

Repentance 5.

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All thanks be to Allah. We give gratitude to Him, we seek His help and guidance, and we ask for His forgiveness.

The Imam is still talking about the slaves of the Rahman and their qualities. Last Friday the Imam talked about the quality of repentance. One of the qualities of the slaves of the Rahman is that if they commit a sin they immediately repent and return to Allah. Allah says: **{Except for those who repent and have faith, and they do a good deed, those are the ones whom Allah replaces their sins for good points}**. It is Allah's mercy upon His slaves is that He left the door of repentance right open; because He loves those who repeatedly repent and those who repeatedly seek purification. Even for those who commit the ultimate sin of associating others with Him (or Shirk), Allah has the repentance door open for them. In Anfal chapter; ayah 38 Allah says: **{say to those infidel if they end what they do; then Allah forgives what's passed.}** Just as Islam (or converting to Islam) clears what occurred before it; similarly, repentance will work for all types of sins. Listen to Allah describing His slaves in the chapter (surat) Al-Forkan when HE says:

{And the slaves of Rahman (Most Gracious) are:

Those who walk on the earth in humility, and;

Those who when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace!' and;

Those who spend the night in adoration of their Lord prostrating and standing; and;

Those who say: 'Our Lord! Avert from us the Wrath of Hell, for its Wrath is indeed an affliction grievous, Evil indeed it is; as an abode and as a place to rest in' and;

Those who, when they spend, are not extravagant and not stingy, but are moderate and in balance between extremes; and;

Those who invoke not, with Allah, any other god, nor slay such life as Allah has made sacred except for a just cause, nor commit adultery; and;

Any who does this meets punishment increased many fold; and shall remain in it; for ever shameful; except whoever repents; and have faith; and works righteous deeds. For those Allah replaces their sins and evil with good. Allah has been Forgiving and Merciful}. See the way Allah after the sin of invoking another god with Allah, murder and adultery; He follows that with: "**Except whoever repents**". Now the question which remains is what type of repentance will be accepted by Allah?

Well, it is the pure sincere repentance which is free from all cheating and which is not a false repentance. Not a repent of a lie; like those who repent with their tongues while their hearts insist on sin. Repenting has conditions, bases and foundation. Lets first look at the conditions required for repenting.

The first and major foundation of repent is regret and remorse. The messenger (PPBU) was reported saying: "regret is

a repent". This is deducted along the line of the messenger (PPBU) saying: {Hajj is Arafah} indicating that Arafah is the most important foundation of Hajj. It is the feelings of regret, remorse, sorrow and guilt. It is the feeling and the realization of defaulting with Allah despite Allah's kindness to him. This is psychological state a repenting person gets into. Allah described the psychology of a repenting person by saying: {and those three who did bad; and for them; earth despite its spaciousness became so tight, and they thought that there is no escape from Allah except to Him, then He did forgive them in order for them to repent. He is the ever returning the merciful}. This is the feeling of one who is repenting, regret as being the first and most important condition.

The second foundation of repentance is: the resolution and determination not to go back to sin. Repentance does not exist without this condition. Repentance has no meaning for someone who is still thinking about recommitting the sin. Yes, Satan can lure man and win against him and make him recommit sin, but at the moment of repentance; it is absolutely important for the individual to have the certain intention and determination not to go back to sin.

The third foundation requirement for repentance is that: to stop doing the sinful act in real at that time. Repentance is returning from disobedience to obedience; and from sins to good deeds, from the path of Satan to the path of Allah. A repenting person must change his ways, or change the company he/she keeps, or change the place where hangs round with

another place, or replace some friend with others. Also remember the aya which says: {follow up a sinful act with a good deed; it will wipe it off}. Or the story of the man who killed 100 souls and was looking to repent; and he was advised the following: "go to a different land, which had better people worshipping Allah. And join them in worship of Allah. And do not return to this land of yours, it is a bad land."

If repentance fulfills its conditions; it is bound to be accepted by Allah (In-Shaa Alllah). Based on Allah ways and norms. Allah promised to accept repentance.

Always remember that Allah; through his mercy will inspire and encourage a sinner to repent. Which means Allah first accepts his/her repentance first; and then the sinner does repent. This is proof that Allah has accepted the repentance and decided to forgive the sinner before they actually do repent.

All Muslims are commanded by Allah to repent. Every individual is commanded to repent. Who is it of all people actually believes or thinks that he or she is impeccable and can commit no sin? We are all have defaulted with Allah and Allah's rights upon us. And that is one reason why we should always be resentful. The messenger (PPBU) said: {O' People, do repent to Allah and ask His forgiveness. For I repent to Allah a hundred times a day}. Slaves or Rahman are commanded to repent especially if they commit a sin, or a major sin. Immediate repentance is obligatory in such cases. And remember that Allah gets pleased and delighted when one of His slaves repent.

Those were the conditions for repenting to Allah as long as the sin repenting from involves a matter which concerns the individual and Allah. That is relatively simple and Allah will no doubt accept the repentance. But the problem may arise if sin involves matters which concerns rights of other people especially financial rights. Repentance in such case for it to be sincere requires returning, paying back or compensating to the rightful individuals all wrongful aggressions. The messenger (PPBU) said: {Any one who owes a brother of his anything of this life taken wrongly, let him reach an agreement in Halal with him; before time comes when no Euros, pounds or cents disappear; and the only way to compensate them will be by paying from ones own good deeds. And if none exist then one shall be given the sins of those he transgressed against}.

Any one who committed much aggression against others lets him return everything back to their rightful owners. If they are already dead and they have no kin, or unknown to him or they are too many to count, then one can make a charity on their behalf. Especially an on going charity like building a mosque or a charitable project which will continue to accumulate good deeds for as long as possible. If unable to do so, then to try and give some charity whenever it becomes possible.

There are other conditions for repentance to be accepted. Amongst them is that it has to happen before the moment of death approaches. Also before that time when the sun will rise from the west.

The messenger (PPBU) said: {whoever makes repentance before the sun rises from the west then Allah will accept it}.

Brothers and sisters; I repent to Allah and I ask Allah for forgiveness from all sins. You too ask for His forgiveness. He is the most forgiving; the most merciful.