

The Messenger of Allaah (S.A.) replied, 'To give at a time when you are in good health, you have the hope of becoming rich, and at the same time, you fear becoming poor by parting from the wealth. That is the best time. Do not postpone it until the last moment of your life and then say, 'Give so much for so and so, and so much for so and so. Your property has already gone to its heirs'. (Bukhari, Hadith No.1419, Pg.383, Vol.1, Altaf and Sons / Muslim, Hadith No.2382, Pg.416, Darussalam) This Hadiith teaches us that we should not postpone doing good actions as charity etc. Many times it may happen that death comes upon us before we could even give what we wanted to give for the sake of Allaah.

Abuu Sa'i'id (R.A.) states that the Messenger of Allaah (S.A.) said, "Whosoever gives clothes to a naked Muslim, Allaah will give him a green dress to wear in Paradise. And one who gives something to eat to a hungry Muslim, Allaah will feed him with the fruits of Paradise. And one who gives a drink of water to a thirsty Muslim, Allaah will give him a drink of sealed non- alcoholic wine in Paradise." (Abuu Daaud, Hadith No.1682, Pg.248, Vol.1, Maktaba

Rahmania / Tirmidhi, Hadith No.2449, Pg.196, Vol.2, Altaf and Sons)

The Messenger of Allaah (S.A.) also informed us that charity is a means of getting continuous rewards from Allaah. We will be very happy after our death to know that we will continue to receive rewards for certain things which we have done in the world while we were alive. The Prophet of Allaah (S.A.) said, "When a man dies, his actions are cut off from him except three things - continuous charity, beneficial knowledge or a pious child supplicating for him." (Muslim, Hadith No.4223, Pg.716, Darussalam) Continuous charity is a charity given to anything that continues to be useful and beneficial.

Let us therefore take this opportunity to give much charity in this special and blessed month of Ramadhan. For indeed charity given in this month is far more rewarding than charity given in other months. A person asked the Messenger of Allaah, "Which charity is the best." He replied, "Charity given in the month of Ramadhan." (Tirmizi, Hadith No.662, Pg.323, Vol.1, Altaf and Sons

SPENDING IN THE CAUSE OF ALLAAH



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Besides the payment of Zakaah, a believer is encouraged to spend his money and his wealth for the sake of Allaah, for it is through such assistance the propagation of Islaam can continue. It is a great act of 'Ibaadah for which Allaah doubles the rewards, and through which a person achieves much blessings in his wealth. Allaah says in the Holy Quraan, 'Who is it that will lend to Allaah a beautiful loan, so that He (Allaah) may give it increase manifold? (Do not fear poverty) Allaah stretches and enlarges your provisions and to Him you will return.' (Surah Al Baqara: Verse 245) It means, who is there that will give his money or wealth for the sake of Allaah in helping the religion of Allaah. He will increase his wealth for him and put much blessings in it. Further in the verse, Allaah informs us that by giving, we should not fear that our wealth will decrease and we will become poor. This should not come to our minds for it is Allaah who increases our wealth and He decreases it.

Another verse of the Quraan informs us that not spending for the sake of Allaah is in reality bringing destruction to our own souls. Allaah says, 'And spend your

wealth for the cause of Allaah, and make not your hands contribute to your destruction. And do good . Certainly. Allaah loves those who do good'. (Surah Al Baqara: Verse 195)

While explaining this verse some Companions of the Prophet (S.A.) have stated that, "Do not contribute to your own destruction" means giving up charity for fear of becoming poor. Abdullaah bin Abbaas (R.A.) has said, "To get killed in the Path of Allaah is not destroying oneself. In fact, destruction lies in withholding the charity for the sake of Allaah."

In another verse, Allaah encourages us to give now, while we are alive, for indeed there will come a day when we will wish to give large amounts but it will not be accepted from us. He says, 'O you who believe, spend out of that which We have provided for you before the Day comes when there will be no bargaining, nor friendship, nor intercession (without Allaah's permission).' (Surah Al Baqara: Verse 254)

In another verse, Allaah informs us of the great rewards of giving for His sake. He says, "The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allaah

is as the likeness of a grain which grows seven ears, in every ear a hundred grains. Allaah gives manifold increase to whom He wishes." (Surah Al Baqara: Verse 261)

It is therefore quite rewarding to give charity to a Masjid, to the poor and needy, to old people or even for an Islamic school whose main objective is the propagation of the religion of Allaah. We should know that whatever we have given for the cause of Allaah, we will certainly be repaid for it. Allaah says in the Quraan, "All that you give for the cause of Allaah shall be repaid fully to you and you shall not be wronged." (Surah Anfaal: Verse 60)

The Messenger of Allaah (S.A.) has also exhorted us to give freely for the Cause of Allaah. In one Hadiith, he states, "Two angels come down (from the Heavens) every morning . One of them prays, 'O Allaah, grant a return to him who spends', while the other says, 'O Allaah, destroy the wealth of him who withholds it'. (Bukhari, Hadith No.1442, Pg.389, Vol.1, Altaf and Sons / Muslim, Hadith No.2336, Pg.408, Darussalam)

Once someone asked the Messenger of Allaah (S.A) as to what kind of charity was the most virtuous.