

جہنم سے آزادی کے اسباب

CAUSES FOR BEING FREED FROM THE HELL-FIRE

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BEING FREED FROM
THE HELL-FIRE

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INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him and seek His forgiveness. Whoever Allah guides, none can misguide him. And whoever He misguides, none can guide him. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah, who has no partners. And I testify that Muhammad (ﷺ) is His servant and Messenger.

To proceed:

I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaytan. In the name of Allah, the Most-Merciful, Ever-Merciful:

To proceed:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ﴾

“O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, and is overseen by rigorous and stern angels, who never disobey whatever Allah commands and do whatever they are commanded.” [Surah Al-Tahrim 66:6]

My respected brethren in Islam!

When Allah created human beings, He made obedience and disobedience easy for them, so that they may see the path towards Paradise and the Hell-fire. He also clarified that obeying

Him would lead one towards Paradise, and disobeying Him would make one face the Hell-fire.

To attain Paradise and be saved from the Hell-fire, a Muslim always tries to perform those deeds which will result in Allah saving him from the Hell-fire and granting him Paradise.

With this in mind, we will speak about the Hell-fire and how to be freed from it in today's Friday sermon, so that we can act in accordance with these good deeds to be freed from the Hell-fire and become the rightful inheritors of Paradise.

THE HELL-FIRE'S WIDTH

1. There is a distance of seventy years of travelling between the ear and shoulder of a person in the Hell-fire:

Imam Mujahid (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) said:

قَالَ ابْنُ عَبَّاسٍ: أَتَدْرِي مَا سِعَةُ جَهَنَّمَ؟ قُلْتُ: لَا، قَالَ: أَجَلٌ، وَاللَّهِ مَا تَدْرِي، إِنَّ بَيْنَ شَحْمَةِ أُذُنٍ أَحَدِهِمْ وَبَيْنَ عَاتِقِهِ مَسِيرَةَ سَبْعِينَ خَرِيفًا، تَجْرِي فِيهَا أَوْدِيَةُ الْقَيْحِ وَالْدَّمِ، قُلْتُ: أَنَهَارًا؟ قَالَ: لَا، بَلْ أَوْدِيَةٌ.

“Ibn Abbas (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) asked me: Do you know about the width of the Hell-fire?” I said no. He (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) said: “By Allah! You don’t know, so listen! The distance between the ear-lobe and shoulder of a person in the Hell-fire will be equal to 70 years of travelling, and valleys of pus and blood will flow from it.” I said: Will rivers of blood and pus flow? He (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) said: “No, in fact they will be valleys, much wider than rivers.” [Musnad Ahmad 24856; Al-Arna’ut said: It’s chain of transmission is Sahih]

2. Four billion and nine-hundred million Angels have been appointed to bring the Hell-fire to the place of Resurrection in the Hereafter:

Abdullah bin Mas’ud (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

يُؤْتَىٰ بِجَهَنَّمَ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَهَا سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ زِمَامٍ مَعَ كُلِّ زِمَامٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ يُجْرُونَهَا.

“The Hell-fire will be brought on the Day of Judgment with seventy thousand bridles, and seventy thousand angels dragging each bridle.” [Sahih Muslim 2842, Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 2573]

3. After nine-hundred and ninety-nine out of hundred enter the Hell-fire, the Hell-fire will still ask for more:

The Hell-fire is so wide and large that even after countless people will enter the Hell-fire, it will not become full. Allah said:

﴿يَوْمَ نَقُولُ لِجَهَنَّمَ هَلِ امْتَلَأَتْ وَتَقُولُ هَلْ مِنْ مَّزِيدٍ﴾

“[Beware of] the Day when We will say to the Hell-fire: “Have you reached your fill?” It will say: “Are there any more?”” [Surah Qaf 50:30]

THE TERRORS OF THE THE HELL-FIRE'S PUNISHMENT

1. The Hell-fire will roar its anger and fury towards the disbelievers from afar:

Allah said:

﴿إِذَا رَأَتْهُمْ مِّن مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ سَمِعُوا لَهَا تَغِيْظًا وَزَفِيرًا ۚ﴾

“When it sees them from a far distance, they will hear its raging and roaring.” [Surah Al-Furqan 25:12]

Allah also said:

﴿إِذَا أُلْقُوا فِيْهَا سَمِعُوا لَهَا شَهِيقًا وَهِيَ تَفُورُ ۖ تَكَادُ تَمَيِّزُ مِنَ الْغَيْظِ ۚ﴾

“When they are thrown in it, they will hear its roaring as it boils up, almost bursting in fury.” [Surah Al-Mulk 67:7-8]

