

## Repentance for the person with a terminal illness

Explained by Shaykh Uthaymeen

**Question:** Noble Shaykh, is there any repentance for the person with a terminal illness?

**Shaykh Uthaymeen:** He asks is there any repentance for the person with a terminal illness, meaning is there repentance for the person who has given up hope of living? The answer is yes. Repentance from the person who has lost hope of living is correct. This is case whether the person has lost hope of living due to a terminal illness such as cancer for example or in the case of the person who is going to be executed. For example a man who is brought forward for execution; even if the sword is at his head. Or in the case of the previously married person who committed adultery and deserves to be stoned to death, even if the stone have been collected already to stone him with. Surely his repentance is correct. This is because Allah the Exalted accepts the repentance of the person before his soul reaches his throat with the death rattle. The Exalted said:

﴿۱۷﴾ إِنَّمَا التَّوْبَةُ عَلَى اللَّهِ لِلَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السُّوءَ بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ يَتُوبُونَ مِنْ قَرِيبٍ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَتُوبُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

Allah accepts only the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and foolishness and repent soon afterwards; it is they to whom Allah will forgive and Allah is Ever All-Knower, All-Wise. (Soorah An-Nisā' 4:17)

The meaning of: “repent soon afterwards” means they repent before death. This is based on the statement of Allah the Exalted after this verse:

﴿۱۸﴾ وَلَيْسَتِ التَّوْبَةُ لِلَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا حَضَرَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ إِنِّي تُبْتُ الْآنَ

And of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil deeds until death faces one of them and he says: "Now I repent." (Soorah An-Nisā' 4:18)

But it is imperative that repentance meets five conditions: Sincerity, regret for the sin, immediately stopping the sin, a strong resolve to not return to the sin in the future, and to repent during the time when repentance is accepted; meaning he repents before death and before the sun rises from the West.