

AL-ISTIGHFAR

(SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS)

Definition:

Seeking Allah's forgiveness is a noble characteristic of those who believe for it indicates that they admit their dependence upon Allah and they admit their weaknesses and shortcomings. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would seek Allah's forgiveness every day many times.

Only Allah can forgive our sins, no one else can. We should overlook the mistakes of others and pardon them not holding a grudge.

We will discuss this Qur'anic trait emphasizing the following concepts:

- We should turn to Allah and seek His forgiveness.
- Allah has promised to forgive His servants.
- We should confirm our Du'aa to Allah seeking His forgiveness with true belief and good deeds.
- We should never despair of Allah's mercy, yet we should always be fearful of His punishment.
- Seeking Allah's forgiveness is a sure way of increasing our sustenance.
- Following the Sunnah of Allah's Prophet (PBUH) is one way of obtaining forgiveness of our sins.
- We should seek Allah's forgiveness for ourselves as well as for others.
- Allah grants His forgiveness to whom He wills.
- We should follow the example of Allah's prophets who sought Allah's forgiveness.

- There are certain times when seeking Allah's forgiveness is most appropriate.
- The best Du'aa of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is Istighfar.
- The benefits of Istighfar.

TURN TO ALLAH AND SEEK HIS FORGIVENESS

As human beings, we make mistakes and have many shortcomings. We are weak and often succumb to the temptations of Satan committing sins. If we turn to Allah and seek His forgiveness for our sins, He has promised to forgive us. The Qur'an gives us hope and tells those who believe not to despair of the mercy of Allah.

﴿ قُلْ يٰۤاَعْبَادِيَ الَّذِيْنَ اَسْرَفُوْا عَلٰٓى اَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوْا مِنْ رَّحْمَةِ اللّٰهِ ۚ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يَغْفِرُ
الذُّنُوْبَ جَمِيْعًا ۗ اِنَّهٗ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ ﴾ [الزمر: ٥٣]

Say: "O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! despair not of the Mercy of Allah: for Allah forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (Az-Zumar 39 : 53)

When we commit a sin, we are only wronging ourselves. We may also wrong others. Our duty then is to realize our mistake and to seek Allah's forgiveness for He has promised to be forgiving and merciful.

﴿ وَمَنْ يَعْْمَلْ سُوْءًاۢ اَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهٗ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللّٰهَ يَجِدِ اللّٰهَ غَفُوْرًا رَّحِيْمًا ﴾
[النساء: ١١٠]

"If anyone does evil or wrongs his own soul but afterwards seeks Allah's forgiveness, he will find Allah Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (An-Nesa'a 4 : 110)

If we wrong other people, we must make amends and seek their forgiveness in addition to seeking Allah's forgiveness. Otherwise, we have to give them out of our good deeds, or shoulder some of their bad deeds on the day of judgment.

Not too many people understand and realize about this wonderful opportunity. Allah's forgiveness is there waiting for us to avail ourselves of His mercy and grace. Abou Horaira (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said,

“Our Lord descends to the lower heaven in the last third of the night and says, ‘Is there anyone calling on Me and I will respond to him? Is there anyone asking Me and I will give him? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness and I will forgive him?’”

Narrated by Bokhari and Muslim

Among the most beautiful names of Allah and His attributes are the following:

- Al-Ghafour (The Often-Forgiving)
- Al-Ghaffar (The One Who forgives again and again)
- Ghafir Adh-Dhanb (He Who forgives the sins)

Abou Horaira (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said,

“A servant of Allah committed a sin and said, ‘O my Lord forgive my sin!’ Allah said, ‘My servant sinned and realized that he has a Lord that forgives the sins and punishes for it.’ Then the servant committed sin again and he said, ‘O my Lord forgive my sin!’ Allah, glory be to Him said, ‘My servant sinned and knew that he has a Lord that forgives the sin and punishes for it.’ Then the servant sinned again and said, ‘O my Lord forgive my sin!’ Allah said, ‘My servant sinned and realized that he has a Lord that forgives the sin and punishes for it. Do as you wish, I have forgiven you.’”

