

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER

Our most revered Ameer and Missionary In-Charge, distinguished guests of the Promised Messiah (a.s) gathered here.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

It is narrated by 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ud (ra) that once the Holy Prophet (saw) was praying near the Kaba and the Kufar placed the abdominal contents (intestines, etc.) of a camel on him when he was in Sajda (prostration). He remained prostrated till his daughter Hazrat Fatima (r.a) came to remove it. The Holy Prophet (saw) on getting up said;

اَللّٰهُمَّ عَلَيكَ يَا اَبِي جَهْلٍ، وَعَلَيْكَ بِعُتْبَةَ بْنِ رَبِيعَةَ وَشَيْبَةَ بْنِ رَبِيعَةَ وَالْوَلِيدِ بْنِ عُتْبَةَ، وَ
اُمَيَّةَ بْنِ خَلْفٍ، وَ عُقْبَةَ بْنِ اَبِي مُعَيْطٍ

The Prophet (saw) said, "Oh! Allah! Destroy Abu Jahl, 'Utba bin Rabi'a, Shaiba bin Rabi'a, Al-Walid bin 'Utba, Umaiyya bin Khalaf, and 'Uqba bin Abi Mu'ait.

The narrator further said: "By Allah in Whose Hands is my life, I saw the dead bodies of those persons who were counted by Allah's Messenger (saw) in the Qalib (one of the wells) of Badr." (*Bukhari Kitabul Wudu Bab Idha Alqaya Ala Dhahra Musalli Fadharun aw Jeefatun Lam Tafsud Alaihi Salatuhu*).

These people got frightened and terrified because they knew the accuracy and the efficacy of the prayers of the Holy Prophet (saw). That's why Umaiyya was so much afraid to join the battle of Badr where he actually met his death. All the names mentioned by the Holy Prophet (saw) met their death on the day of Badr.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for this opportunity given me to speak on the topic **THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER** on this spiritually charged Jalsa.

Prayer is an invocation or an act that seeks to activate a communion with God. It is a means of grace that has a large value, for it affords the privilege of close communion with God.

In Islam words like *دَعَا*, *سَأَلَ نَادَى* and *ذَكَرَ* have been used in different meanings among which is prayer or supplication. But *صَلَاة* does not have a definite translation in the English language. All forms of supplications are in cooperated in Salat which makes Salat very important and compulsory on every sane human.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) in explaining prayer writes; **“...Prayer is that sovereign remedy which converts a handful of dust into precious metal. It is the water which washes out the inner impurities...”** (The Essence of Islam pg 227. 2004 Edition).

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra) said: **“the person who establishes prayer in its right sense, besides countless spiritual benefits also get this special benefit that, he is protected from all sorts of sins”**. (Tafseer Kabeer, vol: 6, p: 81)

Efficacy means the power to produce a desired result or effect. The topic would therefore mean the power of prayer to produce a desired result.

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Mr. Chairman, prayer provides a constant reminder of the essence of our creation. It helps us get rid of sins, protects us from Satan and all satanic activities. It inclines us to God and makes us adopt the attributes of God and establish a living communion with Him.

Allah, talking about the essence of our creation says in the Holy Quran;

(51:57) وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

“And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship me”

Prayer is an essential aspect of a true believer. No one can enjoy the benefit and the fruit of righteousness but through prayer. God Almighty draws closer to those who

realize their purpose of being in the world and makes them His friends. Those people enjoy the efficacy of their prayers.

Allah made man the best of all creation and enhanced him with all the needed faculties to reach the highest level in spirituality and become morally up right. The trees, the animals and all other creations are to help and enable human to have a good link with his God.

He says;

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

“Surely, We have created man in the best make”. (95:5)

But this honour is reduced to the lowest of the low to the level of beast when man misuses his faculty and thread far from the essence of his creation. Because it is by realizing God that makes human superior to other creations. To this Allah says;

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ

“Then, if he works iniquity, We reject him as the lowest of the low”. (95:6)

The Promised Messiah (A.S) write; “**It is said in Hadith that if prayer had been ordained for the people of Noah, they would not have been destroyed... The Muslims were exposed to danger when they began to abandon Salat. As long as the prayer is not performed in accordance with all its requirements, it does not earn the blessings that it carries...**” (*Tafseer Masih-e- Maud^{as} vol IV, pg: 422, Izala-e- Auham, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 3, p. 549, Malfuzat, new edition, vol. iii, pg. 627*).

