

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

Imaam Ibnul Qayyim [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said:

Blessings are three types- **an attained blessing that is known to the person; a blessing he is waiting for and hopes to attain, and a blessing he has, but unaware of it.** If Allaah wants to complete His blessings for a person, He acquaints the person with a blessing that is present and blesses him with the ability to thankful by way of which the blessing is retained, so that it does not depart. That is because blessings depart through sin **(1)** and they are retained through thankfulness (or gratitude). **(2)** Then Allaah blesses him with the deeds by way of which he secures the blessings he was waiting for, help him to overcome obstacles in the path and guide him to avoid them. So, the blessings come to him in the most complete way and Allaah acquaints him with the blessings he has, but was unaware of them.

It has been reported that a bedouin [may Allaah have mercy upon him] once came to Haaron Ar-Rasheed and said to him, **"O chief of the believers! May Allaah secure the blessings in your possession by way of you being constantly thankful, fulfil the blessings you hope for by way you having good thoughts about Allaah and constantly being obedient to Him; and acquaint you with the blessings which you have, but you are unaware of them and thus you are not thankful"**. Haaron [may Allaah have mercy upon him] was amazed with this speech and said, "Excellent indeed is that which he has classified". [An Excerpt from Al-Fawaa'id. page 250. slightly paraphrased]

#### Footnotes:

**(Ref 1)** "Blessings depart because of sin": Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] said: **إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ** - Verily! Allah will not change the good condition of a people as long as they do not change their state of goodness themselves (by committing sins and by being ungrateful and disobedient to Allah)]. [Surah Ar-Ra'd: Verse 11]

Ibnul Jawzee [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said, "Whoever loves that the state of affairs should become rectified, then let him strive in

rectifying his (or her) deeds. Allaah (The Mighty and Majestic) said:

[وَأَنْ لَّوِ اسْتَقَامُوا عَلَى الطَّرِيقَةِ لَأَسْقَيْنَهُمْ مَاءً غَدَقًا] – If they had believed in Allah, and went on the Right Way, We should surely have bestowed on them water (rain) in abundance]. [An Excerpt from Saydul Khaati. p6]

**Question:** What if blessings are increased whilst sins are increasing?  
Allaah [The Exalted] said:

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُمْ مِّنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ  
وَأُمْلِي لَهُمْ إِنَّ كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ

Those who reject Our Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), We shall gradually seize them with punishment in ways they perceive not. And I respite them; certainly My Plan is strong. [Surah Al-A'raaf. Verses 182-183]

[سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُمْ] – We shall gradually seize them with punishment] – Meaning, by granting them plentiful provision and respite until they think that they will neither be taken to task for their disobedience nor punished, so they increase in disbelief and transgression, and evil upon evil. And through this their punishment is increased and multiplied, so they harm themselves in ways they perceive not. This is why Allaah said: [إِنَّ كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ] – certainly My Plan is strong]. [Tafseer As-Sadi]

Imaam Sufyaan Ath-Thawree [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said, "Whenever they commit (major) sins, Allaah bestows a blessing on them and make them forgetful of seeking forgiveness". [Al-Mukhallisaat 2352]

**Ref 2:** "They (i.e. blessings) are retained through thankfulness (or gratitude)": Imaam As-Sadi [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said: Allaah [The Most High] said:

لِتَسْتَوُوا عَلَى ظُهُورِهِ ثُمَّ تَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ رَبِّكُمْ إِذَا اسْتَوَيْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَتَقُولُوا سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ  
وَإِنَّا إِلَيْنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ

In order that you may mount on their backs, and then may remember

the Favour of your Lord when you mount thereon, and say: “Glory to Him Who has subjected this to us, and we could never have it (by our efforts). And verily, to Our Lord we indeed are to return! [Surah Az-Zukhruf. Verses 13-14]

Mentioned in the verses are the three pillars of gratitude, and they are: **(a)** acknowledge Allaah’s blessings, proclaim Allaah’s Blessings, speak about them; **(b)** praise Allah for it, and **(c)** submit to Allah and utilise these blessings to carry out acts of worship for the sake of Allaah (alone). This is because the intent behind the statement of Allah: [وَإِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ] – And verily, to Our Lord we indeed are to return] is an acknowledgement of recompense and to make preparations for it. The objective behind these favours is that they are an aid by way of which the slave seeks to fulfil the commands of Allaah.

And regarding Allaah’s saying: [ثُمَّ تَذَكَّرُوا نِعْمَةَ رَبِّكُمْ إِذَا اسْتَوَيْتُمْ] – And then may remember the favour of your Lord when you mount thereon]; this is a specific mention of the favour in that instance (i.e. at the time in which the person enjoys those favours), because blessings intoxicates many amongst the creation, makes them heedless, evil and ungrateful. Therefore, this state in which Allah commanded (a person to remember Him for His Favours) is a medication for this destructive ailment.

When the servant of Allaah recalls that he is completely surrounded by the blessings of Allah and that nothing is from him;, but rather blessings are (from Allah) -its means are facilitated and its obtainment made easy (by Allaah), he submits to Allah, humbles him, thanks and Praises Allaah. And by way of this, he is given continuous blessings. [An Excerpt from Fataawa Sa’diyyah page: 61. slightly paraphrased]

Ubaidullaah Ibn Mihsan Al-Khatmiy narrated from his father that the Messenger [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] said, "Whoever among you wakes up (in the morning) safe in his property, healthy in his body and has his daily nourishment, it is as if he has been granted the entire world".

Al-Allaamah Zayd Bin Haadi [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said, "This hadeeth shows that those blessed with safety in the lands, physical health, houses to live in and daily nourishment have indeed been blessed with a complete (worldly) blessing. Therefore, it is obligated (on them) to thank Allaah constantly.

This hadeeth shows that what suffice a person's needs are a bounty and a blessing for which he must thank Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic]. A person may strive to gather a lot of wealth, but he was created to worship of Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] in the manner (commanded, legislated etc) by Allaah and His Messenger (i.e. based on what is legislated and commanded in the Qur'aan and authentic Sunnah). If a person does this, then indeed he will achieve and attain success, but if not, he will fail and incur loss. Therefore, is there one who will receive admonition?!

This hadeeth shows that to be blessed with safety in one's religion, honour, wealth and blood is (something very) valuable. These are among those affairs whose establishment- in a society- will bring about a good life and security; but if security is not present, chaos will unravel in the society – the powerful people will overpower the weak and the oppressor will overpower the oppressed, and thus there will be an evil state of affairs and maybe evil consequences. Therefore, any society or land that has been bestowed a ruler amongst the Muslims and granted security in a region under his ruler-ship, then it is obligatory to obey him [i.e. obey the ruler of the land in what is good and not to rebel against him, even if he has shortcomings] and he should be aided by the other lands as much as one is able.

And what is seen as a fact in relation to this (hadeeth) is that whoever is blessed with enough food and drink, a dwelling place, means of transportation, security in his place of residence and good physical health, then it is as if he has been given the entire world. Therefore, he should be thankful to Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] for that until he meets Allaah- [i.e. until death comes to him]. [Source: An Excerpt from 'Awnul Ahadis Samad Sharh Al-

