one's lips move in My remembrance I remain with him” and “Then do ye remember Me; I will remember you. Be grateful to Me, and reject not Faith” [Al-Baqara 2:152]

Oh you who are beloved by Allah go back to him, leave the anxieties of this life to the comfort of the remembrance of Allah. Go back to the house of Allah where you tasted the joy of the worship in during Ramadan. Go back to the Quran to enjoy the best of words and the greatest of remembrance “And We have indeed made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember: then is there any that will receive admonition?” [Al-Qamar 54:17]

May allah helps us all on his obedience and to continue his worship, praise and remembrance, may he keep our hearts firm on his religion, love and believe in him, and may he keeps us protected from our desires, tumults and oppression “Whoever holds firmly to Allah will be shown a way that is straight” [Aal-e-Imran 3:101]

