

Prosperity Knocking

10-TIPS FOR BARAKAH

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The mental stream changed its course after Europe's Economic revolution in eighteen century. The control over Economy passed into the hands of infidels and atheists. When religion had a say in economic and commercial affairs, people used to practice honesty, clarity and were concerned for the hereafter. They normally kept the deliberation of the Sustainer in the back of their minds while endeavoring to earn. They put their full trust in him for their success and sought His pleasure. Today, situation overturned and materialistic approach prevailed. Whole economic system rests on non-Islamic or non-religious foundations. Thus, a fanatic hunger is generated which recognizes no known disciplines in getting quick lucre. Even, a large number of Muslims came out of the restrictions Islam laid down in business and are now active part of the ugly race-for-quick-money. They seem, ALLAH forbid, convinced with the ideal that with full adherence to Islam, it is impossible to catch up in the progress with other communities despite being it absurd and nonsensical approach even on face value. Islam offers a balanced and natural way of life that assists in finding solutions to the problems one confronts throughout the life. Not only common folk but a group of practical and at a particular degree, conscious Muslims look anxious when it comes to earn living. The prescriptions for barakah never cross their minds even for once when drawing deliberate strategies to acquire abundance and prosperity. The actions, which according to ALLAH's promise will bring abundance of wealth and profusion of living, never catch their attention. We hereunder, will mention just 10 of those golden prescribed actions whose practice, so says Allah, attracts plenty in wealth.

1. Seeking Forgiveness & Repentance:

Qur'an, at different places explains that seeking forgiveness makes life prosper and productive. Nooh Alaihissalam is quoted to have said,

﴿فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا ۝﴾

﴿سورة النوح: آيت ١٠-١١﴾

"Seek forgiveness of your Rabb, He is ever ready to forgive you. He will send abundant rain for you from heaven, help you with wealth and sons, and provide you with gardens and the flowing rivers. (Nuh: 10-12)

Similarly, Hud Alaihissalam invited his people for seeking repentance saying,

﴿يَقُومِ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا وَيَزِدْكُمْ قُوَّةً إِلَىٰ قُوَّتِكُمْ وَلَا تَتَوَلَّوْا مُجْرِمِينَ﴾ (سورة هود: آيت ٥٢)

'And O my people! Seek forgiveness of your Rabb and turn to Him in repentance. He will send you from the sky abundant rain and He will add strength to your strength. So do not turn away like criminals.' (Hud:52)

Abdullah Ibne Abbas Radiallahu Anhuma reported: 'The Messenger of ALLAH Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said, "If anyone continually asks forgiveness from ALLAH, ALLAH will appoint for him a way out of every distress, and a relief from every anxiety, and will provide for him from where he did not reckon." (Abu Dawood:1518)

Once Hadarath Umar Radiallah Anhu went out of city with multitude to pray for rain but after seeking forgiveness came back to the town. People inquired as to they did not heard him invoking prayers for rain. He, in response, recited the above mentioned verse. Hasan Basri would suggest everyone, who would complain for famine, poverty, child and destruction of harvest, to seek forgiveness.

Repentance is to give up sins by showing regret and remorsefulness and feel deeply discomfited for what he committed, with firm intention of never going back to it in future and with absolute determination for their rectification by righteous deeds. If the harm of sins committed in the past inflicted discomfort to some other human being then it is conditional to settle the account with whom he inflicted harm or victimized for his sins. Without doing so repentance, holds no reality in it.

2. Piety and Fear of Allah:

Piety is the adherence to ALLAH's commands and avoidance of his prohibitions. It is one of noble features that results into the abundance of living.

He says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾
(سوره طلاق: آیت ۳۰)

"And for those who fear ALLAH, He (ever) prepares a way out. And He provides for him from (sources) he never could imagine" (Talaq: 2-3).

Abdullah Ibne Masood Radiallahu Anhu commented, 'This is the most important verse which describes the way towards abundance in living. ALLAH says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَىٰ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ
وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَكِن كَذَّبُوا فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ﴾ (سوره الاعراف: ۹۶)

"Had the residents of the towns believed and feared Allah We would have showered upon them riches from and the earth, but they disbelieved; so We seized them for their misdeeds." (Aaraf: 96)

And in Maida:

﴿وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ أَقَامُوا التَّوْرَةَ وَالْإِنْجِيلَ وَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ لَآكَلُوا
مِن قُرْقِهِمْ وَمِن تَحْتِ أَرْجُلِهِمْ مِّنْهُمْ أُمَّةٌ مُّقْتَصِدَةٌ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنْهُمْ سَاءَ
مَا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

"If they would have observed the Laws of Taurat and the Injeel (Gospel) and other Revelations which were sent to them from their Rabb, they would have certainly enjoyed abundance from above and from beneath. Though there are some among them on the moderate course; but most of them do nothing but evil."

