Why We Must Never Lose Hope in Allah

Standard version · English Friday sermon

First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina. ▶ Audio

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ Audio

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ Audio

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,
▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa. ▶ Audio

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa. ▶ Audio

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ Audio

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa. ▶ Audio

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

Ammaa ba‘d. ▶ Audio

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ Audio

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, ▶ Audio

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,
wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,
wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,
wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ Audio

وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.

First Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that no matter what difficulties we face or mistakes we have made, we should never lose hope in His mercy.

Today's khutbah is about something that every Muslim needs throughout their life.

Something that gives us strength during hardship and encourages us to return to Allah when we fall into sin.

Never losing hope in Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Life is not always easy.

Sometimes, we face difficulties that seem to have no end.

We may struggle financially.

We may experience serious illness.

We may have problems within our families.

Or we may carry the regret of mistakes we made many years ago.

And sometimes, when these problems continue, we begin to lose hope.

We wonder whether our situation will ever improve.

We wonder whether our duas will be answered.

And some people even begin believing that Allah has abandoned them.

But my dear brothers in Islam,

No matter how difficult our circumstances become, we must never lose hope in Allah.

Allah says in Surah Az-Zumar, (verse 53):

"My servants who have harmed yourselves by your own excess, do not despair of Allah's mercy."

Think carefully about these words.

Allah is addressing those who have wronged themselves through their sins.

People who may have spent years disobeying Him.

People who may have committed serious mistakes.

Yet Allah tells them not to despair of His mercy.

What a beautiful reminder.

Our sins may be great, but Allah's mercy is greater.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, a person has committed so many sins that he begins to believe there is no point in repenting.

Perhaps he has neglected his salah for years.

Perhaps he has been involved in haram relationships.

Perhaps he has earned money dishonestly.

Or perhaps he has committed sins that nobody else knows about.

He feels ashamed.

He regrets what he has done.

But Shaytan tries to convince him that he has gone too far to be forgiven.

My dear brothers in Islam,

This is a dangerous way of thinking.

Because when someone believes they can never be forgiven, they may stop trying to change.

They may continue committing sins because they believe their situation is already hopeless.

But Allah has not told us to give up.

He has told us to return to Him.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us a beautiful example of Allah's mercy.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2747), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, described a man travelling through the desert.

The man had a camel carrying his food and water.

But he lost the camel.

He searched for it until he became exhausted and lost all hope of finding it.

Without his food and water, he believed he would die.

Then, unexpectedly, he found his camel standing beside him.

Imagine the happiness and relief he must have felt.

The Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, explained that Allah is even more pleased when His servant sincerely repents and returns to Him.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about that.

Allah does not need our worship.

He does not need our prayers.

And He does not need anything from us.

Yet He loves when His servants turn back to Him.

So never allow your past mistakes to stop you from returning to Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

But we must also understand that having hope in Allah does not mean we can deliberately continue sinning without concern.

We cannot knowingly disobey Allah and simply assume that we will be forgiven without repentance.

True hope should encourage us to become better Muslims.

If we have been neglecting our salah, we should begin praying.

If we have been involved in haram, we should make a sincere effort to leave it.

And if we have wronged another person, we should try to put things right.

Hope in Allah's mercy should lead us towards obedience, not become an excuse for disobedience.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is another situation where people sometimes begin losing hope.

When they are going through hardship.

Imagine a father who has lost his job.

He has bills to pay.

Children to support.

And every day, he worries about how he will provide for his family.

He makes dua.

He looks for work.

But nothing seems to improve.

Slowly, he becomes discouraged.

He begins wondering why Allah has not answered his prayers.

My dear brothers in Islam,

During such times, we must remember that Allah's wisdom is greater than our understanding.

We may want something to happen immediately.

But Allah knows what we do not know.

This does not mean we should sit back and do nothing.

We must continue making an effort.

Seek help when necessary.

Look for solutions.

And continue placing our trust in Allah.

Allah says in Surah Ash-Sharh, (verse 5):

"So truly with hardship comes ease."

And in the following verse, Allah repeats this reminder.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah does not promise that our lives will be free from difficulties.

