

Remembrance of Allah, Zhikr Allah

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Praise be to Allah, Cherisher and Sustainer and Lord of the Worlds. Everything stands erect with his mercy. Everything is humbled in the sight of Allah. He is the strength of all who are weak. Allah is the highest of all, for those who are the lowest. He is the greatest wealth for those that are poor.

I bear witness that there is No God but Allah. He listens to all that speak. And He knows the secrets of the silent. Those who live Allah sustains them. All those that die return back to Allah.

Surah (6) El-Anam.13

***“To Him belongs whatever dwells in the night and the day.
And He is the Hearing, the Knowing.”***

I bear witness that Muhammed is His servant and Messenger. He is the best to perform prayer and fasting. He is the best to perform charity and extra prayers. The prophet is so complete and he disclosed the day from night by his beauty. Make Peace upon Him. May Allah give him peace, and his family and his followers. Ameen.

Dear brothers and sisters, Allah said in his holy book:

Surah (3) Al Imran (190 – 191)

Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding.

Those people who mention Allah when they are sitting and standing and laying on their side, and are thinking about the heavens and the earth. And they are saying O Allah you did not create this as false.

Glory be to Thee! Save us from the chastisement of the Hellfire..

Today's Khutba is about Remembrance of Allah (Zhikr Allah). When Allah speaks, our hearts should open up to the speech of our creator. Listen to what Allah (SWT) says in hadith Qudsi:

“I accept salat from those whose salat make them humble and wanting for my greatness. And its does not make them arrogant amongst my servants. And he doesn't go to bed insistent in commenting sins. And he spends his day in my remembrance (Dhikr of Allah).”

As indicate by this hadith the fourth conditions for Allah's accepting our salat is being in Remembrance of Allah or Zhikr of Allah.

So what is Zhikr? Let us listen and hear what forms it takes, how we perform it and its benefits from Allah (SWT).

Zhikr is to live with the Glory of Allah. It is a kind of preparation for your heart to live with Allah. Dhikr does not mean that you repeat words from your tongue or moving your lips in specific utterances. Zhikr is the opening of heart and through the glorification of Allah and His majesty. It means that you have Taqwa of Allah and a deep Love for Him.

If you are standing mention Allah and glorify him while you stand. If you are sitting mention and glorify Allah in your sitting. If you are sleeping on your side try to mention Allah, and mention Allah in every stage of your life. You have to make Zhikr with thoughtfulness. Zhikr without thoughtfulness is jafa'a, thoughtfulness without Zhikr is like having animosity towards Allah. But Zhikr with thought is Wafa'a, it is like fulfilling a covenant with Allah.

Surah (3) Al Imran (191)

Who remember Allah while standing, sitting and lying down on their sides and contemplate the wonders of creation in the heavens and the earth, with the saying:

“Thou hast not created this in vain!! Glory be to thee!

Save us from the chastisement of the Hellfire.”

Zhikr Allah is the work of hearts. Hearts sometimes will be in the position of majesty. In this state hearts will have fear of Allah.

Surah (8) Al-Anfal. 2

“The believers are only those whose, when Allah is mentioned their hearts become fearful, and when His verses are recited to them, it increases them in faith; and upon thy Lord they rely.”

And other times hearts may be in the position of mercy. In this state hearts will have Tumanina), have righteousness in the heart and will have welcome in the presence of Allah.

Surah (13) Al-Rad. 28

“Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the remembrances of Allah, Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah hearts are blessed.

The Zhikr is the center of all acts of worship. It is the central reason why this universe has been created.

Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to listen to what prophet Muhammed (PBUH) said about Zhikr. He mentioned a few words, but they are great in meaning. He said to his followers: “Do you want me to tell you about the best deeds that you can do? And it is truly beloved by your Lord. And it raises your degrees toward him. And it is better for you than the spending of gold and paper currency. It is better for you than killing your enemy as your enemies kill you. They said: Oh prophet of Allah what is this thing that is better? The prophet said: “Zhikr Allah, Remembrance of Allah.”

Zhikr are of seven types

1. The eyes remember Allah by weeping (crying)
2. Ears: remembering Allah by listening to his words and commands
3. The tongue: by remembering Allah by saying ***Al Hamdulillah***
4. Hands: remember Allah by giving Saddaqah or charity.
5. Our bodies remember Allah by Wafa’a (fulfilling our promises and covenants),

6. The Soul remembers Allah by fear and pleading and wishing to Allah
7. Hearts remember Allah by Taslim (total submission to Allah)

See brothers and sisters since every organ of our body can commit certain kinds of sins, that means that each organ should mention Allah with certain types of Zhikr. Everything glorifies Allah.

Surah (17) Isra (44, p.379)

***“The seven heavens and the earth, and all beings therein,
Declare His glory. There is not a thing but celebrates His praise.
And yet you understand not How they declare His glory!
Verily He is oft-Forbearing Most Forgiving!***

The sun and the moon are from the lights of his wisdom (Nur Al Hikma)

The earth and the seas are from the flood of his giving (Fi'd)

The birds glorify him, the wild animals bow to him

The waves of the sea make takbir to Allah (Declaring: Allahu Akbar!)

