

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 07th March 2025 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited following verse of Surah Al-Baqarah:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۚ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٧﴾

‘And when My servants ask thee about Me, say: I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way.’ (2:187)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: With the arrival of Ramaḍān, people’s hearts naturally incline towards worship. Since this is a month of great blessings, they feel more motivated to go to mosques for worship. It is a blessing from Allāh that, at least during these sacred days, people remember their duty to turn to their Lord.

Allāh says that, in the month of Ramaḍān, He closes the gates of Hell, puts Satan in chains, and opens the doors of Paradise. However, it is wrong to think that worship is only required in Ramaḍān. Allāh has placed special emphasis on worship in this month so that it may become an enduring part of our lives. To worship only in Ramaḍān will not be of any value.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) says, “Whoever stands in prayer during the nights of Ramaḍān, with faith and seeking its reward, will have his past sins forgiven.” Allāh is Most Forgiving; if we have made mistakes during the year, He grants us the opportunity to renew our pledge that we will fulfil the rights of His worship and act upon all the virtues He has commanded. If we do so, He will surely turn to us with compassion.

When Allāh says in the verse:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي

“And when My servants ask thee about Me”

The word ‘servants’ refers to the lovers of Allāh. Obviously, a true lover does not forget his love for eleven months and only expresses it during one month.

Throughout the Holy Qur’ān, Allāh repeatedly reminds us to fulfil our obligations towards Him and His creation. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that the Holy Qur’ān contains more than seven hundred commandments. When we recite the Holy Qur’ān during Ramaḍān, we will naturally seek out these commandments, and having found them, we will try to act upon them. This is the hallmark of one who truly loves Allāh.

Allāh says that faith and righteous deeds go hand in hand. When a person truly believes in Allāh and acts upon His commandments, Allāh becomes his friend. He continues to draw closer and closer to Allāh and, consequently, Allāh answers his prayers. This is what we should strive for in the month of Ramaḍān.

Allāh has set down some conditions for the acceptance of prayers, the foremost of which is that one becomes His devoted servant, worship Him with sincerity, and recognize Him as the source of all power. One must not create false deities in any form, as this leads to Shirk. The most important point is to seek Allāh’s mercy and grace and to follow His commandments.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) has, on numerous occasions, drawn our attention towards adhering to good deeds. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) has also repeatedly emphasized this point. Most of the ten Conditions of Bai‘at revolve around our obligations

towards Allāh and His creation. If we follow these teachings, Allāh will surely become our guardian and friend and will hear our prayers.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) has said that Allāh listens to the prayers of those who do not show impatience and do not say, "I have prayed so much, but Allāh does not listen." Such an attitude is disbelief and distances one from Allāh.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that our relationship with Allāh is akin to the relationship between two friends—sometimes one friend accepts the wishes of the other, and at times he has his way. This is how Allāh deals with His servants. While it may appear that a believer's prayer is rejected by Allāh, in fact, it is for his own benefit.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) also says that when people ask about the evidence for the existence of Allāh, the answer is that He is very near. There is no need for intricate reasoning, as the proof of His existence is clear and undeniable. It is found in the reality that when a person sincerely calls upon Him in prayer, He responds and grants glad tidings of success through revelations.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that in the verse:

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ

‘Who believe in the unseen’ (2:4)

The word ‘Unseen’ is also one of the names of Allāh. Hence, before every prayer, we should firmly believe in the existence of Allāh and His countless attributes. When we move forward with such conviction, we will attain the true recognition of Allāh.

Our attention to prayers should not be limited to Ramaḍān. By the grace of Allāh, Aḥmadīs are already very mindful of prayers, but there is room for improvement. We should strive to make this Ramaḍān such that it raises the standards of our worship and draws us closer to Allāh so that we become His devoted servants.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) has said that Allāh descends to the nearest heaven every night, and when the last third of the night is left, He proclaims, “Who is there to call upon Me, so I may respond to him? Who is there to ask of Me, so I may grant him? Who is there to seek My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?” Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this is not limited to Ramaḍān; it is the general practice of Allāh.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) says that if someone desires that his prayers be heard in times of difficulty, he should engage in abundant prayer during times of ease and prosperity. It is essential for us to establish a strong relationship with Allāh.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) says that: “Allāh says, I treat My servant according to his expectations of Me. When he remembers Me, I am with him. If he remembers Me in his heart, I remember him in My heart. If he mentions Me in a gathering, I mention him in a gathering far better than that. If he comes towards Me a handspan, I go towards him an arm's length. If he comes towards Me an arm's length, I go towards him two arm's lengths. And if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Aḥmadīs should keep themselves engaged in the remembrance of Allāh. All our actions and deeds should aim at bringing us closer to Him.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) says that the Prophet Yunus offered this prayer while he was trapped in the belly of the fish:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

“There is no God but Thou, Holy art Thou. I have indeed been among the wrongdoers.”

Any Muslim who recites this prayer during times of difficulty, Allāh will surely accept his prayer. Allāh is merciful to His servants and Himself teaches them how to pray. The prayers found in the Holy Qur’ān are there for us to recite, and Allāh will surely accept them, provided that we are fulfilling our duty towards Him.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says regarding this prayer that it teaches us an important lesson, that Allāh can change destiny. Beseeking and supplicating and doing acts of charity—as seen in the instance of the people to whom the Prophet Yunus was sent—can avert a punishment that has already been decreed. Those who pray, seek forgiveness, and give charity before trials descend are shown mercy by Allāh and are saved from divine punishment.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I recently called attention to the importance of prayers and emphasized the need for Istighfār. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that Istighfār is a shield. We should focus on it and offer it frequently. We should turn sincerely towards prayers and try to keep up these virtues even after Ramaḍān. If we do so, we will see how Allāh rushes towards us and takes us into His embrace.

Appealing for prayers, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Considering the situation in some places in the world today, such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Algeria, and some African countries where certain groups have taken control or launched attacks, and governments often comply with their demands out of fear, we need to pray that may Allāh, grant us deliverance from these oppressors and take vengeance upon them. If we pray in this manner, Allāh will surely bring about a great transformation.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that the closest path to attaining Allāh's grace is through prayer. For a prayer to be perfect, it must contain heartfelt emotion, earnestness, and humility. We must devote special attention to our prayers. Let us strive to make this Ramaḍān one of accepted prayers and one that brings lasting spiritual transformation within ourselves. May Allāh deliver us from all oppressors and enemies. Āmīn

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMĀBĀD (UK)
Dated: 10 March 2025