Hadith Qudsi related by Bokhari and Muslim

We learn from this saying of the Prophet (PBUH):

- Allah forgives the sin again and again
- We should avail ourselves of Allah's forgiveness and mercy
- We should never despair of Allah's mercy

The Qur'an also stresses that Allah forgives our sins providing we understand our mistake and turn to God seeking His forgiveness. When Prophet Moses turned to Allah after he accidentally killed the Egyptian, Allah did accept his repentance and granted him His forgiveness.

﴿ قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي فَاغْفِرْ لِي فَغَفَرَ لَهُ ۗ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾

[القصص: ١٦]

"He prayed: "O my Lord! I have indeed wronged my soul! Do Thou then forgive me!" So (Allah) forgave him: For He is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (Al-Qasas 28 : 16)

DO GOOD DEEDS

It is not enough to turn to Allah seeking His forgiveness with words alone. We must also confirm our repentance and our sincerity with renewed belief in Allah and in our good deeds. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of belief and good deeds in turning our bad deeds into good.

﴿ إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ﴾ [الفرقان: ٧٠]

"Unless he repents, believes and works righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evil of such persons into good, and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful," (Al-Furqan 25 : 70)

Seeking Allah's forgiveness should be combined with doing good and the willingness to receive divine guidance and obedience to Allah.

﴿ وَإِنِّي لَغَفَّارٌ لِّمَن تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا ثُمَّ اهْتَدَىٰ ﴾ [طه: ٨٢]

"But, without doubt, I am (also) He that forgives again and again, to those who repent, believe, and do right, who, in fine, are ready to receive true guidance" (Ta Ha 20 : 82)

BE HOPEFUL OF GOD'S MERCY FEARFUL OF PUNISHMENT

Man lives by the hope of Allah's mercy and that his sins will be

forgiven, therefore he never despairs. At the same time he is fearful of Allah's wrath if he should disobey his Lord. The Qur'an explains this concept.

﴿ اَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾ [المائدة: ٩٨]

"Know ye that Allah is strict in punishment and that Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (Al-Maeda 5 : 98)

In another verse the two forces that govern our life are explained hoping for God's forgiveness & His mercy, and the fear of His punishment:

﴿ نَبِّئْ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾ [الحجر: ٤٩]

"Tell My servants that I am indeed the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful," (Al-Hijr 15 : 49)

﴿ وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْأَلِيمُ ﴾ [الحجر: ٥٠]

"And that My Penalty will be indeed the most grievous Penalty" (Al-Hijr 15 : 50)

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS INCREASES OUR SUSTENANCE

When we seek Allah's forgiveness and turn to Him admitting our weakness, He promised to forgive us and to send His blessings and give us more of His sustenance:

The Qur'an teaches us on the tongue of Prophet Hud to seek Allah's forgiveness, then He will shower us with rain and give us more:

﴿ وَيَسْقُومِ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا وَيَزِدْكُمْ قُوَّةً إِلَى قُوَّتِكُمْ وَلَا تَتَوَلَّوْا مَجْرِمِينَ ﴾ [هود: ٥٢]

"And O my people! Ask forgiveness of your Lord, and turn to Him

(in repentance): *He will send you the skies pouring abundant rain, and add strength to your strength: so turn ye not back in sin!"*

(Hud 11 : 52)

This concept is illustrated more fully on the tongue of Prophet Noah:

﴿ فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا ﴾ [نوح: ١٠]

"Saying, `Ask forgiveness from your Lord; for He is Oft-Forgiving;"

(Nuh 71 : 10)

﴿ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا ﴾ [نوح: ١١]

"He will send rain to you in abundance;" (Nuh 71 : 11)

﴿ وَيُمْدِدْكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَيَبْنِيَنَّ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا ﴾ [نوح: ١٢]

"Give you increase in wealth and sons; and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers (of flowing water)" (Nuh 71 : 12)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) enumerated the blessings that benefit the person seeking Allah's forgiveness as:

- Allah will get him out of every difficulty.
- Allah will provide relief for all kinds of distress.
- Allah will provide for him in ways he never expected.

