

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِن شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ وَلَئِن كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ

وقال النبي ﷺ : لا يَشْكُرُ اللهَ مَنْ لا يَشْكُرُ الناسَ

Dear Believers,

Today, our khutbah will focus on gratitude. Gratitude is acknowledging the goodness of the giver, showing respect, and being thankful. Its opposite is ingratitude. A person is either among those who are grateful for the countless blessings their Lord has bestowed upon them, or they are ungrateful, discontent with what they have, and covetously desire more, even envying what others possess. A person is in one of these two states.

Allah ﷻ says in the Quran: **"And remember when your Lord proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will certainly give you more. But if you are ungrateful, surely My punishment is severe.'"** (Ibrahim 14:7)

Even while living in an ocean of blessings, a person should not rebel or become ungrateful when faced with difficulties and troubles. Let us not forget that with patience and acceptance, many trials and tribulations can turn into blessings and favors. A person should avoid the habit of being dissatisfied with everything and constantly complaining.

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: **"Whoever eats and gives thanks is like one who fasts and is patient."** (Tirmidhi, Qiyamah 43)

Gratitude is mentioned alongside faith and remembrance in many other verses. Ibn Mas'ud, one of the great Companions, said, **"Gratitude is half of faith."** Therefore, gratitude is a pillar that strengthens faith and a door that opens to remembrance.

Our scholars say that one should constantly give thanks for the blessing of faith. They also remind us that the Quran indicates that gratitude is due for the sending of the Prophet, peace be upon him, as a mercy and guide. For the greatest blessing in this worldly life is faith, and the means to faith is the Prophet, peace be upon him.

My dear brothers,

To persevere in the right path in religion is gratitude. To continue in worship is gratitude. Physical acts of worship are gratitude for the blessing of the body, whether in health or sickness. Giving with one's wealth is gratitude, spending it in a manner pleasing to Allah ﷻ. A servant should strive to give thanks for every blessing, whether apparent or hidden.

We should also look at worldly blessings and the conditions of others and give thanks. In this way, gratitude is also contemplation. It makes the servant aware of his own state, his surroundings, people, and events.

I will conclude my khutbah with the following verse: **"Why should Allah punish you if you are grateful and faithful? Allah is ever Appreciative, All-Knowing."** (Nisa 4:147)