2. The Angels of the Hell-fire are merciless and very stern:

Allah said:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ ۖ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ۚ﴾

“O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from

a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, and is overseen by rigorous and stern angels, who never disobey whatever Allah commands and do whatever they are commanded.” [Surah Al-Tahrim 66:6]

3. The disbelievers faces will turn black upon seeing the punishment of the Hell-fire:

Allah said:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ كَسَبُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ جَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ بِمِثْلِهَا وَتَرْهَقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ مَّا لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ عَاصِمٍ كَأَنَّمَا أُغْشِيَتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ قِطْعًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مُظْلِمًا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾﴾

“As for those who commit evil deeds, the recompense of an evil deed is the like thereof, and humiliation will cover them – there will be none to protect them from Allah – as if their faces were covered with patches of the darkest night. It is they who are the people of the Hell-Fire, they will abide therein forever.” [Surah Yunus 10:27]

4. After a person's skin is burnt in the Hell-fire, a new fresh skin will replace it:

Allah said:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَوْفَ نُصْلِيهِمْ نَارًا كُلَّمَا نَضِجَتْ جُلُودُهُمْ بَدَّلْنَاهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾﴾

“Those who reject Our Ayat, We will cast them into the Hell-fire. Whenever their skins are burnt through, We will replace them with fresh skins, so that they may taste the punishment. Indeed, Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.” [Surah Al-Nisa 4:56]

5. After seeing the punishments of the Hell-fire, the Prophet's (ﷺ) will all make du'aa to Allah for their well-being:

Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

يُضْرَبُ الصِّرَاطُ بَيْنَ ظَهْرِي جَهَنَّمَ، فَأَكُونُ أَنَا وَأُمَّتِي أَوَّلَ مَنْ يُجِيزُهَا، وَلَا يَتَكَلَّمُ يَوْمَئِذٍ إِلَّا الرُّسُلُ، وَدَعَايَ الرُّسُلِ يَوْمَئِذٍ اللَّهُمَّ سَلِّمْ سَلِّمْ.

“A bridge will be laid across the Hell-fire, and I (ﷺ) and my followers will be the first ones to go across it, and none will speak on that Day except the Messengers (ﷺ). And the invocation of the Messengers on that Day will be: “O Allah, save us! Save us!” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 7437]

6. The person punished in the Hell-fire will wish for death, but his request will not be granted:

Allah said:

﴿وَإِذَا أُلْقُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُقَرَّنِينَ دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ ثُبُورًا ﴿١٣﴾ لَا تَدْعُوا الْيَوْمَ ثُبُورًا وَاحِدًا وَادْعُوا ثُبُورًا كَثِيرًا ﴿١٤﴾﴾

“And when they are thrown into a narrow space therein, chained together, they will cry out for death. Do not cry out this Day for death only once, but cry out many times.” [Surah Al-Furqan 25:13-14]

My dear readers!

This is the Hell-fire which Allah prepared for the sinners and defiants. Upon us is to free ourselves from this punishment. What are those deeds which if performed, Allah will make the punishment of the Hell-fire prohibited upon us? We will mention the most important good deeds here.

CAUSES FOR BEING FREED FROM THE HELL-FIRE

1. Uttering the statement of Tawhid sincerely:

The biggest reason for one to be freed from the Hell-fire is actualizing Tawhid and abandoning Shirk. Ubadah bin Samit (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ شَهِدَ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ النَّارَ.

“Whosoever testifies that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah, and Muhammad (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is His Messenger, Allah has prohibited the Hell-fire upon him.” [Sahih Muslim 29]

Anas bin Malik (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) said:

أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَمُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ قَالَ يَا مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ. قَالَ لَبَّيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَسَعْدَيْكَ. قَالَ يَا مُعَاذُ. قَالَ لَبَّيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَسَعْدَيْكَ. ثَلَاثًا. قَالَ مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صِدْقًا مِنْ قَلْبِهِ إِلَّا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ. قَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَفَلَا أُخْبِرُ بِهِ النَّاسَ فَيَسْتَبْشِرُوا قَالَ إِذَا يَتَكَلَّمُوا. وَأَخْبَرَ بِهَا مُعَاذٌ عِنْدَ مَوْتِهِ تَأْتِمًا.

