

## DARS (On Page 129): ZIKR, ISTIGHFAR AND SALAT ALA’N-NABI ﷺ

In the words of my master, my grandfather رحمته الله about zikr (dhikr) (remembrance of Allah ﷻ), and istighfar (seeking forgiveness from Him), and salat ala’n-Nabi (the invocation of blessing on the Prophet ﷺ). He said, may Allah be pleased with him.

“Allah ﷻ has given us deeds which are easy to perform in exchange for His Grace, and His Generosity, and His Magnanimity and His Paradise. If we perform them, we become entitled to these great bounties. He has never imposed upon us anything which burdens us or tires us in matters of religion.

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا

**Allah does not burden a person with more than he can bear. (2:286)**

To sum up, among the easy things he has ennobled us with is His remembrance (dhikr). And dhikr is with the tongue and the heart. And there are various types of dhikr. Dhikr is with the recitation of the Qur’an, and dhikr with al-Hamd (the Praise of Allah ﷻ), and tasbih (the Glorification of Allah ﷻ), and shukr (thanking Him ﷻ); and dhikr in seeking forgiveness from Him. It is called dhikr (remembrance of Allah ﷻ) because you are doing dhikr with Allah. And it is called dhikr because it gathers you with the One Who is remembered and He is Allah ﷻ.

And al-istighfar (seeking forgiveness from Allah ﷻ) is a momentous word and it has an exalted meaning. The Prophet ﷺ said: One who persisted in istighfar, Allah removes from him all worries and all his constraints are removed. Istighfar means to seek forgiveness from Allah ﷻ. And it means the concealing of sins and getting them erased (by Allah ﷻ). With istighfar, relief is obtained.

And with salat ala’n-Nabi (invocation of blessing on the Prophet ﷺ), safety is obtained, as Allah says:

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَأَنْتَ فِيهِمْ وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

**And Allah would not punish them while you (O Beloved Prophet) are in their midst, and Allah will not punish them while they seek forgiveness (from Him). (8:33)**

Entertain hope in this verse.

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُمْ

**And Allah would not punish them. (8:33)**

O (Prophet) Muhammad, your people and those whom you are inviting (to Islam),

وَأَنْتَ فِيهِمْ

**while you are in their midst (8:33)**

with the blessing of you being with them.

They will not be punished like the previous nations of (Nabi) Nuh عليه السلام, (Nabi) Musa عليه السلام, (Nabi) Salih عليه السلام and (Nabi) Hud عليه السلام. Those (nations) were inflicted with punishment that destroyed them to the last of them.

فَدَمَدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا ۚ وَلَا يَخَافُ عُقْبَاهَا

**So their Lord destroyed them for their sin and leveled them (to the ground). And He has no concern about the aftermath. (91:14-15)**

But the presence of the Prophet, may Allah bless him, in his community is a mercy. And he does not disappear from us, may Allah bless him, with his soul, and with his sacred Muslim law, and with the invocation of blessing on him. The invocation of blessing on him gathers you with him, and gathers you with his reply to the salam.

Then He (Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى عِلْمُهُ) says after that:

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

**and Allah will not punish them while they seek forgiveness (from Him). (8:33)**

So combining the salat ala'n-Nabi and the istighfar necessarily brings mercy and safety from the punishment (from Allah), and safety from calamity. And it brings all goodness. So a person should seek to do both the salat ala'n-Nabi and the istighfar because there is nothing that hastens the nearness to Allah in this age like the istighfar and salat ala'n-Nabi. So whoever intends it, he should recite this salat a hundred times to a thousand times every day.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ وَالْهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

O Allah! Bless and bestow total peace on Prophet Muhammad, the Prophet not taught by any human (but by You, O Allah), and on his descendants, and I beg forgiveness from Allah, The Incomparably Great, and turn to Him repentant.

This salat combines the salat ala'n-Nabi and the istighfar. And it was narrated to me by my shaykh al-Habib Ahmad bin Muhsin al-Haddaar نفعنا الله. And he said to me that it is an authorization from the shaykh, the murshid”.