

### Asking Allah (SWT) for Forgiveness / Istikhfar (6/10/11)

"Tawbah" means repentance. A person repents after knowingly committing a sin. It has certain conditions.

"Istighfâr", by contrast, is simply the act of asking Allah for forgiveness. It can be said at any time and it does not have to be said only after knowingly committing a sin.

"And ask forgiveness of Allah; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful **(4:106)**

And whoever does evil or acts unjustly to his soul, then ask forgiveness of Allah, he shall find Allah Forgiving, Merciful. **(4:110)**

Allah does not forgive that anything should be associated with Him, but He forgives anything, else to whom He pleases; (4:48)

One of the Beautiful Names of Allah (SWT) is Al Ghafoor (The Most Forgiving, The Continuously Forgiving)

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "I seek forgiveness one hundred times in a day."

Ibn `Umar (RA) said: We counted the Messenger's saying a hundred times during one single sitting

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) saying, "Allah, the Exalted, has said: `O son of Adam! I shall go on forgiving you so long as you call upon Me and seek My forgiveness whatever may be your sins. O son of Adam! I do not care even if your sins should pile up to the sky and should you beg pardon of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam! If you come to Me with sins that can fill the earth and meet Me, not associating anything with Me in worship, I will certainly grant you as much pardon as will fill the earth."

A Bedouin came to the Prophet (pbuh) and asked him: If I commit a sin would it be recorded? He said: Yes, it will be recorded. He said: What if I repent? He said: it will be erased. He said: What if I go back? He said: it will be recorded. He said: What if I repent? He said: it will be erased. He said: What if I go back? He said: it will be recorded. Said: What if I repent? He said: it will be erased. The Bedouin said: when will Allah stop forgiving?

The Prophet said: God does not get tired of forgiveness until you get tired of asking for forgiveness "

When we commit a sin, according to Quran and hadith, four witnesses are established against us and will testify against us on the Day of Judgement:

- a) The place where we did the crime (i.e., scene of the murder).
- b) The organ we used to commit the crime.
- c) The Angels who record the deeds
- d) The record ( the book that all our deeds are written in)

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "When Allah accepts repentance and forgives His servant, then recording angels their records are erased, organs lose their memories, and earth removes its stains of evidence so that when that person appears before Allah, there is no one to be a witness against him.

If Allah (SWT) forgives our sin, He removes all the witnesses against us, so that we present ourselves with a clean record. The case disappears due to lack of witnesses. The only ones who know about it is Allah (SWT) and you.

Then I said, Ask forgiveness of your Lord, surely He is the most Forgiving:  
He will send rain to you in abundance;  
'And give you increase in wealth and children, and make for you gardens,  
and make for you rivers. (71:10-12)

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "If anyone constantly seeks forgiveness (from Allah), Allah will appoint for him a way out of every distress and a relief from every anxiety, and will provide sustenance for him from where he expects not."

The story of Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal and the baker.