



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS THE MOST MERCIFUL

## **SEEKING NEARNESS TO ALLAH**

All of us will one day ultimately be Judged by Allah on the Day of Judgment.

“(He is Allah) Owner of High Ranks and Degrees, the Owner of the Throne. He sends the Inspiration by His Command to any of His slaves He wills, that he (the person who receives inspiration) may warn (men) of the Day of Mutual Meeting (i.e. The Day of Resurrection).

The Day when they will (all) come out, nothing of them will be hidden from Allah. Whose is the dominion this Day? (Allah Himself will reply to His Question): It is Allah’s the One, the Subduer!

This Day shall every person be recompensed for what he earned. No injustice (shall be done to anybody). Truly, Allah is Swift in reckoning”

[Ghaafir 40:15-17].

“On the Day when every person will be confronted with all the good he has done, and all the evil he has done, he will wish that there were a great distance between him and his evil. And Allah warns you against Himself (His Punishment) and Allah is full of Kindness to the (His) slaves.” 3: 30

In our place of employment, for example, if we wish to get a promotion or a rise in salary, we need to put in effort to get our employer’s approval and to seek ways on how to gain his/her trust and love. More importantly, with Allah, we must seek knowledge on how to get close to Allah.

**WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEEK CLOSENESS TO HIM SO THAT INSHAALLAH WE WILL BE GRANTED THE VERY BEST END IN THE HEREAFTER AND A LOFTY POSITION IN PARADISE.**

Let us look at various hadeeths on how to be close to Allah because only prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam would have been informed on how to achieve this closeness to Allah:

Al-Bukhaari (6502) narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah says: 'Whoever takes a close friend of Mine as an enemy, I declare war on him. My slave does not draw closer to Me by anything more beloved to Me than that which I have made obligatory upon him, and My slave continues to draw closer to Me by doing naafil (supererogatory) deeds until I love him, and if I love him I will be his hearing with which he hears, his vision with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes and his foot with which he walks. If he were to ask of Me, I would surely give to him; if he were to seek refuge with Me, I would surely grant him refuge. I do not hesitate about anything that I want to do as I hesitate to take the soul of a believer, for he hates death and I hate to hurt him.'" This hadith clearly and concisely highlights the way to become a close friend of Allah, may He be exalted, for the one who wants to be one of His close friends.

Al-Haafiz Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Jaami' al-'Uloom wa'l-Hikam (2/335): This hadith mentions that which will bring us closer to Him. The basic meaning of wilaayah (close friendship) is nearness or closeness, and the basic meaning of 'adaawah (enmity) is distance or being far away. So the close friends of Allah are those who draw close to Him by means of that which brings them closer to Him. End quote.

This hadith highlights the way that brings one closer to Allah, may He be exalted. All the believer has to do is reflect deeply upon this hadith and understand it properly, then follow that by acting upon what it says. After that, by Allah's leave, he will be on his way to becoming a close friend of Allah, may He be exalted, and drawing closer to Him, commensurate with the deeds he does, seeking thereby the Countenance of Allah, may He be exalted, and following the Sunnah of His Messenger (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him). Explaining the content of this hadith, al-Haafiz Ibn Rajab (may Allah have mercy on him) said elsewhere in his book Jaami' al-'Uloom wa'l-Hikam:

His close friends who are near to Him may be divided into two categories,

1. the first of which is those who draw near to Him by doing that which is enjoined, which includes doing obligatory duties and avoiding things which are prohibited, because all of that comes under the heading of what Allah has enjoined upon His slaves.

2. The second category is those who draw nearer to Him, after doing obligatory duties, by doing naafil (supererogatory) deeds. End quote.

So generally, in order to be close to Allah, performing deeds should come first – obligatory deeds must be prioritised in order to gain Allah’s Love and to increase this love – we should do voluntary deeds, such as the night prayers, the sunnah fasts, etc.