In A Hadith related by Ibn Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said,

"Whoever keeps on seeking Allah's forgiveness, Allah will make a way for him out of every difficulty and will find a solution for his distress, and He will provide for him in ways and from sources that he never expected."

Narrated by Abou Dawood, Ahmad and Ibn Majja

FOLLOW PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S EXAMPLE

If we believe in Allah and follow the Sunnah of Allah's Messenger

(PBUH), we are then promised forgiveness for our sins for Allah loves those who obey Him and obey His messenger. The Qur'an states,

﴿ قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٣١]

Say: "If ye do love Allah, follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins; for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful"
(Al-Imran 3 : 31)

The reason that following the Sunnah of the Messenger (PBUH) will bring us closer to Allah is that his Sunnah will guide us to the truth and let us live our life as Allah wants us to do.

SEEK GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR OTHERS

The Qur'an teaches us to seek Allah's forgiveness for ourselves as well as on behalf others, especially our parents and other believers.

﴿ رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ ﴾ [إبراهيم: ٤٠]

"O my Lord! make me one who establishes regular Prayer, and also (raise such) among my offspring O our Lord! And accept Thou my Prayer" (Ibrahim 14 : 40)

﴿ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ ﴾ [إبراهيم: ٤١]

"O our Lord! cover (us) with Thy Forgiveness, me, my parents, and (all) Believers, on the Day that the Reckoning will be established!"
(Ibrahim 14 : 41)

And on the tongue of Prophet Noah, we learn to seek forgiveness on behalf of all believing men and women.

﴿ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَنْ دَخَلَ بَيْتِيَ مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَلَا تَزِدِ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا تَبَارًا ﴾ [نوح: ٢٨]

"O my Lord! Forgive me, my parents, all who enter my house in Faith, and (all) believing men and believing women: and to the wrong-doers grant Thou no increase but in Perdition!"

(Nuh 71 : 28)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also taught us to seek forgiveness on behalf of the dead among the believers. He taught Aesha (May Allah be pleased with her) to say on behalf of the dead when visiting the graves,

"Peace be upon you dwellers of this land from among the believers and among the Muslims; may Allah have mercy on those of us who passed away first and on those who will pass away later on; we will join you as Allah wills."

Narrated by Muslim

ALLAH FORGIVES WHOM HE PLEASES

It is up to Allah to forgive or to punish.

﴿وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ يَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ﴾ [آل عمران: ١٢٩]

"To Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth, He forgives whom He pleases and punishes whom He pleases; but Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (Al-Imran 3 : 129)

Allah bestows His mercy and forgiveness on those who are believers and who are pious.

﴿وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ هُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾ [المائدة: ٩]

"To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness has Allah promised forgiveness and a great reward" (Al-Maeda 5 : 9)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave us a practical example regarding those whom Allah will forgive. They are those who remember Allah, seek His forgiveness and are fearful of His punishment. Abou Horaira (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

“There are those angels of Allah that travel seeking places where people gather to remember Allah. When they find such a place they sit with the people remembering Allah. When the people leave and disperse, the angels ascend to heaven. Allah asks them, and He knows well their affairs, ‘Where did you come from?’ They will say, ‘We came from earth where Your servants were glorifying You saying, ‘There is no god except Allah, praising You and asking You.’ Allah says, ‘What are they asking Me for?’ The angels will say, ‘They are asking Your heaven.’ Allah says, ‘Have they seen My heaven?’ They say, ‘No Lord.’ He says, ‘What if they have seen it?’ The angel will say, ‘And they are seeking Your protection.’ Allah says, ‘What are they seeking My protection from?’ The angels say, ‘From Hell Fire.’ He says, ‘Have they seen My Hell Fire?’ They say, ‘No Lord.’ He says, ‘What if they saw My Hell Fire!’ The angels say, ‘And they are seeking Your forgiveness?’ Allah says, ‘I will forgive them, and will give them what they asked for and will protect them from what they are afraid of.’ The angels will say, ‘There is a person with them, who is a sinner; he only came and sat with them!’ Allah says, ‘I have forgiven him also.’ They are people whose sinner is not sad with them.”