“Once Mu’adh (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) was along with Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) as a companion rider. Allah's Messenger

(صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: "O Mu'adh bin Jabal." Mu'adh replied, "Here I am responding your call, and at your pleasure!" Again the Prophet (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: "O Mu'adh!" Mu'adh said thrice, "Here I am responding your call, and at your pleasure!" Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: "There is none who testifies sincerely that none has the right to be worshipped in truth but Allah and Muhammad (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is his Messenger, except that Allah will save him from the Hell-fire." Mu'adh said, "O Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ)! Should I not inform the people about it so that they may have glad tidings?" He (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) replied, "When the people hear about it, they will solely depend on it." Then Mu'adh narrated the above-mentioned Hadith just before his death, being afraid of committing a sin by concealing knowledge." [Sahih Al-Bukhari 128]

Jabir (رَضِيَ اللّٰهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that a man asked the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ):

مَا الْمَوْجِبَتَانِ؟

"What are the two things which necessitate entering Paradise and the Hell-fire?"

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) replied:

مَنْ مَاتَ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِاللّٰهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَنْ مَاتَ يُشْرِكُ بِاللّٰهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ النَّارَ.

"Whoever dies without associating anything with Allah will

enter Paradise, and whoever dies while associating anything with Allah will enter the Hell-fire.” [Sahih Muslim 93]

We learn here that Allah prohibits the punishment of the Hell-fire in the presence of Tawhid, and obligates the punishment of the Hell-fire in the presence of Shirk.

2. Sincerity:

The second cause for being freed from the Hell-fire is sincerity. Sincerity means to perform the acts of worship solely for Allah’s pleasure, without any trace of showing-off in it. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

لَنْ يُؤَافِيَ عَبْدٌ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَقُولُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ. يَبْتَغِي بِهِ وَجْهَ اللَّهِ، إِلَّا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ النَّارَ.

“Whosoever comes on the Day of Judgment having said that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah, with the sole intention of seeking Allah’s pleasure with it; Allah will make the Hell-fire forbidden for him.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 6423]

The opposite of sincerity is showing-off. The first three to enter the Hell-fire will be a reciter, a charitable and a fighter in Allah’s cause. When these three individuals introduced showing-off in these noble acts, Allah threw them into the Hell-fire.

3. Fearing Allah:

To live your life without committing sins due to fear of Allah;

Allah has prohibited the Hell-fire's punishment upon this righteous servant of His. Allah said:

﴿وَإِنْ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا مَقْضِيًّا ۖ ثُمَّ نُنَجِّي الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَنَذَرُ الظَّالِمِينَ فِيهَا جِثًّا ۖ﴾

“There is none among you except that he will pass over it; a decree from your Rabb that must be fulfilled. Then We will save those who fear Allah and will leave the wrongdoers in it on their knees.” [Surah Al-Maryam 19:71-72]

Abu Hurayrah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about that for which people are admitted into Paradise the most, so he said:

تَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَحُسْنُ الْخُلُقِ.

“Fear of Allah and good character.”

And he (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about that for which people are admitted into the Hell-Fire the most, so he said:

الْفَمُ وَالْفَرْجُ.

The mouth and the private parts.” [Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 2004; Al-Albani said: Hasan]

4. Obeying Allah:

Obeying Allah's commandments is from the causes through

which Allah frees a person from the Hell-fire and makes him an everlasting rightful inheritor of Paradise. Allah said:

﴿وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ۝٧١﴾

“Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger will surely achieve a supreme triumph.” [Surah Al-Ahzab 33:71]

Allah also said:

﴿وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۚ وَذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ۝١٣﴾

“Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, He will admit him to gardens under which rivers flow, abiding therein forever. That is the supreme triumph.” [Surah Al-Nisa 4:13]

The opposite of obeying Allah is to disobey Allah. And the Hell-fire is the punishment Allah prepared for anyone who disobeys Him. Allah said:

﴿وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ ۝١٤﴾

“But whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger and transgresses His limits, He will cause him to enter the Fire, abiding therein forever, and for him there will be a humiliating punishment.” [Surah Al-Nisa 4:14]

5. Praying with the congregation for forty days:

Anas bin Malik (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ صَلَّى لِلَّهِ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا فِي جَمَاعَةٍ يُدْرِكُ التَّكْبِيرَةَ الْأُولَى كُتِبَتْ لَهُ بَرَاءَتَانِ بَرَاءَةٌ مِنَ النَّارِ وَبَرَاءَةٌ مِنَ التَّفَاقُ.

“Whoever performs Salah for Allah for forty days in congregation, catching the first Takbir, two absolutions are written for him: absolution from the Fire, and absolution from hypocrisy.” [Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 241; Al-Albani said: Hasan]

6. Praying four rak’ah before and after Zuhr:

Umm Habibah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ صَلَّى قَبْلَ الظُّهْرِ أَرْبَعًا وَبَعْدَهَا أَرْبَعًا حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ.

