

## Advice to the one who delays repentance

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** What is your advice to a young bachelor who teaches little boys, towards whom he has inclination to the point that he committed sins because he has friendly relations with them and he delays repentance? And may Allaah reward you.

**Answer:** All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Know that the way to expiate sins is the way of repentance and asking pardon from Allaah عزّ وجلّ. Allaah عزّ وجلّ said:

أَفَلَا يَتُوبُونَ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونََهُ

[So will they not repent to Allaah and seek his forgiveness?]<sup>1</sup>,

and He said also:

وَأَنْ أَسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ

[Seek forgiveness of your Lord and repent to Him]<sup>2</sup>

So the one who wants repentance from his sins has to leave them by heart and limbs, feel regret and decide to not return to such sins. Indeed, pardon necessitates leaving sins and reforming one's self. Allaah عزّ وجلّ said:

فَمَنْ تَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِ ظُلْمِهِ وَأَصْلَحَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَتُوبُ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

[But whoever repents after his wrongdoing and reforms, indeed, Allaah will turn to him in forgiveness. Indeed, Allaah is Forgiving and Merciful]<sup>3</sup>,

and he has also to change the bad work into a good one to make his repentance true. Allaah عزّ وجلّ said:

إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَأُولَئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ۝ ٧٠ وَمَنْ تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَتَابًا

[Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allaah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allaah Forgiving and Merciful]<sup>4</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:74]

<sup>2</sup> Soorah Hood [11:3]

<sup>3</sup> Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:39]

<sup>4</sup> Soorah al-Furqaan [25:70-71]

## Advice to the one who delays repentance

and changing bad deeds is by avoiding sources of trials that lead you to desires and obscenity such as having relations with small children, beardless persons and women, and if he cannot avoid them only through leaving the profession of teaching, he has to leave it because: "**The forbidden which cannot be left only by leaving the whole, leaving it becomes an obligation**".

Repentance is obligatory according to the sound meaning of verses and traditions, and there is no divergence about its obligation according to Allaah saying:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا

[O you who have believed, repent to Allaah with sincere repentance.]<sup>5</sup>,

i.e. free of impurities, and it is obligatory immediately according to Allaah saying:

إِنَّمَا التَّوْبَةُ عَلَى اللَّهِ لِلَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السُّوءَ بِجَهْلَةٍ ثُمَّ يَتُوبُونَ مِنْ قَرِيبٍ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَتُوبُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

[The repentance accepted by Allaah is only for those who do wrong in ignorance (or carelessness) and then repent soon (after). It is those to whom Allaah will turn in forgiveness, and Allaah is ever Knowing and Wise]<sup>6</sup>,

An-Nawawee said: "They agreed that repentance from all sins is obligatory, and it has not to be delayed, either it is a great or a small sin"<sup>7</sup>. After that you have to know that sins lead to ruin and it is necessary to leave them, and the one who does not leave them loses the perfect meaning of faith, according to the hadeeth of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "**The fornicator is not a believer at the moment when he is committing fornication**"<sup>8</sup>. So, you have to follow the path of guidance, and to leave the path of misguidance, and to abide by religious integrity so as to achieve dignity. In addition, you may read the book entitled "Ad-Daa' Wa Ad-Dawaa" written by Ibn Al-Qayyim Al-Jawziyya, you will find in it what helps you to reform yourself, your behaviour and morals; so you will return to truthfulness and you will be aware from trials and desires after repentance, because returning to those sins makes one's religion in danger. The same thing concerning the one who delays repentance, this one is between two great ruins: either darkness covers his heart until it will be fully dark and does not accept to be erased, or death comes quickly, therefore, he will not find time to do good deeds to erase sins and wrong deeds.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ; and our last prayer is all the praises and thanks are to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds, and prayers of Allaah are to Muhammad and his Family, Companions and Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers on: Rabee' Al-Awwal the 21st, 1429 H. Corresponding to: March the 29th, 2008 G.

<sup>5</sup> Soorah at-Tahreem [66:8]

<sup>6</sup> Soorah an-Nisaa' [4:17]

<sup>7</sup> See: "Sharh Muslim" by An-Nawawee (59/17).

<sup>8</sup> Reported by Al-Bukhaaree (2475) and Muslim (57), from hadeeth of Aboo Hurairah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.