



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS FROM ALLAH TO SHOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN?**

When Ramadan is passed, we must ensure that as far as we know, our sins are forgiven. This stems from an important hadith which I have constantly reminded everyone throughout Ramadan:

*Abu Huraira reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, ascended the pulpit and he said, "Amin, amin, amin." It was said, "O Messenger of Allah, you ascended the pulpit and said amin, amin, amin." The Prophet said, "Verily, Gabriel came to me and he said: Whoever reaches the month of Ramadan and he is not forgiven, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say amin. I said amin. Whoever sees his parents in their old age, one or both of them, and he does not honor them and he dies, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say amin. I said amin. Whoever has your name mentioned in his presence and he does not send blessings upon you and he dies, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say amin. I said amin."*  
Source: *Ṣaḥīḥ Ibn Ḥibbān* 915

*Grade: Sahih (authentic) according to Al-Albani*

How would we know that Allah has forgiven us? This is something which we must really look into and study. Obviously we will never be perfect. We are not angels and we will be committing sins constantly.

- Adam (AS) disobeyed right inside paradise (20: 118-123) – Blessings of Allah Removed: not naked to being naked, not thirsty and hungry to having to find food, etc. Du'a for Adam (AS) of forgiveness (7:23)
- Nuh (AS) Questioned Allah on why Allah Killed his son

45. And Nuh (Noah) called upon his Lord and said, "O my Lord! Verily, my son is of my family! And certainly, Your Promise is true, and You are the Most Just of the judges."

46. He said: "O Nuh (Noah)! Surely, he is not of your family; verily, his work is unrighteous, so ask not of Me that of which you have no knowledge! I admonish you, lest you be one of the ignorants."

47. Nuh (Noah) said: "O my Lord! I seek refuge with You from asking You that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have Mercy on me, I would indeed be one of the losers."

11: 45-47

However, part of the thing Allah Loves about us is that when we sin – we REPENT.

*Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "By Him in whose hand is my soul, if you did not sin, Allah would replace you with people who would sin and they would seek forgiveness from Allah and he would forgive them."*

*Source: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2749*

*Grade: Sahih (authentic )according to Muslim*

*Al-Tibi said, "It is a declaration of the forgiveness of Allah and his overlooking of those who sin, that they might find hope in repentance."*

*Source: Mirqaṭ al-Mafaṭīḥ 2328*

In fact Allah described those with TAWQA (AL MUTTAQOON) as this:

*And those who, when they have committed Fahishah (illegal sexual intercourse etc.) or wronged themselves with evil, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins; - and none can forgive sins but Allah - And do not persist in what (wrong) they have done, while they know. 3: 135*

Allah Loves those who repent to Him

Anas bin Malik (radi Allahu anhu) narrated that The Messenger of Allah (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) said, "Verily, Allah is more delighted with the repentance of His slave than a person who lost his camel in a desert land and then finds it (unexpectedly)" [*Sahih al-Bukhari and Muslim*]

In another version of Muslim, He (sal Allahu wa sallam) said: "Verily, Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His slave than a person who has his camel in a waterless desert carrying his provision of food and drink and it is lost. He, having lost all hopes (to get that back), lies down in shade and is disappointed about his camel; when all of a sudden he finds that camel standing before him. He takes hold of its reins and then out of boundless joy blurts out: 'O Allah, You are my slave and I am Your Rubb'. He commits this mistake out of extreme joy".

WHY WOULD ALLAH FORGIVE US?

1. Part of Tawheed – His Beautiful Names – ar Rahman, ar Raheem, al Ghafoor, at Tawwab, al 'Afuw, al Haleem, etc

2. Allah mentioned in many verses of the Qur'an about His Mercy (39:53)
3. Only those who disbelieve despairs of Allah's Mercy ("...Certainly no one despairs of Allah's Mercy, except the people who disbelieve." 12: 87)
4. Allah's Mercy divided into 100 parts  
 Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Allah made mercy into one hundred parts. He kept ninety-nine parts with himself and sent down one part to the earth. From that one part, the creation is merciful to each other, such that a horse raises its hoof over its child for fear of trampling it."  
 In another narration, the Prophet said, "Allah has kept ninety-nine parts of mercy to show to his servants on the Day of Resurrection."  
 Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 5654, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2752
5. Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "When Allah completed the creation, he wrote in his book with him upon the throne: Verily, my mercy prevails over my wrath."  
 Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3022, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2751  
 غَضَبِي غَابَتْ رَحْمَتِي إِنَّ

Being a human, we all make mistakes and commit sins. But, what do we do after the realisation that something wrong has been done? We turn towards Allah and ask for his forgiveness. As it has been mentioned in the Quran that:

***But indeed, I am the Perpetual Forgiver of whoever repents and believes and does righteousness and then continues in guidance, constant in doing them. (Surah Taha, verse 82)***

Conditions:

- Repents
- Believes
- Does righteous good deeds
- Continue to perform the above (till death)

## Signs that Allah Has Accepted our Repentance?

Here are the signs Quran and hadiths quoted for sincere repentance.

