

**Last Day 36 – The Shafaa’ah**

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**QUESTION: What is Shafaa’ah (intercession) and what conditions must be met before it occurs?**

**ANSWER:**

The word Shafaa’ah in Islaam means: mediation in answering a need, a mediation between the person who has the need and the person who can answer the need.

In the context of the Day of Judgement, Shafaa’ah refers to someone asking Allaah on behalf of a third party to meet a need at that time of distress and hardship e.g. asking Allaah to take a Muslim out of Hell.

Shafaa’ah (intercession) is something that will occur providing certain conditions are met.

The two conditions are:

1) That the person being interceded for is a person of Tawheed. Hopefully by this stage, we will be aware of the critical importance that Tawheed has in Islam. A proof for its role in being interceded for is the aayah (verse),

**And they cannot intercede except for the person with whom He (Allaah) is pleased.**

[Soorah al Anbeeyah (the 21st chapter) aayah 28]

And Allaah is only pleased with Tawheed for his servants. He is not pleased with the opposite of Tawheed, namely “shirk”, the association of partners with Allaah in worship.

2) That Allaah has given his permission for the intercession to occur.

Amongst the proofs for this is the aayah:

**Who is there who can intercede with Him (Allaah) except with His permission?**

[Soorah al Baqarah (2) aayah 255]

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In fact, both of these conditions are mentioned together in one aayah of the Qur’aan:

**Except after Allah has given permission for whomsoever He wills and with whom He is pleased...**

**[Soorah an Najm (the 53rd chapter) aayah 26]**

There are different types of intercession which we will go on to discuss over the next article or two insha’allah.

However, even at this stage, it is important to note that - with one notable exception which we will mention later - there will be no intercession on behalf of the disbelievers, the non Muslims. This is the meaning of the aayah:

**So the intercession of the people who interceded will not benefit them (the disbelievers).**

**[Soorah al Muddathir (the 74th chapter) aayah 48]**