But He reminds us that hardship is not the whole story.

Relief may come in ways we never expected.

And sometimes, Allah gives us the strength to face difficulties even while they remain.

We should never confuse a delayed answer with being abandoned by Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also remember that feeling sad or worried does not mean our faith is weak.

Even the Prophets experienced grief and hardship.

Prophet Yaqub suffered deeply when he was separated from his son Yusuf.

Yet he continued placing his hope in Allah.

In Surah Yusuf, (verse 87), he told his sons not to despair of Allah's mercy.

This teaches us that we can experience sadness while still trusting Allah.

We can cry.

We can feel worried.

And we can seek support from others.

But we should not abandon our worship or lose hope in His mercy.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us another remarkable lesson about Allah's mercy.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2752c), he explained that Allah created one hundred parts of mercy.

Only one part was sent into this world.

Through that mercy, people and animals show affection and kindness towards one another.

And Allah reserved the remaining ninety-nine parts for the Day of Resurrection.

Think about the mercy we see in this world.

A mother caring for her child.

A father protecting his family.

A person helping someone in need.

All of this is part of the mercy Allah has placed in His creation.

And yet, Allah has reserved far greater mercy for the Hereafter.

My dear brothers in Islam,

What greater reason do we need to remain hopeful in Allah?

Let us never allow Shaytan to convince us that forgiveness is beyond our reach.

Let us never stop making dua simply because our circumstances are difficult.

And let us never believe that our past mistakes must determine our future.

While we are alive, we still have an opportunity to repent, change and do good.

May Allah forgive our sins.

May Allah bring relief to those facing hardship.

May Allah strengthen the hearts of those who are losing hope.

And may Allah allow us to meet Him while He is pleased with us, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Asking for Forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,
wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,
wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.
Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ Audio

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een. ▶ Audio

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Second Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about Allah's mercy and the importance of never losing hope in Him.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

How can we strengthen our hope in Allah during difficult times?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we should do is protect our salah.

When life becomes difficult, do not turn away from Allah.

Turn towards Him.

Pray sincerely.

Ask Him for help.

And remember that He knows what you are going through, even when nobody else understands.

The second thing we should do is make sincere repentance.

If you have fallen into sin, do not delay returning to Allah.

Stop the wrongdoing.

Feel sincere regret.

Ask for forgiveness.

And make a genuine effort not to repeat it.

If you fall into sin again after sincerely repenting, return to Allah again rather than giving up.

Never allow one mistake to become the reason you stop trying to become a better Muslim.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is take practical steps when facing difficulties.

If you are struggling financially, seek advice and halal opportunities.

If you are sick, seek appropriate medical care.

If your family is experiencing problems, seek trustworthy help.

And if you are struggling with sadness or worry, speak to someone who can support you.

Seeking help does not mean we lack trust in Allah.

It means we are making use of the means He has provided.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also help others maintain hope.

Sometimes, a person is already carrying a heavy burden.

They do not need someone constantly reminding them of their failures.

They need encouragement.

They need kindness.

And sometimes, they simply need someone who will listen without judging them.

Do not make a person feel that they are beyond Allah's forgiveness.

Encourage repentance.

Encourage change.

And remind them of His mercy.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also teach our children that making mistakes does not mean their future is ruined.

Teach them to take responsibility.

Teach them to apologise when they are wrong.

And teach them to return to Allah rather than hiding their problems out of fear.

We want our children to know that Allah is merciful, while also understanding that they must obey Him.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, our opportunity to repent will come to an end.

But today, we are still alive.

We can still pray.

We can still ask for forgiveness.

And we can still change the direction of our lives.

Let us never lose hope in Allah, and let us never stop making the effort to earn His pleasure.

May Allah forgive our past mistakes.

May Allah grant patience to those experiencing hardship.

May Allah guide those who have moved away from Him.

May Allah protect our children and strengthen their iman.

And may Allah grant us His mercy and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

Closing Dua — Arabic Transliteration

In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,
yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.

▶ Audio

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad

▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat. ▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

Final Khutbah Closing — Arabic Transliteration

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon. ▶ Audio

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah. ▶ Audio

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.