“Whoever prays four rak’ah before and after Zuhr, Allah has forbidden him from entering the Hell-fire.” [Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 427; Sahih]

7. Guarding the Fajr and Asr prayers:

All five prayers are important. But Fajr and Asr have an even greater importance. So if one guards these two prayers and consistently performs them with the rest of the prayers; the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said regarding him:

لَنْ يَلْجَ النَّارَ أَحَدٌ صَلَّى قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ غُرُوبِهَا.

“The one who prays the Fajr and Asr prayers will never enter the Hell-fire.” [Sahih Muslim 634]

Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ صَلَّى الْبَرْدَيْنِ دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ.

“The one who prays the two cool prayers will enter Paradise.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 574]

8. Remembering Allah after the Fajr prayer:

Anas bin Malik (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

لَأَنْ أَقْعُدَ مَعَ قَوْمٍ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى مِنْ صَلَاةِ الْغَدَاةِ حَتَّى تَطْلُعَ الشَّمْسُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ أَنْ أُعْتِقَ أَرْبَعَةً مِنْ وَلَدِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ وَلَا أَنْ أَقْعُدَ مَعَ قَوْمٍ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ مِنْ صَلَاةِ الْعَصْرِ إِلَى أَنْ تَغْرُبَ الشَّمْسُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ أَنْ أُعْتِقَ أَرْبَعَةً.

“That I sit in the company of the people who remember Allah the Exalted from the morning prayer till the sun rises is dearer to me than that I emancipate four slaves from the children of Isma'il (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ), and that I sit with the people who remember Allah from the afternoon prayer till the sun sets is dearer to me than that I emancipate four slaves.” [Sunan Abu Dawud 3667; Al-Albani said: Hasan]

9. Making Du'aa:

From the causes of being freed from the Hell-fire is to make Du'aa to Allah to free yourself from the Hell-fire.

While mentioning the description of the servants of the Most-Merciful, Allah said:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا ﴿٦٥﴾ إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا ﴿٦٦﴾﴾

“And those who say, “Our Rabb, turn the punishment of the Hell-fire away from us, for its punishment is unrelenting. It is an evil place to settle and an evil abode.” [Surah Al-Furqan 25:65-66]

Anas bin Malik (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ سَأَلَ اللَّهَ الْجَنَّةَ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ قَالَتِ الْجَنَّةُ اللَّهُمَّ ادْخِلْهُ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَنْ اسْتَجَارَ مِنَ النَّارِ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ قَالَتِ النَّارُ اللَّهُمَّ أَجِرْهُ مِنَ النَّارِ.

“Whoever asks Allah for Paradise three times, Paradise will say: “O Allah, admit him to Paradise.” And whoever seeks protection from the Hell-fire three times, the Hell-fire will say: “O Allah, protect him from the Fire.”” [Sahih Al-Jami 6275]

10. Giving charity:

Adi bin Hatim (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah

(صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

اتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ.

“Guard yourselves against the Hell-fire, even if it be only with half a date-fruit given in charity.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 1417]

11. Fasting:

From the causes to be freed from the Hell-fire is to fast seeking Allah's pleasure, because it acts as a shield against the Hell-fire.

Uthman bin Abi Al-Aas (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

الصَّوْمُ جُنَّةٌ مِنَ النَّارِ كَجُنَّةِ أَحَدِكُمْ مِنَ الْقِتَالِ.

“Fasting is a shield against the Hell-fire just like the shield of anyone of you against fighting.” [Sunan Al-Nasa'i 2231]

Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بَعَدَ اللَّهُ وَجْهَهُ عَنِ النَّارِ سَبْعِينَ خَرِيفًا.

“Indeed, anyone who fasts for one day for Allah's Pleasure, Allah will keep his face away from the Hell-fire for a distance covered by a journey of seventy years.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 2840]

12. Having good character:

Abu Hurayrah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah

(صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ كَانَ هَيِّنًا لَيْنًا قَرِيبًا حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ.

“Allah has prohibited the Hell-fire on that person who is easy-going, gentle and close to the Muslims.” [Sahih Al-Targhib wa Al-Tarhib 1745]

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said regarding the great status and importance of having good character:

مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ يُوضَعُ فِي الْمِيزَانِ أَثْقَلُ مِنْ حُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ وَإِنَّ صَاحِبَ حُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ لَيَبْلُغُ بِهِ دَرَجَةَ صَاحِبِ الصَّوْمِ وَالصَّلَاةِ.