To earn Allah’s love is the ultimate goal in order to be close and beloved to Him. We therefore can look at other hadeeths on which are the best Deeds and the most beloved people to Allah:

#### HADITH ONE

Abdullah ibn Mas’ood (RA) reported:

I asked the Messenger of Allah, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, "*Which of the deeds is most beloved to Allah?*" The Messenger of Allah, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, said, "*Performing the prayer at its prescribed, fixed time.*" I asked, "*What next?*" He replied, "*Dutifulness to the parents.*" I asked, "*What next?*" He replied, "*Jihad (striving) in the Cause of Allah.*" Had I asked him for more, he would have told me. [Al-Bukhari]

#### HADEETH TWO

‘A’ishah (RA) narrated that the Messenger of Allah, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, was asked what the most beloved deed to Allah is and that he replied, "*It is that which is done continuously even if it is little.*" [Muslim]

#### HADEETH THREE

Ibn Umar reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to the people. The most beloved deed to Allah is to make a Muslim happy, or to remove one of his troubles, or to forgive his debt, or to feed his hunger. That I walk with a brother regarding a need is more beloved to me than that I seclude myself in this mosque in Medina for a month. Whoever swallows his anger, then Allah will conceal his faults. Whoever suppresses his rage, even though he could fulfill his anger if he wished, then Allah will secure his heart on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever walks with his brother regarding a need until he secures it for him, then Allah the Exalted will make his footing firm across the bridge on the day when the footings are shaken.”

Source: al-Mu‘jam al-Awsat 6192

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

#### HADEETH FOUR

Belief in Allah: the Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved of deeds to Allah are: belief in Allah, then, keeping your ties with family, then, enjoining the good and forbidding the evil”. [Collected by Abu Ya’lah]

#### HADEETH FIVE

The remembrance of Allah: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved of deeds to Allah is to die while your tongue is moistened with the remembrance of Allah”. [Collected by Tabaraani]

#### HADEETH SIX

The masaajid: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved places to Allah are the masaajid, and the most hated places to Allah are the marketplaces”. [Collected by Muslim]

#### HADEETH SEVEN

Speaking the truth in the presence of an unjust ruler: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved jihaad to Allah is speaking the truth in the presence of an unjust ruler”. [Collected by Ahmad].

#### HADEETH EIGHT

Truthful speech. The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved of speech to me is that which is most truthful”. [Collected by Bukhaari]

“O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And `whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger (SallAllahu ‘alayhi

wa sallam) he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and made to enter Paradise).”

33: 70-71

#### HADEETH NINE

The fast of David: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved fast to Allah is the fast of David; he used to fast one day, and break fast one day, and the most beloved prayer to Allah is the prayer of David; he used to sleep half the night, pray a third, and sleep a sixth”. [Bukhaari and Muslim].

#### HADEETH TEN

Plentiful hands in the food plate: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved meal to Allah is that in which many hands partake from the plate”. [Collected by Ibn Hibbaan]

#### HADEETH ELEVEN

Saying Sub’haana Allah: the Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved of speech to Allah is for a servant to say; Sub’haana Allah wa bi hamdi’hi”. [Collected by Muslim].

#### HADEETH TWELVE

The four most beloved words: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved words to Allah are four; sub’haanallah, al-hamdu lillaah, wa laa ilaaha illa Allah, wa Allahu Akbar”. [Collected by Muslim].

#### HADEETH THIRTEEN

Good character: The Prophet SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “The most beloved servant to Allah is he who has the best character”. [Collected by Tabaraani]

## HADEETH FOURTEEN

The best names: The Prophet SallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam said: "The most beloved names to Allah are, Abdullah and Abdul-Rahmaan". [Collected by Muslim]

Getting closer to Allah requires a few things from us:

1. Strong intention to get closer to Allah
2. Patience
3. Consistency
4. Avoid doing nothing or doing things, not for the sake of Allah

Let's first consider our worth to Allah .

If you want to know your worth to Allah then see what you are doing with your life.

Are you pleasing Allah or disappointing Him?

Don't like your answer?

Well, there is good news.