Even the whales in the ocean are making Zhikr to Allah.

The ants under the silent rocks worship his majesty.

Bees (the Nahl) in there making of the honeycombs and honey
are praising of Allah.

Yet humankind is busy committing sins, even in public,
yet Allah in His mercy covers it up.

The servant forgets, but our Lord Allah does not forget.

Moreover He is saying: "Oh my servant if you obey Me I will make you closer to Me. If you disobey Me I will give you time to repent. If you come back to us, we will accept you. This is the mercy of Allah.

Umar Ibn Khattab (May Allah be Pleased with him) while he was acting as judge between people, used to suddenly stop his mediation session, and opened the Qur'an reading for over 5 minutes at times.

He would then go back to the mediation. When he was asked about this action he said: "I fear this holy book, as the day of judgment, will say: Oh Allah Umar abandoned me."

Where are we brothers and sisters from the book of Allah?

How far away are we from the Kitab.

And Allah has said in his book:

Surah(54) 17

***And we have certainly made the Qur'an easy for remembrance,
so is there any who will remember?***

Surah Hud (11, 1) p. 288

***"This is a Book whose verse are perfected and then presented in detail from one Who is
Wise and Acquainted with all things."***

In another story Umar received a large carpet from the King of Persia. When it was unfolded it nearly covered the whole city of the Prophet (Medina). Then Umar cut it into equal pieces and he distributed it equally to the Ummah of the Muslims, but he did not take any pieces of the carpet for himself. And he said: I fear that Allah will ask me on the Day of Judgment:

Surah (46) 20.

***"You exhausted your pleasures during your worldly life and enjoyed them, so this Day
you will be awarded the punishment of extreme humiliation because you were arrogant
upon the earth without right
and because you were defiantly disobedient.?"***

Zhikr is inheriting love from Allah and success. An example of this is in another story about Umar (RAA). He stopped before a woman who used to add water to the milk to gain more money from its sale. Umar heard a voice coming from inside saying: Oh my

mother you make false milk for the Muslims and you do not fulfill your promises and tell lies to Umar the Khalifa of the Mumieen Umar asked” Who is saying these words? The woman replied this is my daughter. And the milk seller then added my daughter said more than what you are hearing. She said a thing to me while I was adding the water to the milk. I first told her where is Umar he does not see me. Then my daughter said if you think that Umar does not see you should know that Allah the LORD is seeing you.

Shortly after Umar called upon his sons, Abdullah, AbuduLLAH and Asem. Umar asked for one of them to marry the daughter of the milk seller. They were not happy with that. How is it that one of the sons of Umar would marry a milk sellers daughter? Umar swore if not one of you is going to marry her I will marry her my self. Asem married her. From this union they had a daughter Lyla who eventually bore the fifth Khalifa Umar bin Abdel-Aziz.

Dear brothers and sisters listen to what the scholar Sufian Athuree said to someone who came to him: Oh Sufian I am coming to you concerning a sickness that I have. This sickness is that I am Away from Allah. Then Sufian told him: Listen to the cure that I prescribe for your sickness:

1. Take the branches of Iklas (Purity of Faith)
2. and the leaves of Patience (Sabr)
3. and squeeze the juice of Humbleness (atawdah) from the fruit
4. put this in the pan of Taqwa
5. and pour onto it the waters of fear (Hasiah)
6. cook it under the fire of sadness (Housan)
7. and purify it with the strainer of knowing that Allah is hearing and seeing all that you do.
8. and take it with the hands of truth (silkh)
9. and drink from the cup of forgiveness (stifar)
10. and swallow by war’ah (deep feeling of fear)
11. and keep yourself away from running after this life this dunyah in hunger.

If you take this prescription Allah will heal you and your heart.

How do we perform Zhikr Allah? Scholars say you sit down as in salat in the Jalsa or sitting position and turn your face toward the Qibla, and mention Allah within yourself. Allah said:

Surah (7) Al-Araf (205)

“And remember your Lord within yourself in humility and in fear without being apparent in speech in the mornings and the evenings and do not be among the heedless.”

It is better to perform Zhikr while you are in wudu and mention Allah with His names:

Surah (7) Al-Araf (180)

And to Allah belong the best names so invoke Him by them. And leave the company of those who practice deviation concerning His names. They will be recompense for what they have been doing.”

Allah has 99 names, whosoever, knows the meaning of these names will enter the Jenna. When the renowned Imam Malik the scholar died, one of his students saw him in a dream walking in the Jenna. The student asked the Imam in the dream: “by what has Allah entered you into the Jenna?”

Imam Malik said: Just with one word I used to say in the dunyah. When I saw a dead body I used to say: “Subhana Allah, He has not died”.

Brothers and sisters visit the cemetery and the graves, attend funerals, and attend the washing of the body of thy fellow Muslims who have died, if you want your hearts to be soft and humble instead of hard and arrogant. Look at the son of Adam, when he died, when they washed him, his eyes closed, his ears dumb, his cheeks hollow and sunken into his skull, and his limbs twisted about themselves. Every one of us has a limited time when life will be over. For every one of us all our actions are written in the book of life. You might desire to do whatever you want to do in this life, but remember that Allah sees all and will judge you.

Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) said: a very powerful thing:

“Easy and light on the tongue. Because they have a heavy load in the balance of things on the Day of Judgment. And they are beloved to Allah. Glory to Allah with his praises, Glory to Allah the Great.”

Let us ask ourselves, why are our houses empty from the mentioning of Allah, from the Remembrance - Zhikr Allah? While Allah is calling upon us:

Oh who you believe mention Allah many times and glorify him day and night...

How are we going to cure our sicknesses and resolve our problems?

Mention Allah, perform Zhikr of Allah.

Prophet Muhammed said: *“Read Surah Al Baqarah. If you read it Allah will be pleased with you. If you leave it, it is a blame against you. The magicians do not have the power to stop the blessing from this Surah.”*

Read the verses of Surah Qursi. Read the last three Surah of the Qur’an (Ikhlas, Falaq, An Nas). These verses when they were revealed to the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH): He said about them:

*“The house that these Surah are read in ,
the Shaitan will never come close to them.”*

Dear brothers and sisters, place the listening of Qur’an over the listening of music in your houses and cars. The prophet said: “ The song is going to grow hypocrisy in the heart, as the water causes the seeds to sprout.

Dear brothers and sisters, be aware and know that Allah has chosen this Ummah for his Zhikr. And he selected us for this mission, because he knows that we deserve this Honor.

Surah Al Fata (48,26)

“While the Unbelievers harbored disdain in their hearts, the disdain of ignorance. But Allah sent down His tranquility upon His messenger and upon the believers and

imposed upon them the word of righteousness, and they were more deserving of it and worthy of it. And ever is Allah of all things knowing.”

Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) said: “

Here are the words of Righteousness: (La ilaha illah Allah). There is no God but Allah”

Renew your belief by continually saying (La Ilaha illah Allah).

Prophet Moses (PBUH) asked Allah to give him something special to remember Allah with. Allah told him, “Oh Moses Say La Ilaha illah Allah” (there is no GOD but Allah). Moses (PBUH) said, “Oh my LORD everyone says this word.” Then Allah told him, “Oh Moses if this word (La Ilaha illah Allah) was put in one side of a scale and the whole universe put in the other side of this scale, these words would outweigh the whole universe.”

Oh brothers and sisters, Be in remembrance of Allah , and say La Ilaha illah Allah as much as you can

Dear brothers and sisters, presently we are in the month of Shaban. And last week was the middle of the month of Shaban and next week we will have a new guest, the month of Ramadan, the month of Zhker and deep worshiping of Allah. Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) said about the middle night of Shaban:

*“Whoever spends this night mentioning Allah
will surely by the mercy of Allah enter the Jenna.”*

Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) also said: “ There are four nights whose nights and days are similar, and their days and nights are similar. Allah gives blessings to the one who worships him and gives forgiveness to the one who asks forgiveness. And Allah gives without limits.

The first night is the night of Lail al Qadr and its day, the second is the night of Arafat and its day, the third is the night of Friday and its day, the fourth is night of the middle of Shaban and its day.

As the mother of the mumineen Aisha (RAA) said, describing the way the prophet established the middle night of Shaban for the sake of Allah.

Aisha related: “This night was my night, the prophet of Allah was at my house. In the middle of the night I saw him making a very long su’jud (prostration) as if I imagined that he died. And I heard him saying:

Listen to what he said oh brothers and sisters.

“Oh Allah my body and my soul prostrate to you. And my heart is full with Iman for you. This is my hand, and what I have committed upon myself. Oh One who is great and is asked for a great thing, forgive my great sins. My face has prostrated to Him who has created my face, and who pictures it and opens my ears and my sight.”

Then he raised his face from his su’jud and then prostrated again and said :

“I seek your satisfaction from your dissatisfaction. I seek your forgiveness from your punishment. I seek you to you. I can not count your blessing upon me. Like you counted upon you

Then the prophet raised his face and said :

“Oh Allah I ask your sustenance for a heart full of taqwa and purity. Not a heart with disbelief and nor one that is distant from thy mercy.”

Then he said:

“During the middle night of Shaban, Allah descends to the lowest level of the heavens to forgive his servants, all except the one who disbelieves and the one who has hate for his messengers and the righteous people.”

Dear brothers and sisters, take advantage of these blessed days. And make your prophet your example. He PBUH said for the month of Ramadan that first days of the month of Ramadan are a mercy from Allah, the middle days are forgiveness, and the last days will free you from the hellfire.

Prophet Mohamed PBUH recommended and taught his uncle Al Abbas and his closest relatives, the prayer, the salat, of Tasibiah (purifying Allah). This prayer is 4 ruku,

and in each ruku we say Tasbiha 75 times. He advised each one of us to perform this salat as he advised his uncle Abbas to perform it one time every day if we can, or one time every week if we can, or one time every month if we can, or 1 time every year if we can. If you can not do this, he urged us to do it once during our lifetime.

Dear brothers and sisters be always in the remembrance of Allah (Dhikr Allah). May Allah recover the hard situation of this our Muslim Ummah. Ameen.