“Nothing is placed on the Scale that is heavier than good character. Indeed the person with good character will have attained the rank of the person of fasting and prayer..” [Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 2003]

13. Uttering good words:

Adi bin Hatim (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

فَلْيَتَّقِينَ أَحَدَكُمْ النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فَبِكَلِمَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ.

“And so, each one of you should save himself from the Hell-fire, even by giving half of a date-fruit in charity. And if you do not find a date-fruit, then save yourselves by uttering a good pleasant word to your brothers.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 1413]

14. Taking care of daughters:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

مَنْ ابْتُلِيَ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْبَنَاتِ بِشَيْءٍ كُنَّ لَهُ سِتْرًا مِنَ النَّارِ.

“Whoever is put to trial by these daughters and he treats them generously, then these daughters will act as a shield for him from Hell-Fire.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 1418]

A'isha (رضي الله عنها) said:

A poor woman came to me along with her daughters. I gave her three dates. She gave a date to each of them and then she took up one date and brought that to her mouth in order to eat that, but her daughters expressed desire to eat it. She then divided the date that she intended to eat between them. This kind treatment of her impressed me and I mentioned that which she did to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), and he (ﷺ) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَوْجَبَ لَهَا بِهَا الْجَنَّةَ أَوْ أَعْتَقَهَا بِهَا مِنَ النَّارِ.

“Verily Allah has assured Paradise for her, because of this act of her, or He has rescued her from Hell-Fire.” [Sahih Muslim 2630]

15. Guarding the honor of a Muslim:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

مَنْ ذَبَّ عَنْ عَرَضِ أَخِيهِ كَانَ لَهُ حِجَابًا مِنَ النَّارِ.

“Whoever defends his brother's honor from backbiting, it will be a right upon Allah to free him from the Hell-fire.” [Sahih Al-Jami 6240]

16. Weeping out of fear of Allah:

Abu Hurayrah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

لَا يَلْجُ النَّارَ رَجُلٌ بَكَى مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ حَتَّى يَعُودَ اللَّبَنُ فِي الضَّرْعِ.

“A man who wept out of the fear of Allah shall not enter the Hell-fire until the milk returns to the udder.” [Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 1633; Sahih]

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا تَرَى أَعْيُنُهُمُ النَّارَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ: عَيْنٌ بَكَتْ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ، وَعَيْنٌ حَرَسَتْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، وَعَيْنٌ غَضَّتْ عَنْ مَحَارِمِ اللَّهِ.

“Three eyes will not see the Hell-fire on the Day of Judgment; an eye which wept out of fear of Allah, an eye which spent a night standing on guard in the path of Allah, and an eye which guarded itself from looking at that which is prohibited.” [Mu'jam Al-Kabeer of Al-Tabarani 1003]

17. Feet being covered in dust in Allah's path:

Abu Abs (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ اغْبَرَّتْ قَدَمَاهُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ.

“Anyone whose feet are covered with dust in Allah's cause, shall be saved by Allah from the Hell-Fire.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 907]

18. Emancipating a slave:

Mu'adh bin Jabal (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

أَيُّمَا رَجُلٍ مُسْلِمٍ أَعْتَقَ رَجُلًا مُسْلِمًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ جَاعِلٌ وَقَاءَ كُلِّ عَظْمٍ مِنْ عِظَامِهِ عَظْمًا مِنْ عِظَامِ مُحَرَّرِهِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَأَيُّمَا امْرَأَةً أَعْتَقَتْ امْرَأَةٌ مُسْلِمَةً فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ جَاعِلٌ وَقَاءَ كُلِّ عَظْمٍ مِنْ عِظَامِهَا عَظْمًا مِنْ عِظَامِ مُحَرَّرِهَا مِنَ النَّارِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ.

“If a Muslim man emancipates a Muslim man, Allah, the Exalted, will make every bone of his protection for every bone of his emancipator from the Hell-fire; and if a Muslim woman emancipates a Muslim woman, Allah will make every bone of her protection for every bone of her emancipator from the Hell-fire on the Day of Resurrection.” [Sahih Muslim 29]



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When Allah created human beings, He made obedience and disobedience easy for them, so that they may see the path towards Paradise and the Hell-fire. He also clarified that obeying Him would lead one towards Paradise, and disobeying Him would make one face the Hell-fire.

To attain Paradise and be saved from the Hell-fire, a Muslim always tries to perform those deeds which will result in Allah saving him from the Hell-fire and granting him Paradise.

With this in mind, we will speak about the Hell-fire and how to be freed from it in today's Friday sermon, so that we can act in accordance with these good deeds to be freed from the Hell-fire and become the rightful inheritors of Paradise.

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