The fact that you are seeking closeness to Allah means He wants you to remember Him.

Being productive is very important as a Muslim. It is a sign of Allah's mercy that you have come to seek beneficial knowledge from websites like this one. A righteous deed is like a pearl necklace - when it breaks, all the pearls follow one another quickly.

THE EFFECT OF BEING CLOSE AND NEAR TO ALLAH:

***Abu Huraira (RA) reported that the Prophet Muhammad SallAllahu a'alayhi wa sallam said that Allah, the Exalted and Glorious said:***

*“I am near to the thought of My servant as he thinks about Me, and I am with him as he remembers Me. And if he remembers Me in his heart, I also remember him in My heart, and if he remembers Me in assembly I remember him in assembly, better than his (remembrance), and if he draws near Me by the span of a palm, I draw near him by the cubit, and if he draws near me by the cubit I draw near him by the space (covered by) two hands. And if he walks towards Me, I rush towards him.” [Sahih Muslim]*

We need to struggle to achieve great things. ﷻ And the harder the struggle is, the better the outcome becomes.

Getting close to Allah takes time. We cannot expect everything to magically fall into place by doing one righteous deed. You need to depend on Allah . Always trust that what He has planned for you is the best you can have, for this life and the hereafter.

## SOME OTHER THINGS WHICH WILL LEAD US CLOSER TO HIM INSHAALLAH:

### 1. Dua (Supplication)

We forget that we need Allah’s help and strength to guide us.

When we get too caught up with [dunya](#) (this life) we often think we can do it on our own without His help.

Sometimes we substitute [Barakah](#) for a desire to enter the hustle culture and then wonder why we feel frazzled at work or home. When we do this we lose our productivity. This is why we have to know that nothing changes without the strength and power of Allah .

We need to ask Him for His help, especially if it is to get closer to Him or become better at worshipping Him. We need to seek refuge in Allah in everything.

This helps us to address the negative thoughts we have, our lack of productivity or even our lack of faith.

We need to ask Allah to help us and guide us to the Straight Path. Allah says in the Qur’an:

*“And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided” (2:186).*

## 2. Stay Away from Poisons

You need to get any poisons out of your life. Poison has many forms.

Fix your heart, by staying away from anything that Allah doesn't love. If you are around friends that make you sin and make you disappoint Allah, then you need to get them out of your life.

*The Prophet Muhammad said: “A good friend and a bad friend are like a perfume-seller and a blacksmith: The perfume-seller might give you some perfume as a gift, or you might buy some from him, or at least you might smell its fragrance. As for the blacksmith, he might singe your clothes, and at the very least you will breathe in the fumes of the furnace.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari]*

## 3. Get to Know Allah [SWT] Through His Beautiful Names

How can you love Allah and want to get closer to Him if you don't know Him that well?

We fall in love with people as we get to know them more and realise that they have a lot of beautiful qualities and characteristics.

Of course, Allah is above any analogy, but you need to know Him more. Wanting to get closer won't do you any good on its own. You must learn to fall in love with your Creator.

Start with the name of Al-Wadud, the Ever-Loving. Allah's love for you is unconditional. He does not need or want anything from you in return.

He loves you and so He keeps giving you even if you disobey Him. Ask Allah with His Names.

He is the One who is closest to you (Qareeb). So ask Him to bring you closer to Him.



Call on Him using the name Al-Wadud and ask Him to love you more and make you love Him more.

It's as simple as that.

We tend to overthink stuff and forget that if we seek refuge in Allah, He will make everything easier on us.

*Abu Huraira (RA) narrates that the Prophet Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "If Allah loves a person, He calls Gabriel saying, 'Allah loves so-and-so; O Gabriel! Love him.' Gabriel would love him and make an announcement amongst the inhabitants of the Heaven. 'Allah loves so-and-so, therefore you should love him also,' and so all the inhabitants of the Heaven would love him, and then he is granted the pleasure of the people on the earth." [Sahih Al-Bukhari]*

#### 4. Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah )

Remembering Allah is essential in achieving closeness to Him. You can remember him by engaging in [dhikr](#) (remembrance) and tasbeeh (praise).

