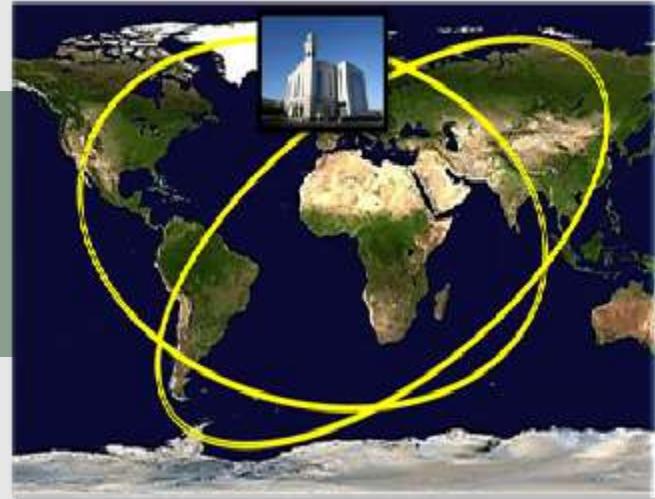


SEEKING NEARNESS TO ALLAH



SERMON DELIVERED BY HADHRAT
MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD (ABA);
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM
COMMUNITY



RELAYED LIVE ALL ACROSS THE
GLOBE

2nd May 2014

Summary

In today's sermon Huzoor presented extracts about ways to attain Divine nearness, their significance and the Promised Messiah's (on whom be peace) expectations from his Jama'at.

The true ability to do good deeds is granted by God to those who abide by the teachings of God.

Divine nearness can only be attained through following the model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)

Divine help and succour is a great sign of those who are close to God Almighty.

May Allah the Exalted enable us to make these prayers and may He include us in those people who are close to Allah the Exalted!

True piety
comes from
God

How to attain Divine nearness

- ...Purity
- ...Follow the teachings
- ... Strive really hard
Say istighfar
- .. Do not oppose those of higher spiritual status
- ... Recognise God truly
- ... Living in this world, stay focussed on Allah
- ... Sincere Salat
- ... Repentance
- ... Righteous deed at appropriate time

Benefit Of Divine nearness

Prayers

2nd May 2014

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that in the past few weeks he has been giving discourses with reference to extracts of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

The topics covered are attaining knowledge and understanding of God, love of God and the reality of the Being of God.

In today's sermon Huzoor presented extracts from this scholarly treasure regarding some ways to attain Divine nearness, their significance and the Promised Messiah's (on whom be peace) expectations from his Jama'at.

True piety comes from God

How to attain Divine nearness

...Purity

...Follow the
teachings

... Strive really hard
Say istighfar

.. Do not oppose
those of higher
spiritual status

... Recognise God
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in order to find God it is important to have the insight and perception that God is the source of all that is pious.



The true ability to do good deeds is granted by God to those who abide by the teachings of God.



By following the teachings of God, they make themselves worthy of His blessings and nearness.

'In the real sense no one is pious except God Almighty, all high morals and all pieties are in Him in their entirety.

Whatever qualities and true refinement one attains is by virtue of Divine nearness....Only those take this inherent quality of goodness to its excellence who become God's. ... God fills them with His pure morals and makes them love those morals as much as He Himself loves them..'

As mortals they become reflection of Divine morals

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Benefit Of Divine nearness

Prayers

2nd May 2014

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote about attaining Divine nearness

'God Almighty is not deceived, He only makes those His friends who ... become His and are completely devoted to obeying Him. ..'

'Indeed, God Almighty is the fountain of true purity and pureness. God Almighty puts His quality in those who are engaged in His remembrance through zikr, worship and love and thus they also partake this purity in a reflective way; the purity which is inherent in the Being of God Almighty.'

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2nd May 2014

Divine nearness can
only be attained through
following the model of
the Holy Prophet
(peace and blessings of
Allah be on him)

**'We also believe that even
the lowest stage of the
straight path cannot become
available to a person
without following the Holy
Prophet [peace and blessings
of Allah be on him]**

**Whatever is bestowed upon
us is by way of reflection and
through the Holy Prophet
[peace and blessings of Allah
be on him].**

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote that it is not easy to attain Divine nearness



'The reality of Islam is to present one's neck to God like the sacrificial lamb; .. to lose oneself in God and to impose a type of death upon oneself; .. and to obey Him entirely for the sake of His love; This is a stage where all search ends; human faculties complete their functions and man's ego dies completely.

Thereupon Divine mercy confers a new life upon the seeker through His living words and His shining light. , as is said by God: '**...and We are nearer** to him than *even his jugular vein.*' (50:17). In this manner, God honours mortal man with His nearness. '



'Then the time comes when blindness is removed and eyes are given insight and man beholds God with his new eyes, Thus, the purpose of religion is fulfilled .. He is granted a sight of God and of heaven .. in this very life.



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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote about Istighfar (seeking forgiveness from God):

'Istighfar which strengthens the roots of faith, has been defined by the Holy Quran in two ways.

