



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

### SADAQAH - TYPES AND BENEFITS

“Those who spend their wealth (in Allah's Cause) by night and day, in secret and in public, they shall have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” 2: 274

#### ONE OF THE CRITERIA OF TAQWA

And march forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as wide as are the heavens and the earth, prepared for *Al-Muttaqun* (the pious - see V.2:2).

Those who spend [in Allah's Cause - deeds of charity, alms, etc.] in prosperity and in adversity, who repress anger, and who pardon men; verily, Allah loves *Al-Muhsininun* (the good-doers). 3: 133-134

#### ONE OF THE QUALITIES OF A BELIEVER

2. The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Verses (this Qur'an) are recited unto them, they (i.e. the Verses) increase their Faith; and they put their trust in their Lord (Alone);

3. Who perform *As-Salat* (*Iqamat-as-Salat*) and spend out of that We have provided them.

4. It is they who are the believers in truth. For them are grades of dignity with their Lord, and Forgiveness and a generous provision (Paradise).

8: 2-4

#### **Definition of Sadaqah**

Sadaqa comes from the word : Sadaqa : to be truthful. Sadaqa is derived from Sidq meaning that the person is giving charity to help the poor and needy confirming his true devotion and service to Allah.

Sadaqah is not restricted to giving part of one's wealth or any special deed of righteousness. Islam considers all good deeds as Sadaqah.

Allah Ta'ala says,

"...that which you give for charity, seeking the Countenance of Allah, (will increase); it is those who will get a recompense multiplied." (30:39)

"For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women for devout men and women for true men and women, for men and women who are patient and constant, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in Allah's remembrance for them has Allah prepared forgiveness and great reward." (33:35)

### **Difference Between Zakah And Sadaqah**

The point here is to understand the difference between Zakah and Sadaqah both of which are mentioned in the previously stated Quranic Verse together. The former is 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar of Islam, which binds a Muslim to pay out a fixed or standardized proportion of its supplementary material goods to deprived and disadvantaged people. While latter is an intended and continuous act of uprightness, commonly called "Sadaqah", which everyone has to carry out no matter what their social status is, which is to work for eradication of harm through incessant deeds of goodness. In short, Zakah is just a kind of Sadaqah as the second covers all acts of goodness for the purpose of getting Allah's delight.

The recipient of zakat is also very restricted:

"As-Sadaqat (here it means Zakat) are only for the *Fuqara'* (poor), and *Al-Masakin* (the poor) and those employed to collect (the funds); and for to attract the hearts of those who have been inclined (towards Islam); and to free the captives; and for those in debt; and for Allah's Cause (i.e. for *Mujahidun* - those fighting in the holy wars), and for the wayfarer (a traveller who is cut off from everything); a duty imposed by Allah. And Allah is All-Knower, All-Wise." 9: 60

## Types of Sadaqah

Some of kinds of Sadaqah according to Prophetic ﷺ traditions are as follows:

### i) Every Action Of Goodness

Narrated by Abu Musa (R.A) that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

*“Every Muslim has to give in sadaqah (charity).” The people asked, “O Allah’s Messenger (PBUH)! If someone has nothing to give, what will he do?” He (PBUH) said, “He should work with his hands and benefit himself and also give in charity (from what he earns).” The people further asked, “If he cannot do even that?” He (PBUH) replied, “Then he should help the needy who appeal for help.” Then the people asked, “If he cannot do that?” He (PBUH) replied, “Then he should perform all that is good and keep away from all that is evil and this will be regarded as charitable deeds.” (Bukhari)*

This Saying of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ clarifies that every act of decency is Sadaqah. Therefore, not a single deed that benefits a person one or another according to Islamic beliefs should be considered unimportant because it eventually leads towards adopting a righteous life.

### ii) Dhikr (Remembrance) Of Allah SWT

Abu Dharr reported Rasulullah ﷺ saying as:

*“In the morning charity is due from every bone in the body of every one of you. Every utterance of Allah’s glorification is an act of charity. Every utterance of praise of Him is an act of charity; every utterance of profession of His Oneness is an act of charity; every utterance of profession of His Greatness is an act of charity; enjoining good is an act of charity; forbidding what is disreputable is an act of charity; and two rak’ahs which one prays in the forenoon will suffice.” (Muslim 1557)*

Thus, one can deduce from the above stated Hadith that Glorifying the Name of the Almighty Lord for His Oneness, Greatness, Being Praiseworthy etc. all are the great forms of Sadaqah which a believer performs during day and night.