Narrated by Bokhari and Muslim

We learn from this Hadith:

- The importance of glorifying Allah and praising Him
- The value of asking Allah for His Paradise
- The value of seeking Allah’s protection from Hell Fire
- The importance of seeking Allah’s forgiveness for our sins
- The value of sitting and joining those who celebrate the praises of Allah seeking His forgiveness, for their reward, Allah’s mercy encompasses those with them and around them.

In contrast, Allah forgives not those who worship others besides Him for they have strayed far from the straight path.

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا ﴾ [النساء: ١١٦]

"Allah forgives not (the sin of) joining other gods with Him; but He

forgives whom He pleases other sins than this: one who joins other gods with Allah, has strayed far, far away (from the Right)"

(An-Nesa'a 4 : 116)

Providing we repent and mend our wrong ways, there is still hope of Allah's forgiveness. He has promised to forgive even those who worship others besides Him, if they repent and seek His forgiveness.

﴿ لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاثَةٍ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَهٍ إِلَّا إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ وَإِنْ لَمْ يَنْتَهُوا عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَيَمَسَّنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴾ [المائدة: ٧٣]

"They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One God. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them" (Al-Maeda 5 : 73)

﴿ أَفَلَا يَتُوبُونَ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَهُ، وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾ [المائدة: ٧٤]

"Why turn they not to Allah and seek His Forgiveness? For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (Al-Maeda 5 : 74)

SEEKING ALLAH'S FORGIVENESS IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PROPHETS AND THE RIGHTEOUS

The Qur'an orders Allah's Prophet (PBUH) to seek Allah's forgiveness for himself as well as on behalf the believing men and women.

﴿ فَأَعْلَمَ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرَ لِذَنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلَّبَكُمْ وَمَثْوَاكُمْ ﴾ [محمد: ١٩]

"Know, therefore, that there is no god but Allah, and ask forgiveness for the fault, and for the men and women who believe: for Allah knows how ye move about and how ye dwell in your homes"

(Muhammad 47 : 19)

Allah's righteous servants are instructed to seek Allah's forgiveness and to hear the divine message and obey.

﴿ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴾ [البقرة: ٢٨٥]

"And they say: "We hear, and we obey, (we seek) Thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys"

(Al-Baqara 2 : 285)

We learn from the example of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who would seek Allah's forgiveness many times every day of his life. Abou Horaira (May Allah be pleased with him) said,

"I heard the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) say, 'By Allah I seek His forgiveness and I turn to Him in repentance every day more than seventy times.'"

Narrated by Bokhari

TIMES WHEN SEEKING FORGIVENESS ARE APPROPRIATE

Seeking Allah's forgiveness is indicated at all times; however, there are certain times when forgiveness is particularly applicable and these times include the following:

The Last Third of the Night:

During this time we are likely to be alone and more humble fully devoted to Allah, and our prayer is apt to be well received. The Qur'an tells us that seeking Allah's forgiveness at this time is a characteristic of the righteous whose reward is eternal Heaven.

﴿ إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴾ [الذاريات: ١٥]

"As to the Righteous, they will be in the midst of Gardens and Springs," (Adh-Dhariyat 51 : 15)

﴿ ءَاخِذِينَ مِمَّا آتَاهُم رَبُّهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ مُحْسِنِينَ ﴾ [الذاريات: ١٦]

"Taking joy in the things which their Lord gives them, because, before then, they lived a good life" (Adh-Dhariyat 51 : 16)

﴿كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ﴾ [الذاريات: ١٧]

"They were in the habit of sleeping but little by night,"

(Adh-Dhariyat 51 : 17)

﴿وَبِالْأَسْحَارِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ﴾ [الذاريات: ١٨]

"And in the hours of early dawn, they (were found) praying for Forgiveness;" (Adh-Dhariyat 51 : 18)

During Fasting

The fasting person who is sincere and devoted in his service to Allah is likely to have his prayer answered.

