

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the name of Allah most gracious most merciful.

Thanks be to Allah. Peace and prayers be upon the most honored of all messengers. You, Servants of Allah, know that Allah made it an obligation for his believing servants to repent. He says in sura Annoor: "All of you believers do repent to Allah for you may do well". He also says: "You believers repent to Allah a well informed (correct) repentance. Your God may clear out your sins, allow you to enter into gardens with rivers flowing beneath them".

Prophet Mohammed peace be upon him was reported saying: "People, do repent to Allah, for I repent to him a hundred times a day". So, if this was the prophet who was assured by Allah that all his earlier and later sins were forgiven still repents a hundred times a day... What do you think we need to do??

The Quran, the Sunnah and the entire Muslim nation are in an agreement that repentance is a must. Dear brothers, repentance is an obligation on all Muslims, male and female for all types of sins and forbidden acts (major and minor) inclusive.

Repentance is giving up the sin (of either doing a forbidden act or not doing a compulsory act). Repentance is returning from disobeying Allah to obeying him.

There are two situation of Repentance based on the acts to repent from. The first situation is sinful act involves the person and Allah and does not involve another human being. In this situation repentance has three conditions in order to be successful in receiving Allah's acceptance. The three conditions are:

- 1) To stop doing the sinful act
- 2) Feeling remorse, regret, sorrow and sorry for the committed sin and wishing and wanting not to do it again.
- 3) Making a strong true intention not to return to the sinful act again.

Those are the conditions if the sinful act was of the first situation which is the act was between the person and Allah

The second situation is when the sinful act involves or was between one human being and another. In this situation the conditions will include a fourth extra condition on top of the previous three conditions mentioned earlier. The fourth condition is: is for the repentant to clear out the rights of the other human being who was transgressed against. For example returning money taken wrongly, correcting a wrong doing.

If any of the conditions is not met then the repentance will not be right.

Scholars have added one more condition normally taken for granted and that is: The repentance should be truly be intended for Allah and nothing else. Expecting and wanting

his forgiveness, rewards, fearing his punishment. Repentance is not accepted if done out of fear of a ruler or with the aim of making financial or other earthly gains.

Some Muslims have so many sins and commit so many unlawful acts that they start believing that their sins are too much to be forgiven. They get into a state of desperation and lose all hope in Allah's mercy. So they never repent.

Listen to this Godly call from the merciful himself, he says in his Quran: "Say all ye my servants, those who have done far too much wrong doings to themselves, Do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Allah forgives all sins, He is the forgiving, the merciful"

"Do not despair of Allah's kindness, it is only the unbelievers who despair of Allah kindness"

The doors of repentance to Allah are always open. The prophet said: "Allah opens out his hand at night for those who sinned during the day can repent, and opens out his hand during the day for those who sinned at night can repent until the time the sun shall rise from where it normally sets down"

Listen to this Aya from Surat Furqan "Those who with Allah do not call another god, and do not kill a soul which Allah has forbid except rightly, and do not commit adultery and those who do that will in the day of judgment find sins, and punishment will be in folds and for ever suffer in shame, Except those who repent and do a good act, For those Allah will change their sins into good acts, And Allah was forgiving and merciful"

Some Muslims intentionally commit wrongful acts with the intention to repent afterwards. But, Repentance needs a help from Allah and who knows one may not be successful in getting to the path of repentance. Or who knows one may die before one repent or even during committing the unlawful act.

One other point to be taken into consideration is announcing and not hiding the sinful acts.

Some people forget that Allah is so forgiving, But on the other extreme, others do continually and intentionally commit wrongful acts and say so confidently "Allah is forgiving" It is true Allah is forgiving but also Allah has the most painful punishment. Forgiving to those who confess their bad doings and repent and indulge into good acts. Allah is tough in punishment to those who do not listen to Allah, insist on their sins and do not repent. A Muslim lives a life between fear and hope.

We said the doors to repent are always open. But let us remember that there are times that the those doors are closed:

- 1) The time of death when the spirit is about to be taken (many Ayas in the Quran and many Hadeeth confirms this)
- 2) When the sun rises from the west. Doors to Repentance is closed for all people then.