The first meaning of *Istighfar* is to [repent for] committing sin, which overwhelms a person when he is separated from God,

The other meaning of *Istighfar* is to ... hasten towards God and to be captivated by His love—just as a tree is held firmly by the earth—so that, by growing in piety, the human heart may [resist] sin.

Both these states are called *Istighfar...*'

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Benefit Of Divine nearness

Prayers

2nd May 2014

There are many stations to recognise God and the highest of these stations is Divine nearness.

The ultimate Divine nearness is that to connect with God so strongly that one can see the spiritual light from God.

'God is Light, as He states: '**Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth...**' (24:36)

A person who only sees the outward signs of this Light is like that person who sees smoke from a distance but does not see the light of the fire and remains deprived of its benefits ...

Those who accept the existence of God Almighty ..., but are deprived of the light of Divine nearness.. are like that person who sees from afar smoke emerging from fire but does not see the light of the fire and merely accepts the existence of fire by looking at the smoke.'

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Benefit Of Divine nearness

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Writing about stations of Divine nearness the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) explained that those in lower ranks of Divine nearness are at risk of losing their faith, if they contend with those in higher ranks of Divine nearness.



Just as it happened to Bal'am when he opposed Moses

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that the highest station of Divine nearness was that of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and now we see that in perfect obedience of the Holy Prophet, God has given this station to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

Anyone who looks for this station separated from the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) will have an ending like that of Bal'am.

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Benefit Of Divine nearness

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Explaining how Divine nearness is attained through the Holy Qur'an the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote:

'God makes it evident by His majestic signs to anyone who opposes a person who truly follows the Holy Qur'an that He is with the person who follows His Word.

Just as He made it evident to Lekh Ram and his death took place in such a way that he understood very well that through it God had put a seal on the truthfulness of Islam.

Thus, through His living powers God draws a follower of the Holy Qur'an closer and closer and takes him to lofty heights of Divine nearness.'



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2nd May 2014

‘It should be remembered very well that there is benefit in everything. ... from the highest grade of minerals to rodents and insects. Whether these things are earthly or heavenly, they are projections and signs of Divine attributes.

If creations are that beneficial, then imagine how helpful the Creator will be!’

‘The Closer a righteous person becomes to Allah the Exalted the greater light of guidance he receives which illuminates his awareness and senses .

Whereas, the further a person goes away from God a ruinous darkness possesses his heart and mind. So much so that he becomes a representation of: ‘**They are deaf, dumb and blind; so they will not return.**’ (2: 19) and is ruined and destroyed.’

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**Benefit Of
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Prayers

2nd May 2014

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) explained that the quest for worldly desires only provides a temporary satisfaction.

The worldly achievements cannot give true satisfaction, these only increase yearning for more and more!

The seekers of worldly pursuits never fulfilled or satiated and ultimately ruin themselves in their quest for happiness.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote:
'These verses teach us that **our true happiness lies in nearness to God and love for Him.**

The moment we turn away from Him and lean towards the world, we begin the life of hell, and everyone is bound to realize this sooner or later, even if he does so when he is at death's door ...'

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'Highest delight is found in God beyond which there is no greater delight. Something that is concealed is called paradise and Paradise is called Paradise because it has concealed blessings. True Paradise is God : '**...And the pleasure of Allah is the greatest of all...**' (9:72).'

'It is natural to face challenges and problems during life, however more Divine nearness a man attains, more peace and comfort he finds.

People closer to God have the most peace and fulfilment...'

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2nd May 2014

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) writes about the ending of those who attain Divine closeness:


'One who surrenders his being to God and devotes his life in His path .. shall have no fear, or grief.'


In other words, one who employs all his faculties in the way of God Almighty, indeed his whole life is devoted to God, and who occupies himself in doing good, shall be rewarded by God Himself and shall be delivered from fear and grief.'

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Benefit Of Divine nearness

Prayers

2nd May 2014

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that prayer is a means of attaining Divine nearness

'The example of prayer is like a sweet water spring to which a believer has access and he can satiate himself with it whenever he wants.

Just as fish cannot live without water, similarly prayer is that water for a believer without which he cannot stay alive.

The most appropriate form of such prayer is Salat in which a believer finds delight and bliss of that level compared to which the greatest delight of a hedonistic man that he may find in any decadence is nothing.

A main accomplishment of prayer is Divine nearness. It is through prayer alone that man becomes close to God Almighty and draws God to himself.'

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**Benefit Of
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Prayers

2nd May 2014

Explainin the standard of prayer and Salat, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:


'Man should have a yearning to attain nearness to God by virtue of which he will become worthy in God's sight. If he does not have this yearning and only yearns for this world and all that is in it then he will be ruined after a brief respite.

God Almighty gives respite because He is Forbearing; but if no one takes advantage of His forbearance what can God do!


Man's good fortune is definitely in having a connection with God. Human heart is the focal point of worship. ... it is necessary that one's heart is also completely inclined to God...'

