

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Soliciting Allah for help is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Muslim believer. In fact, when we read the Holy Quran, we can notice that there are several verses which encourage the believer to seek help from Allah alone although we should not neglect doing what is in our capacity to achieve our objectives. Hence it will be foolish for a student not to learn his lessons and expect to pass his examination. Just as it would be foolish on someone who is sick not to use proven medicines and only concentrate on soliciting Allah's Help. However, if it is known that proven medicines are not working, then there is no other recourse than to keep soliciting Allah's help by engaging in heartfelt prayers and in acts of charity and by doing other good deeds. When we pray to Allah to help us with some objective of ours, we should not think that there is a limit to Allah's Powers. We should be sincerely convinced that He has the capacity to answer our prayers and grant us His Help. Prayers can work wonders and there are millions of Muslims throughout History who have witnessed the power and efficacy of prayers. Today I will share with our friends some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah (as) about prayer(*du'a*) with the hope that we will all learn to make *du'a* to achieve all our noble life's objectives.

He says:

"The essence of prayer is that there exists a power of integration between a pious servant and his Lord. This means that, firstly, God's graciousness attracts man to itself, and secondly the magnetism of man's truth draws him close to God. In the state of prayer this link reaches a stage where it manifests unique characteristics. So, when a person in times of severe trials, inclines to God Almighty with complete trust, high hope, total devotion, perfect faithfulness and great courage, he becomes fully aware and breaks down the barriers of stupor (negligence). He marches forward in the sphere of annihilation of the self. He then attains God's audience, God, who has no partner. His soul then prostrates on His threshold. With this inbuilt magnetic power, he attracts the blessings of God. Then the Lord of Honour and Glory facilitates his affairs. His prayers influence the visible means which in turn create the circumstances which are necessary to achieve his purpose. (*Ruhani Khaza'in*, vol.6, pages 9-10)

"The reality of some types of miracles is in fact the acceptance of prayers. Thousands of miracles shown by the Prophets and remarkable occurrences shown by the pious people of the past had their roots and sources in the prayers. Most of them displayed the extraordinary power of God with their prayers. The unique incident that occurred in the wilderness of Arabia, that hundreds of thousands of dead became alive in a few days. The people morally impaired for generations acquired Divine characteristics. The blind started to see. The dumb began to expound Divine knowledge. It created such a revolution in the world, which no eye had seen and no ear had ever heard. Do you

know what was this phenomenon? These were the nightly prayers of one, who had lost himself in God, which created such tumult in the world. It manifested remarkable events, which were beyond the capacity of this unlettered and helpless prophet.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ بِعَدَدِ هَمِّهِ وَعَمِّهِ وَحُزْنِهِ لِهَذِهِ
الْأُمَّةِ وَأَنْزِلْ عَلَيْهِ أَنْوَارَ رَحْمَتِكَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ۔

Translation: "O our Lord send down Your Blessings and multiply them on him and his family as much as he strived for and felt pain and anguish for this umma and send on him the lights of Thy Mercy forever." (Barkatud-Du'a', page 16, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 6, pages 9-11)

"I see from my own experiences, that the effect of prayers is greater than the effects of water or fire. In reality there is nothing more potent in the natural phenomenon." (Barkatud-Du'a' page 16, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 2, page 11)

"In trials, prayers manifest singularly astonishing characteristics and the truth is that our God is recognized by the prayers alone." (Malfuzat, vol. 2, page 147)

"A prayer, which is the result of the knowledge and blessings of God has a totally unique colour and aspect. It is something which annihilates the self. It is a fire, which dissolves and a magnetic power which pulls God's mercy towards itself. It is a death, which ultimately gives life. It is a fierce flood, which becomes an ark. It puts right all the ruined affairs. Every poison turns into an antidote. Blessed are the prisoners who do not tire of praying, as they will be freed one day. Blessed are the blind, who are not indolent in praying, they will one day see. Blessed are the dead of the graves, who seek God's help, they will one day be rescued from the graves. Blessed are you, who never tire of praying, your soul melts in prayer, your eyes shed tears and the spiritual fervour burns like fire in your chests. It makes you relish the loneliness of the darkened cells and the desolate jungles. It renders you restless, frenzied and unaware of yourself. Ultimately You will receive blessings of your Lord. The Lord, to Whom I call you, is extremely Merciful, Kind, Bashful, True, Faithful and Gracious towards the destitute. So, you be faithful unto Him. Pray to Him with sincerity and faithfulness, He will show mercy to you." (Lecture Sialkot, page 26-28, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 20, page 222-223)

"There is poison in humans as there is poison in snakes. Its antidote is prayer and as a result, a fountain starts to flow from the heaven. A person indolent in prayer perishes. If a person's day or night is empty of prayer, he becomes nearer to Satan. Everyday a reckoning should be made whether our obligation of prayers has been fulfilled or not." (Malfuzat, vol. 3, page 591)

"If you want to live safely and desire peace in your homes, you should pray a great deal. Fill your homes with prayers. A home in which prayers are offered regularly is never destroyed by God." (Malfuzat, vol. 3, page 232)