Abu Hurairah (Radhiallahu Anhu) narrated that “Abu Dharr (Radhiallahu Anhu) said to the Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam), “The wealthy people have all the rewards; they pray as we pray; they fast as we fast; and they have surplus wealth which they give in charity; but we have no wealth which we may give in charity.” Allah’s Messenger (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: “Abu Dharr, should I not teach you phrases by which you acquire the rank of those who excel you? No one can acquire your rank except one who acts like you.” He said, Why not, Allah’s Messenger (Sallallahu

Alaihi Wa Sallam)?

He (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "Exalt Allah say: "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is Most Great) after each prayer thirty-three times; and praise Him say: "Alhamdulillah" (Praise be to Allah) thirty-three times; and glorify Him say: "Subhan Allah" (Glory be to Allah) thirty-three times; and end it by saying, "La Ilaha Illallahu Wahdahu La Shareeka Lahu, Lahul Mulku Wa Lahul Hamdu Yuhyi Wa Yumeetu Wa Huwa 'Ala Kulli Shai-in Qadeer." (There is no god but Allah alone, He has no partner, to Him belongs the Kingdom, to Him praise is due and He has power over everything.) Your sins will be forgiven, even if they are like the foam of the sea." (Abu Dawud)

**iii) Smiling In Front Of A Muslim Brother**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

*"To smile in the company of your brother is charity..." (Bukhari)*

Therefore, a mere action of smiling in the face of other Muslim fellow is also a kind of charity. It is generally well thought-out as a universal language as it promotes friendliness and gives the other person a reason to be happy.

**iv) Embracing Righteousness And Preventing Wickedness**

The Messenger ﷺ of God is narrated to have said:

*"...To command to do good deeds and to prevent others from doing evil is charity...." (Bukhari)*

It means that one should not only keep on doing acts of morality itself but also avert others from doing wrong, as these both are types of Sadaqah, which result in attaining great blessings from the Most Beneficent.

**v) Guiding Other Person**

Rasulullah ﷺ said:

*"...To guide a person in a place where he cannot get astray is charity...." (Bukhari)*

It shows that directing a less knowledgeable individual in such a way that it would lead to its getting the desired outcome from that advice is also a deed equal to charity.

**vi) Eliminating Harmful Objects From Passageway**

The Apostle ﷺ of Allah SWT is narrated to be saying as:

## STEPS2ALLAH

*"...To remove troublesome things like thorns and bones from the road is charity...."*  
(Bukhari)

Therefore, helping out others by getting rid of bothersome items such as stones, thorns or bones is also a great act of performing Sadaqah in the way of the Almighty Lord.

### vii) Pouring Water For Muslim Fellow

According to Hadith of the Holy Prophet ﷺ:

*"...To pour water from your jug into the jug of your brother is charity..."*

It indicates that putting little effort in giving someone else to drink water is also a charity.

### viii) Helping A Blind Human Being

The Messenger ﷺ of God said:

*To guide a person with defective vision is charity for you." (Bukhari)*

The above mentioned Saying of Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ signifies that showing a blind individual its way is also form of Sadaqah.

All of these examples are just a means to understand that Sadaqah is far more than just spending from a proportion of wealth. It is also not limited to a certain person; rather it is compulsory for every believer to carry out this form of charity as it covers all kinds of decent actions.

## BENEFITS OF SADAQAH

Some of the greatest benefits of Sadaqah are as under:

*"The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing." [Quran, 2: 261]*

## STEPS2ALLAH

The reward for spending in the way of the Almighty Lord is so immense that it has been compared to a sowing a seed, which ultimately results in getting hundreds of grains after sometime. It means that one gets unimaginable number of rewards and blessings from the Creator of the universe for one act of Sadaqah.

### iii) Attaining Shade On The Day of Resurrection

The Prophet ﷺ said:

*"The believer's shade on the Day of Resurrection will be his charity." (Tirmidhi)*

This Hadith indicates that the Judgment Day which will be a great test of everyone as the Sun on that day will be right above the heads; only a charitable act of an individual will soothe a believer with its shadow protecting it from blazing heat.