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2nd May 2014

Explainin the standard of prayer and Salat, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

'... those who are not concerned about purity of heart, going through hundreds of postures of Salat as a ritual or out of habit, will not avail them. ... God Almighty states: '**Surely, he prospers who augments it, And he who corrupts it is ruined.**' (91:10-11) .

That is, only he will succeed who purifies his heart and who does not purify it will be ruined, that is who will make his heart a hub of selfish desires will be unsuccessful.

... Therefore, the matter ultimately rests with this that man may turn to God so that God may grant man power and strength.'

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Benefit Of Divine nearness

Prayers

2nd May 2014

Drawing attention to repentance to attain Divine nearness the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said

'Remember well that sin is a toxin which ruins man .. more he turns to sin the further he becomes from God Almighty and becomes distant from the light and luminosity of God Almighty. He is thrown in darkness and is embroiled in troubles and tribulations until such time that the most dangerous enemy, Satan takes possession of him and ruins him.'

' However, Allah the Exalted has facilitated something to avoid this dangerous outcome and if man avails of it he is saved from the pit of destruction and can once again attain Divine nearness.

What is that source? Turning to Allah or true repentance; God Almighty's name is Tawwab (Oft-Returning *with compassion*) and He too turns to man..'

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2nd May 2014

Drawing attention to repentance to attain Divine nearness the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said


'The fact is that when man sins he becomes distant from Allah the Exalted and God Almighty becomes remote from him.

However, when man turns to God repentant of his sins, the mercy and compassion of the Ever-Merciful, Noble God is stirred and He pays attention and turns to His people, that is why His name is Tawwab.

Thus, man should turn to his Lord so that He too turns to him with blessings.'


'... When man becomes close to God Almighty by virtue of sincere repentance, obedience and sincerely accepting Unity of God, then his turmoil is removed.'

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) writes about turning to righteous deed at appropriate time to attain Divine nearness: These

‘Righteous deed at appropriate time are a great blessing. God Almighty is pleased with these and grants Divine nearness.

However these deeds need to be taken to their highest point to attain Allah’s blessings.

A person who abandons righteous deeds half way through and does not take it to the point of excellence remains deprived of these blessings.’

‘I know that a true believer is purified and he is imbued in the colour of angels. Just as his closeness to God Almighty is enhanced, one listens to the Word of God Almighty and is assured by it.

Each one of you may reflect in your heart whether you have attained this station. ...

it is also [my task] to instil the true spirit and essence of Islam among Muslims.’

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**"When man is close to God,
Allah the Exalted showers
thousands of blessings on him,
from the earth as well as the
heavens. How much force did
Quraish exert to uproot the
Holy Prophet (peace and
blessings of Allah be on him).
They were an entire nation
and the Holy Prophet (peace
and blessings of Allah be on
him) was all by himself, but
look who was successful and
who failed!"**

**'Divine help and
succour is a great
sign of those who
are close to God
Almighty.'**

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**'Be very wary of God's curse,
He is Holy and with honour.
The wicked cannot attain
God's nearness and the
arrogant cannot attain His
nearness and the unjust
cannot attain His nearness
and the disloyal cannot
attain His nearness. Anyone
who does not have sense of
honour for His name cannot
attain His nearness. Those
who fall on this world like
dogs, ants or vultures and
find comfort in worldly things
cannot attain His nearness.
Each impure eye is distant
from Him and each impure
heart is unaware of Him..'**

'One who burns for him will be given salvation from the Fire and one who weeps for Him will laugh. And one who breaks off with the world for Him will find Him. Become God's friend with sincerity of heart, complete honesty and eagerness, He too will become your Friend.

Be kind to your subordinates, your wives and your needy brothers so that kindness is shown to you in the heavens. Truly become His so that He too becomes yours.'

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) writes on how God honours those close to Him and ruins the opponents:

'When contempt and persecution reaches its height ..., God Almighty's sense of honour for His friends is stirred, God ... rises so that He can fulfil His way for them and demonstrate His mercy and help His pious people. Thus He puts it in their hearts to be fully attentive to God Almighty and humbly supplicate day and night to Him ...

Ultimately wealth and help is given to them and God Almighty ruins their enemies. Thus continues the way of Allah for the sincere, they are not wasted but are blessed. They are not slighted but are given eminence!'

There is no doubt that we have observed many times over in different countries where enemies of Ahmadiyyat were disgraced, humiliated and ruined

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Huzoor said: 'I would like to draw the attention of Ahmadis of Pakistan that God Almighty's chastisement against the enemies of Ahmadiyyat will come to pass and will definitely come to pass. InshaAllah!

We see its manifestations on a smaller scale, but if these manifestations are to be seen quickly and on a larger scale, then every Ahmadi living in Pakistan and every Ahmadi with a connection with Pakistan needs to further develop nearness to God Almighty.

Cast the world aside and move onwards and upwards in closeness to God Almighty.

May Allah the Exalted enable us to make these prayers and may He include us in those people who are close to Allah the Exalted!