



The Nafl Prayers and Love of Allah

Frist Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah for His immense blessings, who obligated devotion upon His slave to reward them through His generosity. Who then mandated for them the Nafl (the supererogatory) forms of worship so they may increase in their devotion and closeness to Allah. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that Sayyiduna Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. So, O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon his family, his companions and whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah as Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ

O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow. [Qur'an: ٥٩: ١٨]

O Believers: Allah says in a Hadith Qudsi: وَمَا تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ عَبْدِي

بِشَيْءٍ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا افْتَرَضْتُ عَلَيْهِ، وَمَا يَزَالُ عَبْدِي يَتَقَرَّبُ إِلَيَّ
بِالنَّوَافِلِ حَتَّى أَحِبَّهُ، فَإِذَا أَحْبَبْتُهُ؛ كُنْتُ سَمْعَهُ الَّذِي يَسْمَعُ بِهِ، وَبَصَرَهُ
الَّذِي يُبْصِرُ بِهِ، وَيَدَهُ الَّتِي يَبْطِشُ بِهَا، وَرِجْلَهُ الَّتِي يَمْشِي بِهَا، وَإِنْ
سَأَلَنِي لِأَعْطِيَنَّهُ، وَلَئِنْ اسْتَعَاذَنِي لِأُعِيذَنَّهُ

And My servant does not draw near to Me with anything more beloved to Me than the religious duties I have obligated upon him. And My servant continues to draw near to me with nafl (supererogatory) deeds until I Love him. When I Love him, I am his hearing with which he hears, and his sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he strikes, and his foot with which he walks. Were he to ask [something] of Me, I would surely give it to him; and were he to seek refuge with Me, I would surely grant him refuge.

[Al Bukhari]

The Nafl is that which is done as an increase above the obligation and the Prophet clarified the role of Nafl prayers by saying:

مَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ مُسْلِمٍ يُصَلِّي لِلَّهِ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ ثِنْتَيْ عَشْرَةَ رَكْعَةً تَطَوُّعًا
غَيْرَ فَرِيضَةٍ، إِلَّا بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ

If any Muslim prays to Allah twelve voluntary rak'as daily, over and above the obligatory ones, Allah will build a house for him in paradise. [Muslim]

The earliest of such Nafl and amongst the greatest in reward, are the two rakats performed before the prayer of Fajr, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said about these two rakats:

The two rakats at dawn [before Fajr] are better than this world and what it contains. [Muslim]

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to hasten to perform them more than any other Nafl prayers. After them comes the Nafl of the mid-morning (Duha) prayer about which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

لَا يُحَافِظُ عَلَى صَلَاةِ الضُّحَى إِلَّا أَوَّابٌ

No one perseveres upon the prayer of Duha except those who are truly repentant (penitent). [Sahih ibn Khuzaymah]

In other words, if one persists with the Duha prayer then they literally become characterized with the attribute of repentance and obedience to Allah's commands. This is what safeguards a person as they proceed throughout the day.

Also, from the Nafl prayers are the four rakat performed before Dhuhr, and the two rakat to be performed after it. For it is narrated by Ali (may Allah be pleased with him):

كَانَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ يُصَلِّي قَبْلَ الظُّهْرِ أَرْبَعًا، وَبَعْدَهَا رَكْعَتَيْنِ

That the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to pray four rakat before Dhuhr and two rakat after Dhuhr. [Tirmidhi]

Similarly, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was consistent with the two rakats after maghrib as is narrated by Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father):

أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ يُصَلِّي رَكْعَتَيْنِ بَعْدَ الْمَغْرِبِ

That the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to pray two rakat after maghrib.

Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) used to be avid in learning about the nafl prayers and then performing them alongside other nafl forms of worship. So, he mentions that he prayed behind the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) a number of nafl prayers, including the two rakat after the prayer of Isha. From the most beloved of nafl prayers to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the prayer of Witr, which he recommended and urged his companions to perform by saying: **أَوْثَرُوا قَبْلَ أَنْ تَصْبِحُوا**

Offer Witr prayer before it is morning. [Muslim]

So O Allah help us in worshipping you in the best of ways. And bless us with devotion to You, and accept all of us for Your obedience and bless us with obedience towards Your Messenger

(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and obedience towards those whom You have ordered us to show obedience towards, in accordance with Your saying:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]
I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, I praise Him with the best of praises, for He is the One who sends down His reward on those who listen to His speech and follow the best of it. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah, so have Taqwa of Him.

O Believers: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **أَوَّلُ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ صَلَاتُهُ، فَإِنْ كَانَ أَتَمَّهَا كُتِبَتْ لَهُ تَامَةً، وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ أَتَمَّهَا قَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: انْظُرُوا هَلْ تَجِدُونَ لِعَبْدِي مِنْ تَطَوُّعٍ فَتَكْمِلُونَ بِهَا فَرِيضَتَهُ؟**

The first thing about which the people will be called to account out of their actions on the Day of Judgment is prayer. If it is complete, then it will be recorded complete. If it is defective, Allah will say (to the angels - though He knows better): See if there are some optional prayers offered by My servant through which the compulsory prayers can be compensated? [Abu Dawud]

So, through these nafl prayers a believer can compensate for what is lacking in their obligatory prayers, which is amongst the first things they will be asked about. Hence, commitment to nafl

prayers can become the means by which one attains unto Paradise, rejoicing in its blessings, and being ennobled therein. Hence Allah says:

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ * أُولَٰئِكَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ مُّكْرَمُونَ

And those who [carefully] maintain their prayer: They will be in gardens, honored. [Qur'an: ٧٠:٣٤-٣٥]

So, the Believer is someone who safeguards their prayers in their allotted times, and is avid in performing them, which is why they perform them profusely, so they can draw closer to Allah, the Lord of the Heaven and the Earth, being raised in degrees. As the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **إِنَّكَ لَا تَسْجُدُ لِلَّهِ سَجْدَةً إِلَّا رَفَعَكَ اللَّهُ بِهَا دَرَجَةً، وَحَطَّ**

عَنْكَ بِهَا خَطِيئَةٌ

You will not prostrate to Allah but He will raise you in status one degree thereby and erase from you one sin.

[Muslim]

So O Allah, accept from us our prayers, our standing in prayers, ruku', and sajdah. And may He accept all our righteous deeds, and raise us in Paradise, blessing us therein, blessing our wives, our children and the generations that follow us. And with this we ask that You, O Allah, that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad.

O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them. And send your blessings upon the righteous and rightly guided Khulafa: Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, Sayyiduna Umar, Sayyiduna Uthman and Sayyiduna Ali, and upon all of the companions and those of the righteous who come after them, may Allah be pleased with them all. O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Mohammed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that which is good and what pleases You. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon all of the believers, the living and the dead. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein. So, stand up for prayer.