1. You have fulfilled all the requirements of repentance
  - Sincere
  - Regretful
  - At that moment of repentance, not wanting to do the sins again

The opinion of the majority of scholars' states that for those who have really repented fulfilling all the prerequisites and conditions of repentance, then it is certain that the repentance is accepted by Allah SWT, as stated by Ibn Rajab: For whoever repents sincerely, he has fulfilled all conditions of repentance itself. This is the same as when a disbeliever truly embraces Islam. This is the opinion of the majority of scholars. The explanation made by Ibn Abd al-Bar states that it is what has been agreed upon by the scholars. (See **Jami' al-'Ulum wa al-Hikam**, 1/418)

Among the evidence that scholars used is a statement of Allah SWT:

- *يَشَاءُ لِمَنْ ذَلِكَ دُونَ مَا وَيَعْفِرُ بِهِ يُشْرِكُ أَنْ يَعْفِرُ لَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ*

*"Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills."*

- Surah al-Nisa (48)

Ibn Kathir said: "Allah SWT states that He will not forgive the act of shirk, which basically means He will not forgive someone who died as a musyrik. Consequently, Allah SWT forgives sins other than that for those whom He wills." (See **Tafsir al-Quran al-'Azim**, 2/327)

The same is stated in a narration from Aisyah R.Anha, where the Prophet SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam said:

*"Indeed, a slave, if he admits of his sins and then he repents, surely Allah SWT will accept his repentance."*

- Sahih al-Bukhari (2661)

## 2. Positive Change

Holy Prophet (SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam) said that,

*"When your good deeds make you happy and make you pleased and your bad actions make you sad and hurt you, then that is a sign of a believer". (Sahih Muslim)*

## 3. Giving Up The Sin

If you have turned to repentance and also decided to not commit that sin again, be faith in Allah that your prayers have been accepted! As Allah says,

*And when those come to you who believe in Our verses, say, "Peace be upon you. Your Lord has decreed upon Himself mercy: that any of you who does wrong out of ignorance and then repents after that and corrects himself – indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful." (Surah Ana'am, verse 54)*

#### 4. Feeling A Deep Regret For What He Has Done

Repentance is nothing but feeling guilty for your sins and mistakes. But do remember that Allah knows the best and repent when your heart really feels guilt.

*“Indeed, the hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the Fire – and never will you find for them a helper” (Surah Nisa, verse 146)*

#### 5. You Will Feel Calm And Relaxed

According to Islamic scholars, if Allah accepts the *taubah* or *repentance*, the most evident sign of it is the heart of a person feel calm. This sincere repentance enables him to keep away from the sins in future. Allah says in Quran that,

*“Ask forgiveness of your Lord, surely He is the most Forgiving. He will send down upon you the cloud, pouring down abundance of rain and help you with wealth and sons, and make for you gardens, and make for you rivers” (Surah Nuh, verse 10 – 12)*

And Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) also said about it in a hadith that,

*“Allah rejoices more over the repentance of His slave than any one of you if he is on his camel in a desolate land, then it runs away from him and on it is his food and drink, and he despairs of finding it, so he goes to a tree and lies down in its shade, having despaired of finding his camel, then while he is like that, it suddenly appears in front of him and he takes hold of its reins and says, because of his intense joy, ‘O Allaah, You are my slave and I am your lord,’ making this mistake because of the intensity of his joy” (Sahih Muslim, Hadith 2747)*

*Someone committed a sin and then said: “O Allah! Forgive me my sin.”*

*Allah said: “My servant committed a sin, but knew that he has a Lord who forgives sins and punishes sins.”*

*Then he committed the sin again and said: “My Lord! Forgive me my sin.”*

*Allah said: “My servant committed a sin, but knew that he has a Lord who forgives sins and punishes sins.”*

*Then he committed the sin again and said: “My Lord! Forgive me my sin.”*

Allah said: "My servant committed a sin, but knew that he has a Lord who forgives sins and punishes sins. Do as you will, for I have forgiven you."

[*Sahih al-Bukhari (7507) and Sahih Muslim (2758)*]

In fact Allah will replace the sins with good deeds:

"Except those who repent and believe (in Islamic Monotheism), and do righteous deeds, for those, Allah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." Qur'an 25: 70

The hadith related by `Uthman that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Any Muslim who offers the prescribed prayer, doing justice to its motions and to the humility that it requires, it will expiate for the sins that preceded it, as long as the person did not commit a major sin." [*Sahih Muslim*]

Some of the scholars states: The acceptance of someone's repentance is known through 4 signs:

- If he is able to control his tongue from telling a lie, *ghibah*, and unnecessary words.
- When he no longer feels jealous and envious with each other.
- When he starts distancing himself from bad company.
- Always prepares himself to face death and always repent through *istighfar* and regrets all his wrongdoings and be determined with his worships for his God. (See *Tanbih al-Ghafilin bi Ahadith Sayyid al-Anbiya' wa al-Mursalin*, pg. 109)

On the authority of Abdullah ibn Umar (RadhiyAllahu 'anhuma), who said: The Messenger of Allah (SallaAllahu 'alayhi wasallam) took me by the shoulder and said,

**"Be in this world as though you were a stranger or a wayfarer."**

And Ibn Umar (RahiyAllahu 'anhuma) used to say, "In the evening do not expect [to live until] the morning, and in the morning do not expect [to live until] the evening. Take [advantage of] your health before times of sickness, and [take advantage of] your life before your death."

[Reported by Bukhari]

A wise man was asked: "Are there certain signs that someone's repentance is accepted?" He answered: "Yes, there are 4 signs, which are:

- Break away from bad company and start hanging out with pious people.

- Stopping all types of sin and work hard in worship.
- Stop feeling relaxed in the worldly matters and always remember the difficulties of death.
- Have a firm belief and Allah SWT's guarantee in terms of sustenance, thus he busies himself with the matters that is commanded by Allah SWT. (See *Tanbih al-Ghafilin*, 110)

## CONCLUSIONS

Even though we are aware that Allah is so Merciful to the believers, there are sins which we have to avoid, as these sins Allah cannot forgive unless we make every effort to settle them in this life before we die:

1. Debt
2. Wrong against others

May Allah continue to Forgive us despite our numerous shortcomings.