

أَقْرَبُ مَا يَكُونُ الْعَبْدُ مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ
Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih al-'Uthaymeen
**THE CLOSEST A SLAVE CAN BE TO
ALLAH, THE MIGHTY AND MAJESTIC¹**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Then the author [al-Imam an-Nawawi] records a hadith from Abu Hurairah wherein he states that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said,

أَقْرَبُ مَا يَكُونُ الْعَبْدُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَهُوَ سَاجِدٌ فَأَكْثِرُوا الدُّعَاءَ

The closest a servant can be to his Lord is whilst he is prostrating [before Him], so make supplication often.²

When a person supplicates to Allah, he becomes close to Allah and Allah becomes close to him, as stated by Allah Himself:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي
وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

186. And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.

So the closest a servant can be to his Lord is when he is prostrating, and this is because the act of prostrating is perfection personified in terms of surrendering to Allah, since you have placed the noblest and peak part of you body, namely your face, next to the lowest part, namely your feet out

¹ Translated by Abu Ameenah, AbdurRahman Bennett. From the Shaykh's explanation of Riyādh as-Sāliheen.

² Sahih Muslim 482.

of magnification and exaltation for your Lord. At that current moment when you are prostrating before Allah, Allah is close to you and you are close to Allah, so increase in your supplications to Allah, regardless of whether you are praying a voluntary prayer or a compulsory one or you are supplicating for worldly or hereafter affairs since it is all good. This is because supplication is itself a type of worship, so if you were to supplicate to Allah saying, “O Allah, increase my wealth. O Allah, make it is for me to have a beautiful home. O Allah, make it easy for me to have a comfortable means of transport” etc., there is no problem in supplication for such [worldly] things even if you are supplicating in your compulsory prayer. It has been reported from the Prophet (ﷺ) that he once said,

لِيَسْأَلَ أَحَدَكُمْ رَبَّهُ حَاجَتَهُ حَتَّى يَسْأَلَهُ الْمِلْحَ وَحَتَّى يَسْأَلَهُ شِيعَ نَعْلِهِ إِذَا انْقَطَعَ

Let one of you ask his Lord for his every need, even asking Him for salt for the strap of his sandal when it breaks.³

A sandal strap is a [relatively] insignificant thing but nevertheless ask Allah for all of your needs because every thing you ask Him is an act of worship towards Him. Furthermore, you should know that when you ask Allah, you will prosper one way or the other, since He will either grant you what you ask for or He will avert from you some evil or He will [for wise purpose] withhold from giving you until the Day of Resurrection. The one who calls on Allah, his call will never be in vain, so increase in your supplications! Increase in your seeking Allah’s forgiveness and His acceptance of repentance! For the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) stated,

إِنَّهُ لَيَعَانُ عَلَى قَلْبِي وَإِنِّي لَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ فِي الْيَوْمِ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ

Indeed, it is a heavy thing on my heart if I do not seek Allah's forgiveness a hundred times a day.⁴

Despite the fact that Allah has forgiven his previous sins and future sins, he (ﷺ) still repented to Allah a hundred times a day! Do not lose sight of this daily practice for it is an easy practice to say *أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ* (I seek Allah’s forgiveness and to Him I repent) a hundred times. It takes more

³ Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3604.

⁴ Sahih Muslim 2702.

or less ten minutes. The practice is simple but you will obtain a lot of good and you will be emulating the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). Allah is the Grantor of success.