

## The meaning of 'If I knew Allah had accepted one prostration from me'

Explained by ibn al Qayyim

Ibn Umar and other companions may Allah be pleased with them said: "If I knew that Allah had accepted from me just one prostration there would be no unknown anticipated event more beloved to me than death".

They were referring to the special type of acceptance when Allah is pleased with the action and the doer of the action. As for the acceptance of good deeds in which the doer of the action receives reward this is obtained by most of the people who perform good deeds.

Acceptance is of three types:

1. Acceptance when Allah is pleased with the action and loves it and He praises the doer of the action in the presence of the Angels near to Him. The people from the first category will be rewarded with Allah's pleasure. He is pleased with the action and the doer of the action. They will be brought close to Him, given the highest level and position. They will be given their reward without reckoning. (This is the acceptance the companions were referring to)
2. The second type of acceptance is those who will be rewarded for their actions. The people from the second category shall be reward with created things such as castles, food, drink and other enjoyments in paradise. But they are less than those from the first category.
3. The third type is acceptance that removes punishment although it does not result in any reward, such as the person who prays with an inattentive heart. He will not have any reward for his prayer except for the part he was attentive in. By praying he fulfils his obligation but he will not be rewarded for it. This is like the individual who goes to the fortune teller. The texts states their prayer will not be accepted but despite this they are not commanded to repeat it. This is because their prayer not being accepted means they will not be rewarded for it; while it does not pertain to their fulfilling the obligation of praying.

من كتاب (المنار المنيف) للإمام ابن القيم

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