

Fruits for the Week

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Taubah (Repentance)

Allah (SWT) says: *“O you who believe! Turn to Allah with sincere repentance! It may be that your Lord will expiate from you your sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow.”* (Al-Tahrim: 8)

The above verse tells us that we must fear Allah and repent to Him, as He is the Oft-Forgiving, before it is too late when the doors of repentance are shut before us. Allah keeps the doors of repentance open for us until the time of our death when our soul reaches our throat upon separation from the body after which our repentance will not be accepted. The repentance is not to say: “I repent to Allah,” or “O Allah! Forgive me!” while we still insist on sinning, or we are careless about the sin we have committed, or we intend again to go against Allah’s commandments. Allah says: *“And of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil deeds until death faces one of them and he says, ‘Now have I repented indeed,’ nor of those who die while they are disbelievers. For them We have prepared a painful torment.”* (Al-Nisa’:18)

The worse punishment in this life is hardness of the heart. Many people have hard hearts these days. They hear the admonishing advice, and read the admonishing and impressive verses from the Qur’an and *sunnah*; yet they do not listen and their hearts are not touched at all. The best among them may be touched at the moment of listening and understanding

such admonishment, but after a while the impact recedes and heedlessness prevails again. Then they are back to business as usual.

It is time for us to rush to repent for we do not know when we will be surprised by death or chastisement of Almighty Allah. It is not true repentance if we insist on doing the same sins. Repentance entails renouncing, regretting the sin and determining to never repeat it. It also entails intending to do the obligations as much as possible. By this, we become truly penitent and deserving of the love of Allah. Allah says: *“Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves.”* (Al-Baqarah: 222)

Some people are deceived by their hopes or by Satan and hence keep putting off repentance until their hearts become as hard as rock because of the sins they insist on, or until the doors of repentance are no longer open when death surprises them. Then it will be too late to repent or make amends.

May Allah make it easy for us to always repent for our sins and go back to what pleases Him. May He cleanse our hearts from hatred, hypocrisy, seeking status by our action as well as keep us away from all the forbidden things and from all sins. Wallahu A’lam

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