

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستهديه ونستغفره و نتوب اليه , ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا. من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل, فلن تجد له ولي مرشدا. وأشهد أن محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم عبده ورسوله وصفيه من خلقه وحبيبه. بلغ الرسالة وأدى الأمانة، ونصح الأمة و كشف الله به الغمة. و جاهد في الله حق جهاده حتى أتاه اليقين. فأجزه الله عنا خير ما جازيت نبي عن أمته و رسول عن قومه. و إتقوا الله وأعلموا أن ما قل و كفى خير مم كثر و ألهى وما أنتم معجزين ثم أما بعد:

Introduction

Brothers in Islam,

The title of my Khutba today is “**Achieving Your objective In Ramadan**”. 2 weeks ago we heard a khutba that explained how Ramadan is a crash course on taqwa and that every muslim is required to attain some level of taqwa. Then last week we heard how the fast is a very special act of worship. I continue with this theme of Ramadan and I hope that you have not become bored with the subject.

Ramadan is a test

Brothers, Ramadan is very much like a test. However in this test there are only three possible results:

The first result is complete redemption from Hell:

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه ، عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم أنه قال: “إذا كان أول ليلة من شهر رمضان صُفِّدَ الشياطين و مرقدة الجن، وغلقت أبواب النار فلم يفتح منها باب، و فتحت أبواب الجنة فلم يغلَق منها باب، و ينادي مناد: يا باغي الخير أقبل ويا باغي الشر أقصر، ولله عتقاء من النار وذلك كل ليلة” رواه الترمذي وابن ماجة و حسنه الألباني

Abu Hurayrah reported that the prophet of Allah (PBUH) said: “When it is the first night of Ramadan, The devils and shayateen are chained, The gates of the (Hell) Fire are closed, so that none of them remain open, The Gates of Paradise are opened so that none of them remain closed, and a caller cries out , “O seeker of good, proceed! O seeker of evil, desist!” And Allah frees (redeems) some of his slaves from the Hell fire and does so every night”

Brothers I would like you to imagine that every one of us has a slave collar on his neck right now! Brother As long as you have that collar و Hell has a claim on you.

It is our hope that on the day of judgment Allah will remove this collar and we will not enter Hell. That through our deeds we will attain Allah's Mercy and through his mercy we will enter Paradise. Brothers understand that if Allah was to free you from that collar then you would not ever be touched by Hell. And what is our purpose in life if not to ensure our safety from the fires of Hell?

And this is what Allah is offering you in Ramadan, a chance to free yourself. Free you self from what? let me tell you.

عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال : قال رسول الله ﷺ: ((يُوْتِي بِأَنْعَمِ رَجُلٍ فِي الدُّنْيَا مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ فَيُصِغُ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ ثُمَّ يُقَالُ لَهُ : يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ ، هَلْ رَأَيْتَ خَيْرًا قَطُّ ؟ هَلْ مَرَّ بِكَ مِنْ نَعِيمٍ قَطُّ ؟ فَيَقُولُ : لَا وَاللَّهِ يَارَبِّ وَيُوْتِي بِأَشَدِّ النَّاسِ بُؤْسًا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ فَيُصِغُ صِغَةً فِي الْجَنَّةِ ، فَيُقَالُ لَهُ : يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ ، هَلْ رَأَيْتَ بُؤْسًا قَطُّ ؟ هَلْ مَرَّ بِكَ مِنْ شِدَّةٍ قَطُّ ؟ فَيَقُولُ : لَا وَاللَّهِ يَارَبِّ مَا مَرَّ بِي مِنْ

بؤس قط ، ولا رأيت شدة قط))

Anas b. Malik reported that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said that one amongst the people of Hell who had led a life of ease and plenty amongst the people of the world would be dipped in Hell only once on the Day of Resurrection and then it would be said to him: O, son of Adam, did you find any comfort in your life, did you happen to get any material blessing? He would say: By Allah, no, my Lord. And then a person who had led the most miserable life (in the world) from amongst the inmates of Paradise, would be dipped once in Paradise and it would be said to him. O, son of Adam, did you face, any hardship in your life? Or had any distress fallen to your lot? And he would say: By Allah, no, O my Lord, never did I face any hardship or experience any distress.

