

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Whoever observes fasts in the month of Ramaḍān with faith and introspection will be forgiven all his previous sins.

The state of faith cannot exist without knowing God. Our faith can never be enlightened without the recognition of God.

May Allāh enable our Jamā‘at to strive against sins and foster purity and piety.

On 2nd June 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ* V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

After reciting verse 184 of *Sūrah Al-Baqarah*, which is translated as follows:

“O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous.” (2:184)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, we are fortunate to have another Ramaḍān in our lives. The Holy Prophet ﷺ says that if people knew about the excellence of Ramaḍān, they would wish that Ramaḍān lasted the whole year. He also says that whoever observes fast in the month of Ramaḍān with faith and introspection will be forgiven all his previous sins. Every year the month of Ramaḍān has been ordained so that you adopt piety and do everything for the pleasure of God. When you observe your fasts with sincerity then you will come under God’s refuge and will be saved from Satan. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says, Faith cannot be achieved without knowing God. Without the knowledge of God our faith can never be enlightened and radiant. We will recognize Him when our relations with Him are such as make us experience His mercy, grace and power. Man does not love the possessions of the next world as he does those of this world, and he does not believe in God’s power and mercy and in His promises. This is something we need to do introspection about.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Holy Prophet ﷺ has laid down before us a guidance for our lives in two sentences. It is not enough just to say that we are observing the fast with faith, rather it has to be accompanied by introspection and self-analysis. This is the criterion that we need to live up to in order to strengthen our relationship with Allāh. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that faith in God is of two kinds. The first is the one that is confined to the tongue and has no impact upon our actions and deeds. The second is the one that is accompanied with practical testimony. Until one has the second kind of

faith, I do not believe that a person really believes in God. I cannot understand how a person can believe in God and commit sins at the same time. Most people of the world claim to believe in Allāh, some call him Parmeshwar, others call him God, but when their claim is tested in terms of their practice, it is most often only a claim that is unsubstantiated by practical testimony. It is man's nature that when he truly believes in something, he seeks to avoid its dangers and to acquire its benefits. Why then, claiming to believe in God, does he not demonstrate the results of this claim? It has to be said that these are only words that have not been turned into faith. They deceive themselves in saying that they believe in God.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that man's first duty is to correct his faith in God, that is to say he should prove it through his actions and should not commit an action that is contrary to the greatness and commandment of God. This is the way to undertake self-inspection. Ramaḍān provides us a special atmosphere to submit before God and seek forgiveness for our past sins. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that man only continues to grow in faith as long as he continues to grow in piety.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: What people are doing in the world today in spite of observing fast is all on account of lack of piety. They killed over a 100 people in Afghanistan, do they think they are going to be rewarded for this? They are deviating from God's commandment and from piety. It was truly in keeping with the purport of the Holy Qur'ān that the Promised Messiah (a.s) said: Prayers that are not accompanied by piety are useless, indeed they are the keys to hell. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that piety and purity are the roots of faith, and faith cannot grow unless one grows in piety. When man analyses himself in this way, he is able to overcome his carnal passions and this brings him closer to Allāh. The true piety which cleanses and purifies man and for which Prophets are sent has disappeared from the world. Even angels bring greeting to a person who is pure and clean. People do not appreciate this, otherwise they would find all their pleasures through lawful means. When a thief steals, he is not a believer at that time; and when an adulterer commits adultery, he is not a believer at that time. If a lamb sees a lion before her, she cannot even eat grass, but people do not even have this much faith in God.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that our basic requirement and objective is piety, with this fundamental belief one can achieve everything. Without it, it is not possible for man to be saved from sins, whether great or small. The verses *هدى للمتقين* and *اياك نعبد و اياك نستعين* also point to piety and *Taqwa*. *ان الذين قالوا ربنا الله ثم استقاموا* (As for those who say, 'Our Lord is Allāh,' and then remain steadfast) also refers to *Taqwa*, it means that they were faced with severe trials and tribulations but they did not turn back from the pledge they had made. And those who show such fortitude, not only in Ramaḍān but throughout their lives, then angels come down for their help and say: Fear not, nor grieve, for God is your friend. And be happy with His paradise. Here paradise refers to the bliss of this world, as God says *ولمن خاف مقام ربه جنتان* (But for him who fears to stand before his Lord there are two Gardens) and *نحن اولياءكم فى الحياة الدنيا و فى الآخرة* (We are your friend and protector in this world and the next).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Allāh blesses those who are steadfast and lead their lives according to His will. A true Muslim has to persevere. When man abides by *Taqwa*, Allāh opens all the doors for him. All the heights that Prophets attain are on account of perseverance. Empty salat is of no use.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to become righteous, one should not only shun evil but adopt virtues as well. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: In order for one to become righteous, it is necessary that after strictly abstaining from the obvious sins, such as adultery, theft, usurping the rights of others, displaying arrogance, contempt and miserliness, one should adopt and progress in the higher morals, and one should treat others with compassion, kindness and be sincere and truthful to God. And should search for ways to serve others which are worthy of admiration. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: The reason God has sent me is that the field of righteousness is empty and if you adopt *Taqwa*, all wisdom will be yours. Therefore, adopt righteousness.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: If Allah enables our Jamā‘at to fight evil and adopt piety, then this is our greatest victory, and nothing can be more effective than this. If we look at other religions, piety is missing and worldly grandeur is their ‘god’. But now God wants to make Himself known as the only true God. Those who worship material things cannot put their faith in God. Those who want to be saved by merely pledging the Bai‘at are mistaken. You should adopt piety and righteousness to the extent that it removes God’s wrath. Allāh has mercy on those who turn to Him. This Jamā‘at was created for *Taqwa*. Let us make full use of this Ramaḍān and let us make these blessings a permanent part of our lives even after Ramaḍān.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā‘at of the sad demise of Khwaja Aḥmad Husain Ṣāhib, a Dervish of Qādiān and led his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 8 June 2017