

# Nurturing The Heart

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## 12 Delaying Repentance

What does Tawbah mean?

“To return..”

التوبة هي الرجوع عن معصية الله تعالى إلى طاعته

Tawbah is turning back from disobeying Allah to obeying Him.

Sins weaken the heart in pursuing what is in its best interest. It strengthens the desire to disobey and weakens the desire to repent.

## 12 Delaying Repentance

وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers,  
that you might succeed.

Qur'an 24:31

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

Indeed, Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves  
those who purify themselves.”

Qur'an 2:222

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وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا  
لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ

And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins - and who can forgive sins except Allah ? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know.

Qur'an 3:135

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أُولَئِكَ جَزَاؤُهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَجَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ

Those - their reward is forgiveness from their Lord and gardens beneath which rivers flow [in Paradise], wherein they will abide eternally; and excellent is the reward of the [righteous] workers.

Qur'an 3:136

وَمَن يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا

And whoever does a wrong or wrongs himself but then seeks forgiveness of Allah will find Allah Forgiving and Merciful.

Qur'an 4:110

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عَنْ أَنَسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ اللَّهُ أَفْرَحُ بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ مِنْ أَحَدِكُمْ سَقَطَ عَلَى بَعِيرِهِ وَقَدْ أَضَلَّهُ فِي أَرْضٍ فَلَاةٍ

صحيح البخاري كتاب الدعوات باب التوبة 5950

Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “Allah is more delighted by the repentance of his servant than if one of you were to find his camel after he had lost it in the desert wilderness.”

Source: Sahih Bukhari 5950, Sahih Muslim 2747



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عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَوْ لَمْ تُذْنِبُوا لَذَهَبَ اللَّهُ بِكُمْ وَلَجَاءَ بِقَوْمٍ يُذْنِبُونَ فَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ اللَّهَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَهُمْ

2749 صحيح مسلم كتاب التوبة باب سقوط الذنوب بالاستغفار توبة

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “By Him in whose hand is my soul, if you did not sin Allah would replace you with people who would sin and they would seek the forgiveness of Allah and He would”.forgive them

Source: Sahih Muslim 2749

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The One who beckons for our return.

The One who repeatedly turns mankind toward repentance.

The One who forgives those who return to goodness. The One who restores to grace those who repent.

The One who rewards good deeds. The One who forgives those who forgive others.



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وَاللَّهُ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَتُوبَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَيُرِيدُ الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الشَّهَوَاتِ أَنْ تَمِيلُوا مَيْلًا عَظِيمًا

Allah wants to accept your repentance, but those who follow [their] passions want you to digress [into] a great deviation.

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَفِّفَ عَنْكُمْ<sup>ج</sup> وَخُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ ضَعِيفًا

And Allah wants to lighten for you [your difficulties]; and mankind was created weak.

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: عَنْ أَنَسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ، قَالَ : سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ، يَقُولُ  
قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى : يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ ، إِنَّكَ مَا دَعَوْتَنِي وَرَجَوْتَنِي ، غَفَرْتُ لَكَ عَلَى مَا كَانَ مِنْكَ وَلَا  
أُبَالِي . يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ : لَوْ بَلَغَتْ ذُنُوبُكَ عَنَانَ السَّمَاءِ ثُمَّ اسْتَغْفَرْتَنِي ، غَفَرْتُ لَكَ . يَا ابْنَ  
آدَمَ : إِنَّكَ لَوْ أَتَيْتَنِي بِقُرَابِ الْأَرْضِ خَطَايَا ثُمَّ لَقِيتَنِي لَا تُشْرِكُ بِي شَيْئًا ، لَأَتَيْتُكَ بِقُرَابِهَا  
مَغْفِرَةً

رواهُ الترمذي (وكذلك أحمد) وسنده حسن

On the authority of Anas (may Allah be pleased with him), who said:  
I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say: Allah the Almighty said: O  
son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall  
forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of  
Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you  
then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam,  
were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and  
were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring  
you forgiveness nearly as great as it.

It was related by at-Tirmidhi (also by Ahmad ibn Hanbal). Its chain of  
authorities is sound.

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عَنْ أَبِي مُوسَى عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَبْسُطُ يَدَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ لِيَتُوبَ مُسِيءُ النَّهَارِ وَيَبْسُطُ يَدَهُ بِالنَّهَارِ لِيَتُوبَ مُسِيءُ اللَّيْلِ حَتَّى تَطْلُعَ الشَّمْسُ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا

صحيح مسلم كتاب التَّوْبَةِ أَذْنِبَ عَبْدِي ذَنْبًا فَعَلِمَ أَنَّ لَهُ رَبًّا يَغْفِرُ الذَّنْبَ 2759  
وَيَأْخُذُ بِالذَّنْبِ

Abu Musa reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “Verily, Allah the Exalted stretches out his hand by night for those who repent until the coming of the day, and he stretches out his hand by day for those who repent until the coming of the night. This will be until the sun rises from the west.”

Source: Sahih Muslim 2759



# 12 Delaying Repentance

**Sincere Repentance:** Must meet five conditions (in order to be accepted), which are:

1. Sincerity to Allah, the Most High: This is by the person doing it only for the sake of Allah and seeking His reward and salvation from His punishment.
2. Remorse: for the sin that was committed, such that he is sad he did it and wishes he had never done it.
3. Ceasing: to commit the sin immediately. If the sin was against Allah, then he should (1) stop doing it if it was an unlawful act, or (2) hasten to do it if it was an obligation that he abandoned doing. And if the sin was against a created being (such as humans), then he should hasten to free himself from it, whether by returning it back to him or seeking his forgiveness and pardon.
4. Determination: to not go back to doing that sin again in the future.
5. The repentance should not occur before the time when its acceptance is terminated, either by death or by the sun rising from the west. Allah says: "Repentance is of no effect for those who commit sins constantly until when death faces one of them, he says: Verily I repent now." The Prophet (sallAllaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said: "Whoever repents before the sun rises from its west, Allah will accept his repentance." [Reported by Muslim]

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It is reported that ‘Abdullāh b. Mas‘ūd – Allāh be pleased with him – said:

Do not be hasty in praising people or blaming them, for perhaps what pleases you from a person today will displease you tomorrow, and perhaps what displeases you today, will please you tomorrow. Indeed, people change. It is Allāh who forgives the sins. And Allāh is more merciful to his servant the day he meets him than a mother who lays out a bed for her child in an empty patch of land and feels [the ground]: if there is a risk of being stung, it will be her instead of him (her child), and if there is a risk of being pricked by a thorn, it will be her instead of him.

Al-Bayhaqī, Shu‘ab Al-Īmān article 6177, and others.



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Ḥujjatul-Islām [Imām Ghazālī] raḥimahullāh (may Allāh have mercy upon him) explains: “Just as you have taken returning to sins as a habit, then also take returning to tawba as a habit, because through tawba you expiate your past sins, and it is very possible that you may have the fortune to die while in a state of tawba”.

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## Du'a

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى وَالتُّقَى وَالْعَفَافَ وَالْغِنَى

“O Allah, I ask you for guidance, righteousness, chastity, and independence.”