

Tawbah, the open door

Every human sins. The difference between the believer and the lost is what they do next. The four conditions of accepted tawbah.

CENTREPIECE Surah an-Nur 24:31, Surah Hud 11:3

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Sin is universal; tawbah is the differentiator

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: all the children of Adam are sinners, and the best of sinners are those who repent (Tirmidhi 2499). Sin does not disqualify; refusing to return does.

2. The four conditions

Stop the sin immediately. Feel sincere regret over having done it. Resolve never to return to it. If it involved another person's right, return the right or seek their pardon. These are the conditions the scholars derive from the Quran's pattern of tawbah verses.

3. The door open until the soul reaches the throat

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: Allah accepts the repentance of His servant until the soul reaches the throat (Tirmidhi 3537). As long as breath remains, the door is open. The hadith was meant to remove the despair that traps people in sin.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to tawbah, the open door.

Suggested closing: Astaghfirullah al-Adheem wa atubu ilayh. Mean it before you say it. Then say it many times this week.

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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