The second possible result of Ramadan is that all your past sins will be forgiven:

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "من قام رمضان إيماناً واحتساباً، غفر له ما تقدم من ذنبه"

Narrated by Abu Huraira: Allah's Apostle said: "Whoever establishes prayers during the nights of Ramadan faithfully out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not for showing off), all his past sins will be forgiven."

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "من صام رمضان إيماناً واحتساباً، غفر له ما تقدم من ذنبه"

Narrated Abu Huraira: Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven."

What then is the last possible result? It is utter failure!!

قال رسول الله (ص) : (خاب و خسر من أدرك رمضان و لم يغفر له)

The prophet of Allah says: "Indeed he is lost who observes Ramadan and does not attain forgiveness"

And in an other version "May his nosed be wiped in the dirt"

So what is your objective in Ramadan? It is to be redeemed by Allah from Hell. I would like to talk about some point to help achieve that objective.

Remove worldly distractions:

If you have not unplugged your TV until now, it is the time to do so. Brothers time in Ramadan is precious. There are so many things to do and the reward in Ramadan is so great that it would be a shame to waist it on something like TV, or listening to music or playing on your computer. Inshaa Allah there will be plenty of time for that in Eid. But for now try to use your time for more important issues.

Fasting is not just giving up food and water

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: " من لم يدع قول الزور و العمل به فليس لله حاجة في أن يدع طعامه و شرابه "

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "Whoever does not give up false speech and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink (i.e. Allah will not accept his fasting.)"

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال : " رُبَّ صائم ليس له من صيامه إلا الجوع ، ورب قائم ليس له من قيامه إلا السهر " .

Anu Haurayrah narrates that The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "There maybe a person who fasts yet gets nothing out of his fasting except hunger and thirst and there may be a person who spends the night in prayer yet gets nothing out of his prayers except weariness"

So we need to be especially careful of how we treat people in Ramadan. Lest our Fast not be accepted.

Fajr Prayer and the Obligatory prays in Jama3a if possible

عن أبي موسى الأشعري رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "من صلى البردين دخل الجنة"

Abu Musa reported that the Messenger of Allah said: "He who observes Al-bardain (Fajir and Asr prayers) will Enter Paradise"

Some people in mistakenly concentrate on tahajud or taraweeh but do not pray Fajir. Fajir is a "Fareedah" and "Obligation" It is better in the Eyes of God then any "Nafelah" "Extra deeds".

عن أبي هريرة - رضي الله عنه - قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم - إن الله تعالى قال : من عادى لي وليا فقد آذنته بالحرب ، وما تقرب إلي عبدي بشيء أحب إلي مما افترضت عليه ، و لا يزال عبدي يتقرب إلي بالنوافل حتى أحبه ، فإذا أحببته كنت سمعه الذي يسمع به و بصره الذي يبصر به ، و يده التي يبطش بها ورجله التي يمشي بها و لئن سألتني لآعطينه ، و لئن استعاذني لأعيذنه -رواه البخاري .

Narrated by Abu Huraira: Allah's Apostle said, "Allah said, 'I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved things with which My slave comes nearer to Me, is what I have enjoined upon him; and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing Nawafil (praying or doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) till I love him, so I become his sense of hearing with which he hears, and his sense of sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he grips, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks of Me, I will give him, and if he asks My protection (Refuge), I will protect him; (i.e. give him My Refuge)"

So we can see brothers that Allah loves Fajir more that taraweeh and tahajud and even laylatul qadr.

Tahajud and taraweeh especially the last 10 days

ففي الصحيحين من حديث عائشة : « كان رسول الله إذا دخلت العشر شد مؤثره و أحيا ليله و

Narrated by Aisha: With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan, the Prophet used to tighten his waist belt (i.e. work hard) and used to pray all the night, and used to keep his family awake for the prayers.

