

Hope in Allah when the heart feels far away

Hope is not pretending that sin or pain is small. It is knowing that Allah's mercy is greater and allowing that knowledge to bring us home.

CENTREPIECE Surah az-Zumar 39:53, Sahih al-Bukhari 7405

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The verse addresses people who have wronged themselves

Allah tells His servants who have exceeded the limits against themselves not to lose hope in His mercy (az-Zumar 39:53). The invitation is not reserved for people with a tidy past. It reaches the person who believes they have gone too far.

Source: Quran 39:53

2. Good hope should move the feet

Allah says in a hadith qudsi, 'I am as My servant thinks of Me' (Bukhari 7405). Good expectation is not permission to remain unchanged. It gives a person courage to repent, ask, repair and begin again.

Source: Bukhari 7405

3. Despair speaks with false certainty

Despair claims to know that forgiveness will not come, a dua will never be answered or a heart cannot change. A believer does not claim knowledge of the unseen against Allah's promise. We admit the darkness without declaring it permanent.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Balance hope with honesty. The hopeful person does not make peace with wrongdoing. They believe repentance is worth attempting because the One receiving it is more merciful than they imagined.

Suggested closing: O Allah, do not let us despair of Your mercy. Forgive what we have hidden and what we have shown, and make our hope in You a reason to return with sincere deeds.

ONE ACTION FOR THIS WEEK

Return to one act of worship or one act of repair that you abandoned because you felt unworthy of beginning again.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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