"I have pondered about the fact as to what is the mother or root of the bounties of God. God has revealed to me that the mother is اُدْعُونِي اَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ (Al-Mu'min 40:61). No one can escape wickedness except with God's help." (Malfuzat, vol. 3, page 333)

"Prayer is the foundation of the heavenly signs. This is 'Ism-e-A'zam' (Greatest Name). And it can turn the world upside down. Prayer is a believer's weapon. It is of utmost importance that a state of anxiety and deep emotion is present." (Malfuzat, vol.3, page 202)

"Prayer is a great thing. It can become a means of achieving forgiveness and with it God gradually inclines with mercy. The heart of a person, negligent of prayers becomes rusty, then it becomes hard and this leads to alienation from God and enmity with God. The result is the destruction of faith." (Malfuzat, vol.3, page 628)

"People are unaware of the blessing that charity, prayers and giving alms cast off a calamity. If this was not true, humans would experience spiritual death in life." (Malfuzat, vol. 3, page 201)

"A destiny which is not fixed can be changed with prayer and by giving charity. God changes destiny with His mercy." (Malfuzat, vol. 3, page 24)

"The best means of attaining the bounties of God is prayer. A prayer, which is full of humility, anxiety and the feelings of destitution, draws the blessings of God. A prayer is needed for achieving the ability to offer sincere and true prayer." (Malfuzat, vol. 3, page 397)

In the light of all these extracts we can understand that we establish a relationship with Allah through praying to Him and asking for His help to maintain that relationship with Him. Slowly, with time this relationship will be established. Then we will try our best to consolidate that relationship and there will be no end to progress in that consolidation of relationship. We will face trials but they will not break us because He who sent the trials has also the power to put an end to them or to grant us peace despite the trials. Our Lord is a powerful Lord. He does whatever He likes. He rescues those who place their trust in Him. Under all circumstances we should try to improve our relationship with Him and do our best not to turn our backs on Him. He can send help in a twinkling of an eye or He may test us by not sending His help in the form that we expect it. He is the Malik (Master) and we are His slaves. He can do with us as He wishes and it is our duty to be resigned to His Will whatever happens to us. This requires great resolve in His path. Such resolve has been shown by many prophets in the past and by many other Friends of Allah.

In every age Muslims will be tried. Even in the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) they were tried. In the Holy Quran, we can read:

اَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ اَنْ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَ مَا يَاتِكُمْ مَثَلٌ ذَيْنَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ ۚ

مَسْتَهْمٌ ۖ بَاءٌ ۖ آءٌ ۖ وَضَرَّاءٌ ۖ وَزُؤَا
 حَتَّى يَقُولَ ۖ اَرَّؤُا ۖ وَذِينَ اٰمَنُوا مَعَهُ ۖ مَتٰى ۖ صَرُّ اللّٰهِ ط
 اَلَا ۖ صَرَّ اللّٰهِ قَرِيبٌ

Translation:

“Do you think that you will enter Heaven while there has not come over you the condition of those who passed away before you? Poverty and afflictions befell them, and they were violently shaken until the Messenger and those who believed along with him said: ‘When *will come* the help of Allah?’ Yea, surely the help of Allah is nigh.” (2:215)

Finally, I will read you an extract from the writings of Syed Abdul Qadir Jilani which has been quoted by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) in his book “Blessings of Prayer”, on pages 25-26:

“If you desire to become an accepted one of God, then believe with utmost certainty and understand that your hands, your feet, your tongue, your eyes, and your whole being, and all its organs, are like idols in your way, and all other creation is similarly an idol barring your path. Your children, your wife, the worldly objectives you wish to achieve, worldly riches, worldly honour and prestige, every worldly hope and fear, your reliance or trust in anyone or anything, your fear of being harmed by anyone, all these are idols in your way. So do not become subservient to any of these idols, and do not lose your way in pursuit of them. That is, have recourse to them within the bounds of the shariah and the way of the righteous. If you succeed in this you will become [precious as] the red brimstone and your status will be raised beyond people’s imagination, and God shall make you heir to His Prophets and Messengers (as), which means that all their knowledge, wisdom and blessings, which had disappeared into obscurity and oblivion, will be granted afresh to you, and you will reach the highest level of sainthood, and none after you shall be able to rise higher.

Your prayers, your fortified resolve, and your blessings will relieve people of their anguish; the famine-stricken will be granted rain and crops will grow; the affliction and anguish of every low and high, and even the troubles of kings shall be alleviated through your attention and prayers; the Hand of Providence shall be with you, whichever direction it takes you will be guided in the same way; the Eternal Voice will beckon you to itself, which means that whatever flows from your tongue will be from God and it will be blessed; and you will be made a successor to all the righteous servants of Allah who were granted knowledge before you; a kind of power of creation will be bestowed on you, i.e., your attention and your prayer will exercise control in the world; if you then wish to turn the existing into non-existing, and vice versa, it will come to pass; extraordinary and miraculous things will take place at your hand; Divine secrets shall be revealed to you and you shall be given understanding of subtle and

profound matters of Divine knowledge, of which you are considered to be worthy and deserving.”

I try my best to help you to better understand what is demanded from us. May Allah help us all with better understanding and with better practice. Ameen.