

Barakātud Du'ā: Blessings of Prayer

June 2022

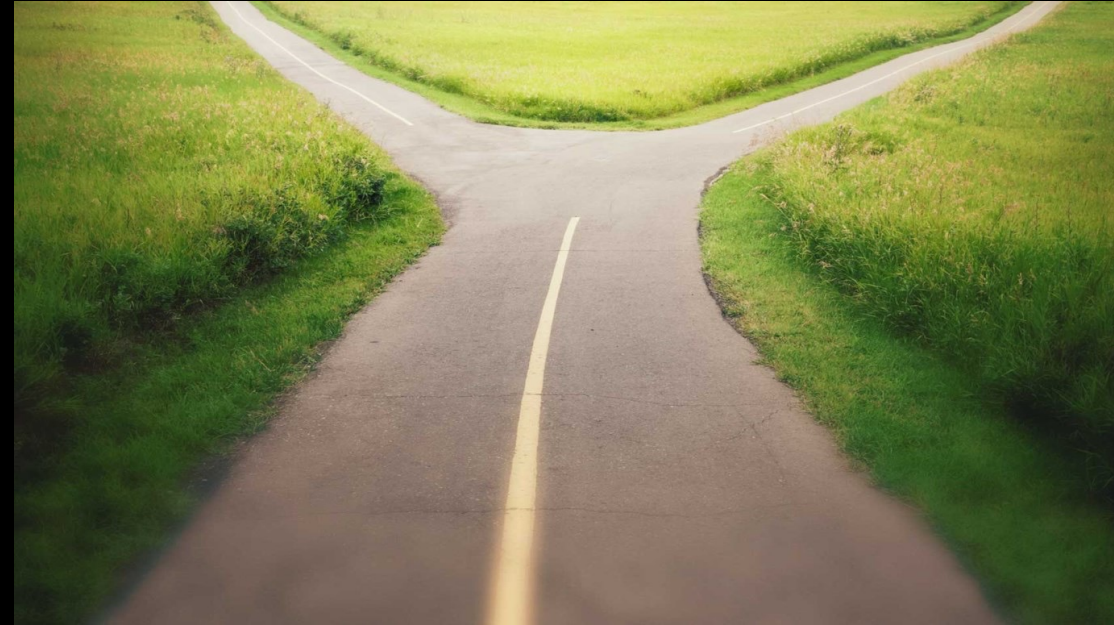


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Discussion

- Is everything pre-destined in the world or do we have choices that influence what is destined for us?
- How can our prayers change the course of our life?
- Share a time where your prayers were accepted.



Demystifying Destiny



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkDvzgMLpHM>

Play from 0:04 to 5:22 minute mark



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What is Prayer?

- The Promised Messiah (as) states, “Prayer, in essence, means a relationship of mutual attraction between a righteous person and his Lord. This means that God’s grace first draws a person towards Himself, and then, through the magnetism of the person’s sincerity, God draws closer to him. In the state of prayer this relationship reaches a point where it manifests wonderful qualities.”
- He continues, “It is then that the Glorious God attends to the fulfilment of the desired objective, and casts the effect of the prayer on all the preliminary means, which, in turn, produce the means that are essential for the achievement of the objective.”



How Miracles Occur Through Prayer

“That is to say, under Divine command, prayer influences the lower and higher strata of the world and sways the elements, heavenly bodies, and hearts of men towards the desired objective. There is no shortage of such examples in Divine scriptures. In fact, some kinds of miracles are also the result of the acceptance of prayer. Prayer is the source of the thousands of miracles shown by Prophets as well as the marvels that have been displayed by the saints to this day. And, more often than not, it is through prayers that the supernatural signs of Divine Omnipotence are manifested.”



Example of Miracles During the Time of the Holy Prophet (saw)

The Promised Messiah (as) states, “Have you any notion what was the strange event that occurred in the wasteland of Arabia when hundreds of thousands of the dead were revived within a few days, and those who had been misguided through generations exhibited Divine complexion, and those who were blind began to see, and those who had been dumb began to utter words of Divine wisdom, and the world underwent a revolution which no eye had seen before and no ear had heard of. Do you know how all this came about? **It was the supplications during dark nights of one who had lost himself in God which caused a revolution in the world, and showed such wonders as could never have been expected from that Unlettered and Helpless one [the Holy Prophet (saw)].**”

From *Blessings of Prayer* book by the
Promised Messiah (as)



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Why are Some Prayers not Accepted?

بَلْ إِيَّاهُ تَدْعُونَ فَيَكْشِفُ مَا تَدْعُونَ إِلَيْهِ إِنْ شَاءَ وَتَنْسَوْنَ مَا تُشْرِكُونَ

“Nay, but on Him alone will you call; then will He remove that which you call on Him to remove, if He please, and you will forget what you associate with him” -Chapter 6, verse 42

- The Promised Messiah (as) states, “One should also remember that humility and anguish alone is not enough for prayer to be accepted, for **it also requires righteousness, purity, truthfulness, perfect certainty, perfect love and perfect attention.** Moreover, it is also essential that the object prayed for should not be opposed to the Divine scheme of things and should not be against the welfare of the suppliant, or the one on whose behalf he prays, both in this world and the hereafter.”
- “For example, if a dear child of a mother should cry and beg her to hand it a burning brand or a snake, or to feed it a poison which seems agreeable, the mother would never fulfil such a wish. Were she to do so, and even if the child were to escape with its life and were to lose one of its limbs, it would certainly grow up with a strong grievance against the foolish mother.”



Prayer is NOT a Vain Thing

The Promised Messiah (as) states, “Think and reflect carefully, if prayer is indeed a vain thing and cannot be a means for the removal of any calamity in present life, then how will it become the means for doing the same on the Day of Resurrection? **It is only too clear that if our prayers truly possess the quality of safeguarding us against calamities, then this quality should manifest itself in this world also, so that our faith and our hope may be strengthened and we may pray even more earnestly for our salvation in the hereafter.** But if prayer amounts to nothing and that which has been predestined is bound to happen, then just as prayer is useless for the tribulations of this world [...] it should also be useless to pin any hopes on it in the hereafter.”



Message by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) to The God Summit 2022



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn3KOSSD55E>

Play from 0:42 to 2:47 minute mark



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For More Insight...

- Please read *Blessings of Prayer* by the Promised Messiah (as)
- Watch some clips from The God Summit 2022 on YouTube