After Each Prayer

During prayer we are close to Allah receiving His mercy and guidance. When we seek Allah's forgiveness after we have completed our prayers, it is likely that our Du'aa will be answered.

As we go to bed before we sleep

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us to glorify Allah and to seek His forgiveness before we retire at night. Abou Horaira (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

"When one of you retire to his bed at night, let him clean it with the edge of his nightgown three times, and then say, 'O Allah in Your Name do I put my side down and with You do I get up; if You withhold my soul have mercy on it; and if You let it go safeguard it as You safeguard Your righteous servants.'"

Narrated by Bokhari and Muslim

PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S (PBUH) DUA'A

There are certain Du'aa (prayer to Allah) that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us as Muslims to say on different occasions seeking Allah's forgiveness.

The Best Du'aa seeking Allah's forgiveness is the following:

Shaddad Bin Aws (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

“The best Du'aa of Istighfar is to say, ‘O Allah You are my Lord, there is no god but You; You created me and I am Your servant. I remain loyal and faithful to You as much as I can; I seek protection in You from the evil I have done; I am grateful to You for Your blessings over me and I confess my sins; forgive me for there is no one who can forgive the sins but You.’”

The Prophet (PBUH) said, *“Whoever says this Du'aa during the day with full belief, should he die before the evening, he will enter Paradise. And whoever says this Du'aa at night with full belief and conviction should he die before morning, he will enter Paradise.”*

Narrated by Bokhari

Du'aa on behalf of the dead:

The Prophet (PBUH) taught us to say Du'aa on behalf of our dead seeking Allah's forgiveness for them.

Awf Bin Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) prayed during a funeral and he memorized the following of what he said on behalf of the dead person.

“O Allah forgive him and have mercy on him, make him wholesome and pardon him and let him enter an honorable place, and make his resting place spacious. Wash him with water, snow and cold water, and purify him of his sins as You purify the white cloth of dirt. Replace his home with a better home, and replace his family with a better family and his wife with a better wife. Let him enter Heaven and let him avoid the suffering of the grave (or the suffering of Hell Fire).” Malik said, “I wished I was that dead person.”

Narrated by Muslim

Du'aa before we leave a place we sat in with others:

Sometimes when we are in a gathering, we may err or say something that we should not have said. To atone for our sins and mistakes, the Prophet (PBUH) taught us to say the following Du'aa before we left such a place,

Aesha (May Allah be pleased with her) related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) would say the following Du'aa before he left a gathering in which he sat,

“Purified is Your Name O Allah! and praise is due to You! There is no god but You, I seek Your forgiveness and I turn to You in repentance.”

She asked him, “O Messenger of Allah! Why do you keep saying these words every time you get up?” He said, “Anyone who says these words when he gets up from the place where he sat, Allah will forgive whatever he has done in that gathering.”

Narrated by Hakim

A similar Hadith was related by Abou Dawood and Ibn Hibban on the authority of Abou Horaira.

BENEFITS OF ISTIGHFAR

- Forgiveness of sin.
- Allah loves His servants who keep on seeking His forgiveness.
- Seeking Allah’s forgiveness is a way of obtaining sustenance and blessings.
- Seeking Allah’s forgiveness let us avoid Hell Fire, and allow us to enter Heaven.
- Istighfar allows us to feel the sweet taste of belief and it brings us closer to Allah.
- Istighfar is a characteristic of the prophets and the righteous of Allah’s servants.
- The angels seek Allah’s forgiveness for those who remember Allah often and obey Him and those who study the Qur’an in congregation.
- Allah forgives all the sins except worshipping others besides Him.
- We should seek Allah’s forgiveness for ourselves, as well as for our parents and on behalf of other believers, dead or alive.
- Certain times are suited for Istighfar.