Barakat, plural of barakah, in the verse, implies that Barakah is divided into different categories. It is also noteworthy that the true meaning of Barakah is sufficiency and not abundance. Often, we notice tycoons complaining for the lack of inflow of money while at the same time some of those do not have plentiful, live a life of contentment and satisfaction.

Imam Raazi elaborated it, 'The rain is the blessing of sky. Harvest, calttles, fruits and, peace and harmony

of earth, for sky is like father and earth like mother as all benefits of human being are encompassed in them.

Imam Khazin commented, 'Barakah is to get blessings of ALLAH be it in anything whatsoever.'

3. Constantly Worshipping ALLAH:

It means men should concentrate and stay focused while worshipping Almighty ALLAH. Men should always remain mindful of ALLAH's supremacy and great prominence. Abu Hurairah Radiallahu Anhu reported: 'ALLAH's Apostle Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said, 'ALLAH says, 'O son of Adam! Take time out to constantly worship me, I will fill your chest with richness, and remove your poverty. And if you do not do so, I will make your hands occupied (with work), and will not remove your poverty'." (Ibne Majah)

4. Absolute Reliance on ALLAH (Tawakkul):

ALLAY says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَالِغُ أَمْرِهِ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا﴾ (سوره طلاق: ۳)

"And if any one puts his trust in Allah, sufficient is (ALLAH) for him. For ALLAH will surely accomplish his purpose. Verily, for all things has Allah appointed a due proportion" (Sura Talaq:3)

Hadarath Umar Radiallah Anhu stated that Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said: "If only you relied on ALLAH a true reliance, He would provide sustenance for you just as He does for the birds: They fly out in the morning hungry and return in the afternoon with full stomachs. (Musnad Ahmad:205)

Imam Ghazali has written in Ahyaul Uloom, 'Tawakkul is absolute reliance on ALLAH.' Allama Manawi Radiallahu Anhu put it as 'The confession of our helplessness and total trust in ALLAH is called Tawakkul.' Mullah Ali Qari Rahamatullahi Alahi thinks 'The belief that only ALLAH makes a difference i.e. profit and loss, poverty and richness, health and sickness, and life and death are controlled by ALLAH alone is the true Tawakkul.'

However, the Hadith conveys an important lesson to all of us: That while trust in ALLAH is absolute being independent of what we do. It is our responsibility to act on what we intended to accomplish. The Hadith indicated that birds go out early in the morning in

search of food. Their flying is their struggle and effort. Their struggle turns fruitful when they return with full stomachs. Therefore, utilizing means for worldly gain do not fall against Shariah. Instead, is totally in accordance with its teachings. A man came to the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam and said, "I will not tie my camel and trust in ALLAH" The Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam said, 'Tie it and trust in ALLAH.' (Musnadush Shihab:14633/368)

5. Spending In The Way of Allah:

ALLAH said:

﴿وَمَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَهُوَ يُخْلِفُهُ ۚ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ﴾ (سورة سبأ: ٣٩)

Whatever you spend in charity, He will pay you back. He is the best of those who provide sustenance. (Saba:39)

Again ALLAH mentioned:

﴿الشَّيْطَانُ يَعِدُكُمُ الْفَقْرَ وَيَأْمُرُكُمْ بِالْفَحْشَاءِ ۚ وَاللَّهُ يَعِدُكُمْ مَغْفِرَةً مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلًا ۗ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾ (سورة البقرة: ٢٦٨)

Shaytan threatens you with poverty and prompts you to commit what is indecent, while ALLAH promises you His forgiveness and bounties, and ALLAH has boundless knowledge. (Baqarah:268)

Abu Huraira Radiallahu Anhu related that the Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said, 'ALLAH says: "O son of Adam, spend (in charity), and I'll spend on you!" (Ibne Majah:2123)

Abu Hurairah reported: The last Messenger Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam once said to Bilal Radiallahu Anhu, 'O' Bilal, spend and do not fear the owner of throne of poverty.' (Mishkat:1885)

