

## **Zakat**

In Islam, Zakat is an essential part of the Muslim life as it is the third pillar of Islam. Zakat is charity given to the poor and needy, as taught to us by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). Zakat is given by people who have wealth. Zakat is calculated as 2.5% of one's accumulated wealth. It is mentioned numerous times in the Qur'an, which is another reason why it is very important. The meaning of Zakat is to purify, therefore when we give Zakat, we are purifying our wealth.

Zakat can be given at any time, however the best time to give Zakat would be in Ramadhan. Zakatul Fitr is the charity one gives to help the poor and the needy to have a good Eid. A good time to give Zakatul Fitr would be before Eid Salah, when Ramadhan comes to an end. Giving Zakat benefits everyone because it reminds people to be kind and generous and helps those that are less fortunate with the proper necessities they need. Giving Zakat can make people who don't have enough, have a happy Eid.

Sadaqah is another form of charity that is also vital. Giving food or money is Sadaqah. Sadaqah is also when good actions take place. For example, when you are helping or doing something kind for another person. Sadaqah removes sins and helps you on the Day of Judgement. Allah (S.W.T) is pleased when this happens and He increases the wealth of those who give charity.

Another form of charity is Sadaqah Jariya. This is continuous charity and helps even after you pass away. It does not just benefit people in this generation but also many years after. By doing this the initiator would earn countless rewards from Allah (S.W.T). Some examples of Sadaqah Jariya are planting trees, building masjids or orphanages, placing fans in masjids, educating an orphan child, and providing clean water for those who don't have it.

We have learned to do kind things and to give charity to those who need it, from Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) as he was the most kind and charitable. Zakat is mandatory to give for those with wealth and Sadaqah should also be given, being one of the greatest things that can be done for people who need it. We should all continue to give Zakat and Sadaqah because it pleases Allah (S.W.T) and benefits you and the one who is receiving.

By: Aayat Sidik