### iv) Protection from Tragedies

The Messenger ﷺ of God has been narrated to have said:

*"Give charity without delay, for it stands in the way of calamity." (Tirmidhi)*

Therefore, a continuous assistance given to the needy results in prevention of any unforeseeable misfortune or suffering that might occur in one's life.

### v) Never-Ending Rewards From Allah SWT

Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ, while talking about the high benefits of giving aid to the poor said:


*"When a person dies, his works end except for three: ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, and a righteous child who prays for him." (Muslim)*

The above-mentioned Hadith clearly indicates that continuous helping deprived people with financial and other support is such a virtuous deed that a person keeps on reaping benefits from it even after its death.

In short, the act of Sadaqah is not restricted to Zakah only, for that is only a part of it. Sadaqah is actually an ongoing process that includes every action of goodness and uprightness, which ultimately results in attaining the Pleasure of Allah SWT and earning great rewards and blessings from Him.

## WHEN WILL SADAQAH NOT BENEFIT THE DONOR?

1. If he/she is not a believer/not Muslim

103. Say (O Muhammad 

104. "Those whose efforts have been wasted in this life while they thought that they were acquiring good by their deeds!"

105. "They are those who deny the *Ayat* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of their Lord and the Meeting with Him (in the Hereafter). So their works are in vain, and on the Day of Resurrection, We shall not give them any weight.

18: 103-105

## 2. Riya' - wrong intention

Hadith on the 3 people - a martyr, reciter of the Qur'an and a person who donates money.

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Verily, the first people to be judged on the Day of Resurrection will be a man who was martyred. He will be brought, the blessings of Allah will be made known and he will acknowledge them. Allah will say: What did you do about them? The man will say: I fought in your cause until I was martyred. Allah will say: You have lied, for you fought only that it would be said you were brave, and thus it was said. Then, Allah will order him to be dragged upon his face until he is cast into Hellfire. Another man studied religious knowledge, taught others, and recited the Quran. He will be brought, the blessings of Allah will be made known and he will acknowledge them. Allah will say: What did you do about them? The man will say: I learned religious knowledge, taught others, and I recited the Quran for your sake. Allah will say: You have lied, for you studied only that it would be said you are a scholar and you recited the Quran only that it would be said you are a reciter, and thus it was said. Then, Allah will order him to be dragged upon his face until he is cast into Hellfire. Another man was given an abundance of blessings from Allah and every kind of wealth. He will be brought, the blessings of Allah will be made known and he will acknowledge them. Allah will say: What did you do about them? The man will say: I did not leave any good cause beloved to you but that I spent on it for your sake. Allah will say: You have lied, for you spent only that it would be said you are generous, and thus it was said. Then, Allah will order him to be dragged upon his face until he is cast into Hellfire." Source: *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* 1905

## 3. Giving sadaqah followed by hurtful words or insults to the recipient

2: 262: Those who spend their wealth in the Cause of Allah, and do not follow up their gifts with reminders of their generosity or with injury, their reward is with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.

2: 263: Kind words and forgiving of faults are better than *Sadaqah* (charity) followed by injury. And Allah is Rich (Free of all needs) and He is Most-Forbearing.

4. Backbiting - may cause the donor to be a "bankrupt" person on the Day of Judgment


"The bankrupt among my Ummah is he who would come on the Day of Judgment with prayers, fasting, and zakah; but he had offended one person, slandered another, devoured others' wealth, shed the blood of this person, and beat that person.

Each one of these people would be given some of the wrongdoer's good deeds.

If his good deeds fall short of settling the account, then their sins will be taken from their accounts and thrown into his account, and he would be thrown in the Hellfire. (Muslim)

5. Shirk - nullifies all good deeds

"...But if they had joined in worship others with Allah, all that they used to do would have been of no benefit to them." 6: 88

"And indeed it has been revealed to you (O Muhammad ), as it was to those (Allah's Messengers) before you: "If you join others in worship with Allah, (then) surely (all) your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers." 39: 65

Mahmud bin Labeed reports that rasulAllah stated: "What I fear most about you all is the sin of minor shirk. The companions asked: O RasulAllah! What is minor shirk? RasulAllah stated: On the day of Judgment when Allah will be rewarding the people for their deeds, (then Allah will address those who have committed the sin of minor shirk): Go to the people (to receive the rewards for your good deeds) for whose show you performed (good deeds) and see what reward they offer you." (Ahmad)