

NAMES OF ALLAH FOR KIDS

Ash Shakoor

THE MOST APPRECIATIVE

That He may give them in full their rewards and increase for them of His bounty. Indeed, He is Forgiving and Appreciative.
[Surah Fatir, 35:30]

One of Allah's Names is Ash-Shakoor, The One Who Appreciates. He appreciates even the few good deeds His servants do, doubling His rewards for them.

We do not do a favour on Him by doing good for which He should thank us because He was the One Who enabled us to do the good deeds in the first place. He planted in our hearts the desire to do them, and then He provided for us all the means to do and complete the deed. Allah's gratitude means that He is capable of rewarding the doers of good, that He does not allow our deeds to be wasted or unrewarded.

He rewards us even for small acts of obedience to Him with an abundance of His favours.

Allah's Messenger (sal-Allahu alayhi wa sallam) said, "Allah says, 'If My slave intends to do a bad deed then (O Angels) do not write it unless he does it; if he does it, then write it as it is, but if he refrains from doing it for My Sake, then write it as a good deed (in his account). (On the other hand) if he intends to do a good deed, but does not do it, then write a good deed (in his account), and if he does it, then write it for him (in his account) as ten good deeds up to seven hundred times.' " (Bukharee)

When we do a good deed we must give thanks to Him for guiding and helping us to this good deed. How can someone who knows that all the goodness is from Allah feel proud of himself for doing good? A sincere and true slave of Allah therefore thanks Allah at the end of every good deed. We should also realise that our thanking Him is in fact also another blessing from Allah.

The people of Paradise will praise and thank Allah once they enter Paradise and will say, "Verily our Lord is Oft-Forgiving, Most Appreciative (Ash-Shakoor)" because He will accept from them their good deeds and will multiply the reward for them. He will give them from His favours that which their deeds do not deserve. He grants for a few days' struggle and worship in this life an eternal bliss in the Paradise.

Our good deeds are never perfect, our Salah is never perfect, we can never worship Allah the way He deserves. Yet, Allah Ash-Shakoor overlooks our imperfection and shortcomings, accepts our deeds and rewards us abundantly. He will give His slaves what they could not even wish for, that which is better than their imagination.

THANK ALLAH ASH-SHAKOOR

“And [remember] when your Lord said, 'If you give thanks, I will give you more; but if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe.' ”
(Surah Ibraheem, 14:7)

Allah subhanu wa ta'ala wants us to be His grateful and thankful slaves. The reward for being grateful to Allah is that He will give us even more blessings from Him! How appreciative is Allah! There is no one more appreciative than Him.

At the same time we should also remember that being ungrateful to Allah makes us deserving of His punishment. How can one not be grateful to Allah Who has blessed us with so much and has arranged the entire world to serve us? The sun, the stars, the moon, the night, the day, the wind, the rain, the trees, and everything else has been created to serve us in this life. He has given us family for love and care, home to rest, food to eat, water to drink, eyes to see, and so much more! How would we do without any one of these even for one day?

HOW DO WE SHOW GRATITUDE TO HIM?

We must show gratitude to Allah with our tongue, heart and limbs. Our tongue should say Alhamdulillah and glorify Him, we should avoid complaining too much or all the time over little things. Our heart should feel thankful too when we say it with our tongues. Our limbs should show gratitude to Allah by using His blessings in that which is pleasing to Him and not using them to disobey Him.

For example, we must use our eyes in reading and watching good things. We must use our tongues in speaking good and avoiding prohibited things like lying or backbiting or insulting others. We must use our ears for good purposes such as listening to beneficial things, Quran, Islamic lessons and we must protect it from hearing forbidden speech and music.

BE THANKFUL TO PEOPLE

The Prophet (sal-Allahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “He who does not thank the people is not thankful to Allah.
(Abu Dawood)

Thanking people is easier than thanking Allah, because one is able to see people and their actions. If one is not thankful to people then it will be harder to thank Allah Who is unseen.

We also learn from this hadith that part of showing thankfulness to Allah is being thankful to people when they do good to you. And the one who is most deserving of your thanks in this world is your mother and your father. We should make sure that we appreciate our parents and thank them often for everything they do for us, as well as complain less.

UNCOUNTABLE BLESSINGS

Allah's blessings and favours are so many that we will never be able to count them let alone give proper thanks for them. Allah says, "Even if you wanted to count up all of Allah's blessings, you would not be able to. Allah is All-forgiving and All-merciful." (Surah An-Nahl, 16:18)

Allah Ash-Shakoor is pleased with us even if we give thanks for just few of His blessings as we are incapable of giving thanks for all of His blessings.

SEEK APPRECIATION FROM ALLAH ALONE

We should do good deeds only for Allah seeking His appreciation and not people's, because no one can reward us like Allah Ash-Shakoor. People may praise us or thank us when we do good but they are too poor to reward us. It is only Allah Ash Shakoor and The Generous Who is capable of rewarding us in a way that will fill our hearts with happiness and pleasure forever.

Our parents and teachers may give us a treat or a gift to motivate us to pray or memorise Quran or to do other good acts, however we should remember that the best reward is with Allah and we should hope and wait for it.

Allah says, "No soul knows what joy is kept hidden in store for them as a reward for what they have done." (As-Sajda, 32:17)

I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

Everyday write one thing you are grateful to Allah for.



