

How to Benefit from Ramadan

Friday Khutbah (7th September 2007) delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Taher

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. 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.

O Muslim, in just a few days time we will be receiving the month of Ramadan. Let us welcome in this month by doing good actions- here are a few examples to consider:

1. Making a sincere and determined effort to repent and turn back to God, the Most High and strengthen your motivation to build your Ramadan upon good actions. Know that whoever is sincere with God and obeys Him; God eases for him or her the path to goodness. God Almighty says:

“But, without doubt, I am He that forgives again and again, to those who repent, believe, and do right, who, - in fine, are ready to receive true guidance.” (Surah Taha: 82)

2. To really prepare for Ramadan, and realise that the days of Ramadan are limited. They pass by so quickly and before you know it, the end of Ramadan approaches! So increase in doing all kinds of good actions. The Prophet (pbuh) supplicated: “Make life an increase for me in every good” (Muslim)

3. To grab this opportunity to purify your souls, to change your self and return to obedience as God says: “God does not change a people until they change what is in their own selves” (Surah Ra’d). Remember that the purpose of your life is to worship God; so strive in Ramadan and let this be a portion of your struggle in your life as a whole, protect this time and the life you have been given. Work towards change, betterment and compete to do that which God loves and will be pleased with. The Prophet (pbuh) said:

“Take advantage of five matters before five other matters: your youth, before you become old; and your health, before you fall sick; and your richness, before you become poor; and your free time before you become busy; and your life, before your death.” (Related in Hakim)

4. To feel closeness/nearness to God/Allah the Most High, and to reflect and contemplate deeply the beautiful names of God/Allah (i.e. Al-Baseer- the Seer of hearts, Ash-Shaheed- the witnesser, Al-muheet -the All- Encompassing, Ar-Raqeeb- the Ever Watchful, As-Samee’- the All Hearer), to ponder over these meanings whilst you recite Qur’an, fast and pray your night prayers. To protect your tongue, your hearing, your sight and all other limbs except from that which pleases God.

God says in Surah Qaf: 18

“He utters not a word but there is by him a watcher at hand.”

5. To increase in the remembrance of God.

The prophet (S.A.W.) said, "Keep your tongue always moist (i.e. busy) with remembrance of God." Recite the Qur'an with contemplation and humility and attentiveness as it will be an intercessor for you on the day of Judgement.

The Prophet (Pbuh) said: "Read the Qur'an as it will be an intercessor on the day of Resurrection, for the reader" (Muslim)

6. To supplicate especially during special times such as:
 - a) When you break your fast. The Prophet (pbuh) mentioned three people whose supplication is not rejected, one of these is the 'one who is fasting until he breaks his fast' (Tirmidhi/Ibn Majah).
 - b) Between the call to prayer (the Adhaan) and the Iqamah. The Prophet (Pbuh) said: "The Supplication made between the call to prayer and the Iqamah is not rejected" (Tirmidhi).
 - c) The last third of the night. The Prophet (pbuh) said: Our Lord (SWT) descends each night to the earth's sky when there remains the final third of the night, and He says: Who is saying a prayer to Me that I may answer it? Who is asking something of Me that I may give it him? Who is asking forgiveness of Me that I may forgive him?(al-Bukhari & Muslim)

7. To strive in the last ten days of Ramadan as there is much good in this time. Within this time is the night of Power/Decree (Laylat-ul-Qadr) - this night is better than a thousand nights and by praying on this night with faith and hoping for God's reward, and by seeking to follow the way of the Prophet, there is forgiveness for all past sins.

The Prophet (S) said: *"Whoever prays during the night of Qadr with faith and hoping for its reward will have all of his previous sins forgiven."* (Bukhari and Muslim).

8. To tell yourself that you are a loser, a failure if you go through Ramadan and do **not** attain God's forgiveness.

The Prophet (Pbuh) said, *"Jibreel (peace be upon him), came to me and said, "Whoever witnesses the month of Ramadan and is not forgiven, he enters Hell, and may God cast him away! Say Ameen." So I said Ameen."* (At-Tabarani).

9. Be in the company of those who are good and virtuous and who compete to do good deeds. God says: "Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Garden whose width is that (of the whole) of the heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous" (Q3:133)

10. Oh God only You can grant us success in the month of Ramadan, only You can help us and let us benefit from this month, help us make the most of this opportunity and let it come upon us again with all its blessings, goodness, success and mercy. Indeed God is the Hearer, the watchful and the answerer of our requests. Amin