Say [Astaghfirullah](#) a lot to erase your sins.

Say [Alhamdulillah](#) so Allah will give you more.

Look outside your window and say Subhan-Allah about His beautiful creations.

The most elegant form of remembering Allah is by looking at His creations.

When you are in between tasks like driving or walking, remember Allah .

Listen to Islamic lectures that speak of Allah's glory. Surround yourself with people who remind you of Allah .

Attend halaqas or religious circles in masjids. If you like, you can even create your own gathering of remembrance.

The more you remember Allah, the more He will descend unique peace upon you.

See what happens when you are sitting in a gathering that is filled with Allah's remembrance...

Allah's Messenger [SAW] said:

*"Whenever some people gather in one of Allah's houses (mosques) to recite the book of Allah and study it among themselves – then calmness (tranquillity) descends upon them, the angels surround them, mercy covers them, and Allah mentions them to those who are with Him."* [[Sahih Muslim](#)]

## 5. Follow the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad

By following the Sunnah of our prophet SallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam, we will gain the love of Allah. When you gain the love of Allah, you will get closer to him.

Following the Sunnah of the Prophet makes you a better person. You will have better behaviours and ethics.

Read more about the Prophet SallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam; fall in love with your Messenger. After all, he was a mercy to all mankind. Allah says so in the Qu'ran:

*"Say, (O Muhammad, to mankind): If ye love Allah, follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (3:31)"*.

## 6. Stay Connected to the Qur'an

Reading or memorising the Qur'an alone is not enough. Understand it and act upon it.

Try your best to act the way we are asked to in the Qur'an. Reflect on its meanings; it will give you answers to your daily life's complications.

When you read the Qur'an and work to understand it better you are more likely to reach the level of Ihsan. You will want to do everything right.

In the form of a man, Gabriel/Jibreel (AS) once entered a gathering where the Prophet SallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam was sitting.

One of the questions the angel asked was to elaborate on the term “Ihsan”.

*Prophet Muhammed SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “That you worship Allah as if you see Him, for if you don’t see Him then truly He sees you.” [Bukhari and Muslim]*

All the above points which I have raised reminds us that we have been reminded especially by our beloved prophet Muhammad SallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam on how to seek nearness and closeness to Allah. If we are loved by Allah, our path and journey both in this life and especially in the Hereafter will be less difficult inshaAllah.

Ibn al-Qayyim mentioned ten causes that result in Allah’s love for a slave and the slave’s love for His Lord.

1. Reciting the Qur’aan while pondering over its meaning and what is meant by it.
2. Getting closer to Allah by performing voluntary deeds completing obligatory deeds. This is as in the Hadeeth al-Qudsi: “My slave continues to getting closer to Me by performing voluntary deeds until I love him.” [Bukharee]
3. Continual remembrance of Allah under all circumstances, with one’s tongue, heart and action.
4. Giving precedence to what He loves over what you love when you are overtake
5. Jjjjjgg n by your desires.
6. The heart being avid of Allah’s Names, Attributes and the heart roaming in that garden of knowledge
7. Observing Allah’s kindness, goodness and bounties, both open and hidden
8. This is the most wonderful: the heart becoming soft, subdued and meek before Allah
9. Being alone with Allah during the time when the Lord descends during the last portion of the night while reading His Book and ending by asking for forgiveness and repenting.
10. Sitting with the beloved and sincere, benefiting from the most fruitful of their speech. And not to speak unless speaking is more beneficial and you know that it will improve your state and be beneficial to others.
11. Remaining away from every cause that comes between the heart and Allah.

These ten causes take the lovers to the station of true love and bring them to their Beloved. [Ibn al-Qayyim, Madaarij-us-Saalikeen, vol. 3, pp.17, 18]

May Allah Grant us with the ability to perform all the righteous deeds in order for us to be closer to Him so that He will Grant all of us Jannatul Firdaus.