

NEVER LOSE HOPE IN THE MERCY OF ALLAH

There is a major barrier that's blocking many Muslims from getting closer to Allah and improving their relationship with Him. This barrier is losing hope in the mercy of Allah. Sometimes people think that Allah will never forgive them because of the multitude of their sins. As a result, they slacken in performing their acts of worship and some even abandon them as they lose hope in attaining the mercy of Allah. However, Allah, The Exalted has said:

What we need to understand is that no one is perfect and part of being imperfect is falling into errors, including committing sins. Because committing sins is a part of our design, that is why Allah's most emphasized attribute is His Mercy. It is a fact that mankind will commit sins. رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, "All humans are sinners and the best of the sinners are those who repent much." (Recorded in Abu Dawood)

In the hustle and bustle of the twenty-first century, we are so preoccupied and busy with affairs of this world that sometimes we forget the mercy, kindness and forgiveness of Allah. Remember! Hope in Allah motivates us to perform good deeds and to abandon our base materialistic desires for the sake of righteousness. Allah is merciful, what we see around us every day is only one per cent of His mercy.

The life of this world is filled with tests, trials, and tribulations but these must be faced with patience and hope. Hope that Allah will guide you to the best outcome. Hope will guide you through the darkness, but despair will only lengthen the journey. We should expect things to turn out for the best and we can look forward to tomorrow with confidence. Allah has promised us that following His guidance will lead us to the best outcome.

Allah has told us on numerous occasions to call on Him for help, and رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ reminds us that relief is no more than a supplication away. He even gave his companions advice on how to dispel feelings of anxiety and despair. Our burdens today are no greater than burdens in the past, and the cure is still the same. Turn to Allah, beg His forgiveness and hope for relief. Allah Says:

"Who is it that despairs from the mercy of his Lord, except those who are astray?"

No matter what happens, know that your burden of sins isn't too heavy for Allah to remove. Your sins aren't greater than His mercy. If people found out about our sins, they would surely distance themselves from us. But Allah still chooses to stay with you despite being fully aware of your state. Why? Because we are His. Can a parent stop loving his or her child if the child is disobedient? Allah's love for us is infinitely greater than that of parents. He loves us even though we are weak. He loves us despite it all.

Know that as long as you keep wanting Him, He will keep wanting you. He wants you even when you don't. Such is His love.

Falling down, being broken, having given up are not always bad things. At least not with Allah. He has promised in the Qur'an that He loves the tawwabeen. Who are the tawwabeen? They are not the ones who did a sin and then repented and then remained steadfast on it and never sinned again in their lives. Tawwabeen are those people who began their journey towards Allah but soon tripped and fell, then stood up again, then slipped again, then got back up again, and then fell down again. They did taubah, they sinned, then did taubah again, then sinned again, then did taubah again. Such that they did taubah all the time, each time they sinned. Allah has announced His love for these people. So falling down is not a bad thing as long as you never give up and never lose the will to stand up again and as long as you present that falling down to Allah. Just show your brokenness and weakness to Him, He will Grant you spiritual wings. It is possible for Him. It's absolutely possible for Him.

Do not ever lose hope in the mercy of Allah, nor underestimate your potential. Don't let the Shaytaan win; he wants you to lose hope in Allah; and if you lose hope in Allah, what's left? It's okay to keep falling as long as you keep getting back up. Never give up – not until your last heartbeat.

The next time you're feeling lost and hopeless, think of the following:

1. Allah created us as sinners

Hazrat Abu Huraira (Radiallaho ta`ala anhu) reported: The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said,

“By Him in whose hand is my soul, if you did not sin Allah would replace you with people who would sin and they would seek the forgiveness of Allah and He would forgive them.”
[Sahih Muslim]

2. Even if you sin, you can still draw close to Allah

“Every son of Adam sins, and the best of those who sin are those who repent.” *[at-Tirmidhi]*

As I mentioned above, Allah created us all as sinners. However, the BEST of sinners are those of us who turn back to Allah each time and repent; those of us who never lose hope in His Mercy, and firmly believe that He can and will forgive us.

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