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra) states: “**through prayers, such expertise springs out and such divine light evolves from the heart, that in a short or limited time, one can carry out great tasks.**” (*Tafseer Kabeer, Vol 10; P 128*).

CONDITIONS FOR THE EFFICAY OF PRAYER

Mr. Chairman, prayer is very valuable and a person who is given to prayer succeeds in the end. The thousand miracles and the wonders conferred on the

Prophets and the righteous individuals and friends of God were all achieved through prayers but we must know that prayer has conditions.

God is Holy and pure that is why righteousness is the most important condition for the acceptance of prayer. God is always ready to receive those who choose Him and adopt His ways and directions.

The promised Messiah (a.s) writes; “...**humility alone is not enough for prayer, but righteousness, purity, truthfulness, perfect certainty, perfect love and perfect attention are all needed...**”

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (a.s) the promised Messiah and Mahdi who had an in dept knowledge in the field of the efficacy of prayers has set three main conditions in this regard.

He writes; “***First*, a supplicant should be perfectly righteous, for only that one is acceptable to God Almighty who makes righteousness his habit and adheres firmly to all the paths of righteousness and who is trustworthy and pious and true in his promises and is filled with the personal love of God.**

***Secondly*, his resolve and attention should be so firm and so strong that he should be ready to lay down his own life for the revival of another and should be ready to enter himself into the grave to pull another out of it. His accepted servants are dearer to God Almighty than an only child, who is also handsome, is dear to its mother. When God, the Merciful and Benevolent, sees that one who is accepted of Him and is true to Him has, for the sake of saving the life of another, subject himself to spiritual labours and disciplines to a degree that his own life is in danger, He finds it disagreeable that He should let him perish in that condition. Then for his sake He forgives the sin in respect of which the other person had been seized...**

The Promised Messiah (as) explained that the third condition is more difficult to comply than the two other conditions. This is because the third condition deals directly with those who desire to have supplication made on his behalf.

He writes;

Thirdly, ... he should be desirous of supplication being made for him with the utmost sincerity and in perfect goodwill and submission. He should decide in his heart that even if the supplication is not accepted this would not affect his trust and goodwill. His request for supplication should not as a trial but should be made in full trust...” (Essence of Islam Vol II Pg. 214 &215)

DOES GOD STILL SPEAK

Mr. Chairman, the question usually asked is, **does God still speak**. The attributes of Allah are appropriate to Him. He is not a human to expire nor go into hiding at a particular age or time. He is ever living, He manifests His Grandeur through the Prophets and Saints and proves His existence in the acceptance of prayers and miracles.

Allah says;

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَ
لِيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, say; ‘I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way’.” (2:187)

This Quranic verse is very clear. We must know that no one can come to our aid when we go into difficulties. It says, if you are faced with anything then call upon your God and supplicate but with a condition that you are obedient and abide by the commands of Allah.

Allah says in Suratul Mu'min (40:61)

أُدْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ

“Pray unto Me; I will answer your prayer”

The Promised Messiah (as) writes; **“...I can say out of my own experience that I have felt the grace and mercy of God, which comes in the shape of the acceptance of prayer, coming towards me...”** (Essence of Islam pg 187)

I will give a few narrations about the efficacy of Prayer. The Hadith I presented at the beginning of the speech is a clear indication of the effectiveness of the prayers of the Holy Prophet (saw).

The efficacy of prayers was witnessed many times of the Holy Prophet (saw) some of which included the conversion of Hazrat Umar (ra), the victory of the Muslims over the Kuffar especially at Badr when the Holy Prophet (saw) prayed in the following words **“O Lord, make good Thy promise. If today this party of Muslim is wiped out, there will be none left to worship Thee”**. This prayer made 313 Muslims ride over the well-equipped one thousand Quraish. Referencing this Allah says in the Holy Qur’an;

فَلَمْ تَقْتُلُوهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ قَتَلَهُمْ - وَ مَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَ لَكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَى

“You killed them not, but it was Allah who killed them. And thou threwest not when thou didst throw, but it was Allah who threw” (8:18)

This was a clear manifestation of the efficacy of prayers of the Holy Prophet (saw).