From Sunan Abu Dawood:

Yahya related to me from Malik from Da'ud ibn al-Husayn that he heard al-Araj say, "The reciter of Qur'an used to recite surat al-Baqara in eight rakas and if he did it in twelve rakas the people would think that he had made it easy."

Yahya related to me from Malik that Abdullah ibn Abi Bakr said, "I heard my father say, 'We finished praying in Ramadan and the servants hurried with the food, fearing the approach of dawn.' "

Charity in Ramadan

In this we follow the footsteps of the prophet:

Ibn 'Abbas reported that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) was the most generous of people in charity, but he was generous to the utmost in the month of Ramadan. Gabriel (peace be upon him) would meet him every year during the month of Ramadan until it ended, and Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) recited to him the Qur'an; and when Gabriel met him Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) was most generous in giving charity like the blowing wind.

Reciting the Quran

In surat Al Baqara

قال تعالى: (شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ)
Allah The all-mighty says: "Ramadan is the month in which was sent down the Quran, as a guide to mankind, also clear signs for guidance and judgment between right and wrong. "

In his tafseer, Ibn Katheer explains that the greatness of Ramadan is due to the fact the the Quran was sent down in this month. We should give the Quran its due then, If you are not able to recite the Quran then maybe this is a chance for you to start learning.

Repentance to Allah

Brothers as we have covered this month is special in that the devils are chained and the gates of Paradise are open. It is a golden opportunity to get rid of your bad habits. And please don't belittle your bad deeds. It is not the small size of your bad deed that should be considered but rather the greatness of the one you diss-obay.

Suhur

Many brothers do realize the importance of Suhur! They will eat late at night and then maybe wake up after Athan of Fajri or even later.

Anas reported that the Messenger of Allah PBUH said "Eat suhur. Surley there is a blessing in Suhur"

Suhar is from the Arabic word shar, the time before fajir.

Early Break Fast

Sahl ibn Said reported that The Messenger of Allah PBUH said: "There will be goodness in my Ummah as long as people hasten to break their fast"

Abu Hurairah reported that the Messenger of Allah PBUH said: Allah the high said: "From amongst my slaves, the quicker the one is in breaking his fast the dearer is he to me"

Duaa in the times of answering

The first time that you should make dua'a is after you suhur and before the call to fajr. This time is especially good for asking for forgiveness

عن أبي هريرة - رضي الله عنه - أن رسول الله - صلى الله عليه وسلم - قال: **يتنزل ربنا - تبارك وتعالى - كل ليلة إلى السماء الدنيا، حين يبقى ثلث الليل الآخر، فيقول: من يدعوني فأستجيب له، من يسألني فأعطيه من يستغفري فأغفر له**

Narrated by Abu Huraira: Allah's Apostle said, "When it is the last third of the night, our Lord, the Blessed, the Superior, descends every night to the heaven of the world and says, 'Is there anyone who invokes Me (demand anything from Me), that I may respond to his invocation; Is there anyone who asks Me for something that I may give (it to) him; Is there anyone who asks My forgiveness that I may forgive him?' "

The second time that prayers are answered in is at the time of breaking your fast.

The third time is between the athan and iqama of the five prayers.

Make use of your spare time

Many of us take the bus to and from collage. Bring your Mushaf with you and make use of that time.

others, there is a period of time on Friday when Allah does not refuse any prays. I urge you to use the time between the two khutbas to pray, hoping that such a time may be upon us.

2nd Kutbah

الحمد لله وكفى. والصلاة على نبيه المصطفى وعلى آله وصحبه وسلم

Allah Commands us to salute our prophet saying: "Verily Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet (s). O, Believer! Send blessings upon him and salute him with a worthy salutation."

Allah orders justice and ihsan and to be generous to our family and kin, and forbids fahshaa, monkar and injustice, so does Allah advise us so that we may remember. So remember Allah and he will remember you, thank him for his bounties and he will increase them for you. And remember that the remembrance of Allah is greater and Allah know what you do.