The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

Dear Brother,

Every Aḥmādī should gain nearness to Allāh and rouse His mercy through prayers, Sadaqah, and Istighfar.

The state of the world today is inviting God’s wrath, hence Istighfar, Sadaqah, and prayers are the need of the time.

The difficulties that come about as a result of man’s own actions can be averted through Istighfar and penitence, provided that our repentance and giving Sadaqah is in keeping with God’s injunctions.

On 24th February 2017, Ḥazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that everyone is aware of the state of the world today and how there is chaos and turmoil everywhere. Anti-Islām elements blame Islām for this situation. It is true that some Muslim groups are committing barbaric acts in Muslim and non-Muslim countries, and these acts have nothing at all to do with Islām, but it is also true that such conditions are being deliberately created for the Muslims. Islām for the most part has been harmed by selfish Muslims or hypocrites who, for their own vested interests, become a tool of other powers. In any case, the world overall is in a chaotic state, and even we Aḥmādī Muslims become a target because of it, even though those who know us are aware that Aḥmadiyyat teaches and practises nothing other than love, peace and fraternity.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said rightist groups are gaining power in Eastern Germany, Holland and other parts of Europe, and the situation in USA is known to all. Thus Aḥmādīs are facing hardships not only as Muslims in non-Muslim countries, but also as Aḥmādīs in Muslim countries. And all this is because we accepted the one who came in accordance with God’s promise. In Pakistan the mullahs enjoy a free reign on account of the tyrannical laws, and even the courts are forced to abandon justice for fear of the mullahs. The same attitude is now being adopted by courts in Algeria where Aḥmādīs have been sent to prison on false accusations under the pressure of the mullahs. At the moment at least 16 Aḥmādīs are jail in Algeria just for the sake of Aḥmadiyyat.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: What should Aḥmādīs do in such a situation when we neither have worldly power, nor wealth, nor oil-money? There is only one thing that Aḥmādīs all over the world should do, and it is to gain Allāh’s nearness through prayers, Sadaqah and Istighfar, for these are the things that rouse God’s mercy and bring man under God’s refuge.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that man is full of shortcomings and at times we do not attend to our prayers or giving Sadaqah or offering Istighfar as we should. But if we are to invite Allāh’s blessings and rouse His mercy and to
thwart the schemes of our opponents, then we must pay full attention to these matters which will win us Allāh’s pleasure and approbation. Allāh says that I accept your repentance and Istighfar, which means that if you do these things He will remove your difficulties and anxieties, draw you closer to Him, forgive your past sins, and enable you to become His true servants.

Regarding the importance of prayer and Sadaqah, the Promised Messiah (a.s) says that Sadaqah is derived from the word “Sidq” (or sincerity), because when man gives Sadaqah in the way of Allāh he demonstrates his sincerity to God. And prayer produces anguish and humility. And when prayer and sincerity come together, they are a potent remedy. Istighfar (seeking forgiveness for one’s sins) is also a form of prayer, and when man prays to God keeping in mind his own shortcomings, this creates a fervour and anguish in the heart.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that when man pledges to avoid sins in future, he invites Divine mercy, and to such people Allāh has given glad tidings wherein He says, “Tell my servants that if they take one step towards me, I shall come forward two steps, and if they come walking, I shall come running.” The Holy Prophet (saw) says, “God is magnanimous and gracious, so that when a person raises his hands towards Him in supplication, He hesitates to return him empty-handed.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Remember that God knows what is in our hearts, therefore merely superficial actions are not accepted by Him. The Holy Prophet (saw) says that Allāh does not leave any action unrewarded. The Holy Prophet (saw) also said that if a person does not have the means to give Sadaqah, Allāh accepts his good deeds as Sadaqah on his behalf. He also said that God will accept whatever you do to avoid sins and shortcomings and save you from hardship and tribulation. In short, the only way to get out of these difficult conditions is that we submit humbly to wards God. We should offer Istighfar and give charity both on a Jamā’at level and an individual level.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says, “These are fearful times, there you should busy yourself in Istighfar and penitence and keep scrutinizing yourself. People of every religion believe that punishment can be averted through prayer and Sadaqah, but this is before the tribulation arrives and not afterwards. Busy yourselves in Istighfar so that your turn does never come.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The hardships we are witnessing are minor, but the way people have become heedless and are inviting God’s wrath, the world seems to be going towards destruction that will be caused by man’s own hands. In this age, it is the duty of those who believe in the Promised Messiah (a.s) that while they should repent and offer Istighfar for their own protection, they should pray generally for that world that God may bring people to their senses.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that the episode of Hazrat Yunus (a.s) shows us that penitence and supplication can avert even that which has been decreed. All religions and all 124,000 Prophets agree that tribulations can be averted through prayer and Sadaqah. The Holy Prophet (saw) once said that man’s
crying and supplication and *Sadaqah* cool down God’s wrath and avert an evil death. The Holy Prophet سَلَّم says, “Save yourself from fire, even if it is by giving away half a date.”

 Millennia (May Allāh be his Helper) said, *Istighfar* from the bottom of one’s heart protects against future sin and invites God’s mercy and brings one closer to Him. The Holy Prophet سَلَّم said, “For whoever of you the door of prayer is opened, for him is opened the door of mercy.” Of all the things we seek from Allāh, the most cherished is seeking His refuge. The Holy Prophet سَلَّم said that prayer is beneficial against tribulations that have come or are yet to come.

 Millennia (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable us to understand the essence of prayer, and to bow down before Him and seek His forgiveness and offer *Sadaqah* that avert all tribulations. May the prayers of the Holy Prophet سَلَّم and the Promised Messiah (a.s) be accepted in our favour.

At the end of the sermon, Millennia (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā’at of the sad demise of *Sa’dah Bartawi* Șāhiba of Damascus, and led her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

Please convey these guidelines given by Millennia (May Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jamā’at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)
Wakīl A‘īā,
Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.
Dated: 1 March 2017