6. Supporting Learners of Islam:

Imam Tirmidhi and Hakim recorded on the authority of Anas bin Malik that "There were two brothers (that lived) at the time of the Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam. One of them would always be with Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam, whereas the other one would seek his sustenance (by working). So the one who used to seek his sustenance complained to Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam about his brother. The Prophet Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam replied, 'It is possible that you are provided your rizq (sustenance) because of him'" (Tirmidhi:2448)

Scholars included learners of Islamic knowledge among those whom Qur'an instructed Muslims to spend their alms on,

﴿لِلْفُقَرَاءِ الَّذِينَ أُحْصِرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ ضَرْبًا فِي الْأَرْضِ يَحْسَبُهُمُ الْجَاهِلُ أَغْنِيَاءَ مِنَ التَّعَفُّفِ ۚ تَعْرِفُهُمْ بِسِيمَاهُمْ ۚ لَا يَسْئَلُونَ النَّاسَ إِلْحَافًا ۚ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ﴾

(سورة البقرة: ٢٤٣)

'Charity is for those needy people who are engaged so much in the cause of ALLAH that they cannot move about in the land to earn their livelihood: the ignorant think that they are wealthy on account of their modest behavior. You can recognize them by their look because they do not make insistent demands on people. Whatever you spend on them, surely Allah knows it. (Baqarah: 273)

7. Establishing The Ties of Kinship:

Abu Hurairah reported: "Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said: 'Whoever would like his rizq (provision) to be increased and his life to be extended, should uphold the ties of kinship.' (Bukhari: Kitabul Adab:5985)

Ali Radiallahu Anhu reported that the Messenger Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said, "Whoever would like his rizq (provision) to be increased and his life to be extended, and his death not to be painful should remain fearful of ALLAH and uphold the ties of Relatives. (Musnad Ahmad: 1212)

Ibne Hajar said, 'Riham' here indicates the relatives either they have share in inheritance or not. Tying the ties of kinship suggests in broader perspective that a man must try to do good to his relatives in whatever way possible and should strive not to harm them anyway.

8. Showing Kindness To The Poor & Weak Ones:

The Final Messenger of ALLAH, Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said, 'The only reason that you are aided and provided with sustenance is the 'weak ones'.'

Mus'ab bin Sa'ad Radiallahu Anhu reported that once when Saad Radiallahu Anhu felt pride, Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said to him, 'You are given help and provided help by the virtue of your weak ones. (Bukhari: 1754) And Abu Darda

Radiallhu Anhu too reported a tradition to the same effect recorded by Tirmidhi.

9. Recurrently Performing Hajj & Umrah:

It has been reported by Abdullah Ibn Masood Radiallahu Anhu that Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam said: 'Follow up between Hajj and Umrah (i.e. continuously repeat the performance of Hajj and Umrah) because they both eliminate poverty and sins just like a furnace eliminates the dirty impurities of iron, gold and silver. And an accepted Hajj has no reward less than paradise.' (Musnad Ahmad:73669, Tirmidhi:807)

10. Emigration:

ALLAH said, 'He who emigrates in the path of Allah shall find numerous places of refuge in the Earth and abundant resources.' (Nisa:100)

Emigration means to travel from the nation of infidelity (Where Muslims do not entertain enough freedom to practice Islam) to the nation of Islam. The true emigration is when emigrate resolves to establish the religion of ALLAH and seeking His pleasure. His commitment behind emigration should be to assist Muslims against brutal infidels.

These 10-prescriptions can unquestionably

elevate the financial condition of everyone who practices them with firm conviction. So, declared the Quran and Ahadith with complete articulation. The only self-sufficient is the Almighty ALLAH. The worthy of this degree of honour among men are those who regard everyone as undependable except ALLAH. The moment we are convinced of Him as the-only sustainer, a coveted contentment and pleasant satisfaction breeze in our minds. The content souls never eye others diamonds and pearls. Instead, it always counts on his sustainer's inexhaustible capability to provide living upto the last breath. The thirst for more wealth is unquenchable unless we possess contentment. The Messenger Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam unambiguously pointed it out, 'The richness do not lie in abundance of wealth but it lies in contentment of soul.

Abu Dharr (Radiallahu Anhu) reported: the Messenger of ALLAH, Prophet Muhammad Sallal Lahu Alaihi Wasallam asked me, 'Abu Dharr, do you think the real richness lies in plenty of provisions? I replied, 'Yes.' He further asked, 'It means according to you the poverty is in lack of means and money?' I replied, 'Yes.' He then said, 'The real richness is contentment of soul and the real poverty is poverty of soul.' (Fathul Bari: 11/232)

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