

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَى

رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ

تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْثَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ.

REPENTANCE: THE WILL TO PURIFY ONESELF OF SINS

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Almighty (swt) states, "**O you who have believed! Repent to Allah with sincere repentance. Perhaps your Lord will remove from you your misdeeds and admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow...**"¹

In the hadith I have recited, the Messenger of Allah (saw) says, "**He who repents is like him who has committed no sin.**"²

Dear Believers!

What is required of humans is that they be always inclined toward what is good and pleasant. They lead a life in line with the Almighty Allah's (swt) commands and prohibitions. They are, nevertheless, sometimes drawn into sins, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Because they are predisposed to both good and evil, by nature. The gift of repentance that Allah the Almighty (swt) has bestowed on His servants is a gateway to grace and hope for being cleansed of sins.

Dear Muslims!

Repentance entails holding our own selves to account and expressing real and heartfelt remorse for our sins. It requires refraining from harping on wrongs and sins and demonstrating a will to avoid them in the future. It means promising not to succumb to our lusts and desires. Repentance is about cleaning the rust from our hearts tainted by sins. It is about rejuvenation and a fresh and clean

beginning. It is about demanding our Almighty Lord's (swt) love and pleasure.

Dear Believers!

Our Lord Almighty (swt), Who is al-Sattar, al-Rahim and al-Rahman, calls on us to repent as follows,

وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

"**And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you might succeed.**"³

Therefore, let us not only repeat the words of repentance but really believe them and turn to our Lord, al-Tawwab. Let us cleanse our hearts and souls by sincere and nasuh repentance and deepen our bond with our Lord (swt). Let us repent with remorse and tears for failing to be the slaves that He (swt) requires of us. Let us ask for forgiveness for failing to be proper members of the Messenger of Allah's (saw) ummah that He (swt) requires of us. Let us beg pardon for our failure to prevent evil and to ensure that good prevails on the face of the globe. Let us repent of our tongue's misdeeds, such as lying, backbiting, and ill remarks. Let us beg pardon for our hands reaching out to the haram and our feet treading toward sin. Let us repent for our inability to keep our eyes and ears away from what is haram. Let us repent of the wicked characteristics that round our hearts, such as vengeance, resentment, arrogance, and selfishness. Let us constantly and unflinchingly repent for our failure to fill our lives with good deeds.

Dear Muslims!

I would like to finish this Friday's khutbah with the finest example of repentance that our Prophet (saw) taught us. Please repeat after me silently: "**O Allah, You are my Lord, there is no god but You. You have created me and I am Your slave. I am keeping my promise and covenant to You as much as I can. I seek refuge with You from the evil of what I do. I acknowledge Your blessing. And I acknowledge my sin. So, forgive me, for there is none who can forgive sin except You.**"⁴

¹ Tahrir, 66/8.

² Ibn Majah, Zuhd, 30.

³ Nur, 24/31.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Da'wat, 15.