The manifestation of Gods’ power and His existence was witnessed at the hand of the Aashiq-i-Saadique Promised Messiah (a.s).

Maulana Abur-Rahman Dard M.A (ra) writes in his book Life of Ahmad page 117;

“In 1882 Ahmad (as) badly felt the need of money for an emergency which was known to his Arya neighbors. He prayed to God that he might grant him the required amount so that the Aryas might also become witnesses to the Divine acceptance of his prayer in this connection. The same day he received a revelation to the effect that God was near. The last sentence was added in English. It runs as follows: **‘Then will you go to Amritsar.’** For ten days Ahmad (as) received no remittance from anywhere, but on the eleventh day Muhammad Afdal Khan, settlement superintendent, Rawalpindi, sent him a money order for Rs. 110/- and more followed afterwards. The day he received the first remittance he had to go to Amritsar to appear as a witness in a court case. Thus, was the fulfilled the word of God.”

Khalifa Masih II (ra) narrates: “I recall an extraordinary instance of the acceptance of prayer of the Promised Messiah. One Ahmadi friend, Munshi Ataullah Patwari reported it to me. He said ‘I was quite indifferent to and ignorant of religion; nay I used to mock at religious matters. I drank liquor profusely and accepted bribes. When some Ahmadi friends, living in my locality preached their faith to me I used to mock at them too. One day an Ahmadi friend pressed me hard with his preaching. I retorted that I am going to write to your Mirza Sahib, asking him to pray for the achievement of an objective of mine. If the objective is achieved, I will believe that he is true in his claim. I then wrote to him stating that you claim to be the Promised Messiah and friend of God. The prayers of the friends of God are accepted. I have now three wives. Twelve years past since my last marriage, but I have no issue by any one of them. I desire to have a handsome, promising son and that too by my first wife. Please pray for the fulfilment of this desire of mine.

In reply, Hadhrat Maulvi Abdul Karim Sahib (ra) wrote to me on behalf of the Promised Messiah (as) in these words: **“His Holiness, informs you that prayers have been offered for you, and that God will bless you with a handsome, promising child by your first wife as desired by you, but there is one condition; you must turn to God like Zachariah (as).”**

‘Munshi Ataullah says: I thereupon sincerely repented and turned to God. Four or five months after this, my first wife developed symptoms of pregnancy and I started saying to people you will soon see, I shall have a son and he will be handsome and promising. At last one night my wife gave birth to the promising child. I at once went to Qadian, several other people accompanying me, we took initiation at the hands of the Promised Messiah (as).” (Review of Religions, April 1986, P: 37)

Mr. Chairman the efficacy of the prayers of the Promised Messiah (as) cannot be over emphasized. The prayers offered in the dark nights and day for the truthfulness and the superiority of Islam and its Prophets (saw) were vividly manifested. The prayer duel (Mubahala) against Abdullah Atham, Pandit Lakh Ram, Alexander Dowie just to mention but a few are clear indications of the existence and proof to fact that God still speaks.

We all know very well what happened to Butto and Zia-ul-Haq when they persisted in disturbing the Jamaat and its members. Zia-u-Haq was crashed after the announcement of the 4th Khalifah that whether he accepts the Mubahala or not Allah will manifest Himself.

One Arab narrates that his pregnant wife was suffering from Amoebic syndrome. The doctors told them there was 99.9% of the child losing one hand. The lady rushed to Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (atba) crying. Huzur told her not to worry because he will pray for them. They told her the something anytime she went to the Hospital. She had a Mulaqat with Huzur again after her last scan when the doctors told her there is nothing she could do again because the risk is now high. Huzur told her not to worry; nothing would happen to the child. The lady gave birth to a boy eight weeks before her delivery time. The boy is safe with his two hands working.

He says Huzur made the following comment;

His name is Talha, his hand should protect Islam Ahmadiyyat and Khilafat. His hand was not destined to be cut off in the womb he will have long life and protect Islam Ahmadiyya and Khilafat.

