

# Benefits

## *Riyadh al-Sāliḥīn*

### Chapter: Repentance

1. Repentance is to return from disobeying Allāh to the obedience of Allāh.<sup>1</sup>
2. The servant is in great need of repentance because every person sins, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: “All of the sons of Adam sin, and the best of those who sin are those who repent.”<sup>2</sup>
3. “Repentance is the first, middle and last station. The servant on his journey never forsakes it. Rather, he continually observes it until death.”
4. Conditions for repentance are three, as the author stated, but after consideration [of the texts] they reach five<sup>3</sup>:
  - i. Sincerity
  - ii. Remorse
  - iii. Refrain from the sin [if this involves the right of a human it must be returned]
  - iv. Resolute to never return to it
  - v. Must be at a time when repentance is accepted

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<sup>1</sup> Explanation of Fayṣal b. ‘Abd al-‘Azīz, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Explanation of Shaykh Ibn Bāz (1/57-58). The *Ḥadīth* is found in Tirmidhī (no. 2499) Shaykh Albānī declared it to be sound.

<sup>3</sup> Summarized from the explanation of Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymīn (1/86-92).

- a. That which is relative to each person (i.e. the point when the soul reaches the throat)
- b. That which is general (i.e. when the sun rises from the West)

5. Imām Sa‘dī said, explaining Surah al-Nur: 31:

“After Allāh, the Most High, commanded with these excellent commands and instructed with these exemplary admonitions, and the fact that the believer will fall short in this regard, He commanded with repentance...

This shows that every believer is in need of repentance because Allāh addressed all of them.

It also comprises of an encouragement to be sincere when repenting, which is found in His Saying: “Repent to Allāh,” meaning not for another reason other than seeking His Face like trying to avert the harms of this world, showing off, seeking fame or any other corrupt intention.”

6. ‘Allāmah al-Shanqīṭī said:

“This verse proves that seeking forgiveness and repenting to Allāh from sin is a reason for Allāh to grant the one who does this good enjoyment until an appointed time. The apparent meaning of “good enjoyment” [in this verse] is sufficient sustenance, an easy life and wellbeing.”

7. ‘Allāmah al-Shanqīṭī said:

“A sincere repentance is a true repentance, which basically fulfils the three conditions in the correct manner. Therefore, he abandons the sin, if he is committing it, he is remorseful due to him opposing the command of his Lord, and he has a firm intention to never revert to disobeying Allāh.”

Compiled by Hassan Somali  
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