The efficacy of prayer is also witness among the members of the Jama'at all over the world. Which shows that Islam transcends all other faiths.

A Ghanaian Murabbi narrates that he received a call that his daughter was taken ill and was at the hospital. He was worried about the girl and the amount of money he had to pay. He performed ablution and turned to Allah and told Allah to provide the amount i.e. the amount should be provided by the time he is done with the salat just before the second salaam was said to conclude the Sala'at he received a mobile alert of the same amount of money he needed for the hospital bills. He said in addition to the alert, he had a call from one of his children that he should not worry because the hospital bills had been taken care off and all this happened within a few minutes after his prayer.

Another narrates that he had a business transaction with someone but to his surprise the money was short by 100 Cedis. With the full conviction that the money might have fallen off in his room, he promised to do the payment early the

follow day. But upon returning home the money was not there. He performed ablution and offered two raka'ats. Just before he said the second salaam he heard phone banging and it was from a friend inviting him to his house. He told him to pick a taxi and he was ready to pay the fare. Upon arrival, they had just 5minutes conversation because the one who invited him was to go somewhere so another taxi was called to take him back to his house. He just invited him to inform him he has the plan of going for Hajj that year. Just when the taxi was about leaving he gave him an amount which he never checked till the taxi had gone a bit far. To his surprise it was the same amount he needed to complete his transaction.

PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

Mr. Chairman, the acceptance of prayer is controlled by Allah. He has kept this under His own supervision and controls the manifestation of its beauty. The duty of man is to supplicate and seek help from Allah Almighty and its acceptance is determined by Allah. Patience, humility and purity are required.

Allah says;

وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ - وَإِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةٌ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخَاشِعِينَ

And seek help with patience and prayer; and indeed, is hard except for the humble in spirit. (2:46)

Abu Hurairah (ra) narrates that the Messenger of Allah said: "**It is necessary that you do not become hasty.**" it was said: "What does being hasty mean, Oh! Messenger of Allah? He said: "**When one says: 'I supplicated to Allah but Allah did not answer me.'**" (Sahih Tirmidhi Bab, Yustajaabu Li-Ahadikum Maa Lam Ya'jal)

Perseverance and resolve are such excellent qualities that without them a person cannot traverse the stages of success.

Some people do complain that their supplications are not heard and accepted after offering prayer in great yearning and pain.

The Promised Messiah (A.S) writes; “... Sometimes it happens that a person supplicates for something, his supplication is the result of his ignorance... He desires something from God Almighty which under no circumstances can be useful or beneficial for him. In such a case, God Almighty does not reject his prayer, but fulfills it in some other form. For instance, a cultivator who needs a bullock for his plough goes to a ruler and asks him for a camel. The ruler knows that a bullock would be useful for him and he directs that he should be given a bullock. If that person should say that his request has not been granted it would be foolish on his part...” (*Essence of Islam Vol. II pg 222 2004 Edition*)

Impatience and lack of goodwill on the part of some individuals are the cause of the rejection of their prayers. One should have the trust and should not loss heart in God and should not think ill of God through impatience and restlessness. A person who loses hope or desires fulfillment of his/her prayer before its time, suffers loss. Thinking that your prayer will not be accepted is a denial of the attributes of God Almighty. We should be mindful of what we pray for; it will be disrespectful for someone to pray that the sun should appear at night.

Imam Mahdi (a.s) says; “...Do not lose hope in your supplication. The longer a prayer takes to be accepted whereby it appears that you have received no answer offer prostrations of gratitude, because this is better and more advantageous for you. Delayed results are success. (Malfuzat vol 1, pg 243)

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we can all experience the efficacy of prayers if we create a strong bond with our God and call blessings on the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) (Durood). It is our responsibility and duty bound on us to create a bond and a strong relation with the Khalifah of the time if we want our prayers to be accepted.

اللهم صلّ على محمدٍ وعلى آل محمدٍ كما صلّيت على إبراهيم
اللهم بارك على محمدٍ و آل إبراهيم أنّك حميدٌ مجيدٌ

علیٰ ال محمدؐ کما باریکۃ علیٰ ابراهیم و علیٰ ال ابراهیم انک
حمیدٌ مجیدٌ