

Du'a the Weapon of the Believer
Sh. Yasir Qadhi
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- Summary of the book titled Du'a the Weapon of the Believer by Shaykh Yasir Qadhi, the lecture will not include details or evidences because it is only a summary.
- This summary will include:
 - The meaning of du'a
 - Types of du'a
 - Blessings, excellence, benefits and status of du'a
 - Pre-conditions of du'a (what we need to have in our life before we make du'a)
 - Etiquettes and acts of du'a while making du'a
 - Discouraged acts and recommended timings of du'a, conditions and specific timings where du'a is more likely to be accepted.
 - Factors that increase or decrease the likelihood of du'a being accepted
 - Wisdom of delayed du'a.
 - If time allows du'a and destiny will be discussed.

1.) What is Du'a?

- Du'a is a noble spiritual form of worship in which a person calls out to his creator.
- Asking Allah for everything; asks for the good of this world and to be saved from the evils of the hereafter.
- Linguistically: du'a means to call out, to request, and to implore, to seek aid.
- In the Sha'riah - to ask Allah of something that is of benefit to the person, and to ask some evil to be removed, or to prevent some evil from coming to him
- Du'a in it self is a type of worship ...the essence of worship
- Allah says in the Quran Make du'a to me and I will respond to you.
- Then He says those who are too arrogant to make du'a are not worshipping Him.
- To not make du'a is to leave worship meaning your not worshipping Allah
- The Prophet (PBUH) said Du'a IS worship. Meaning this is the essence of worship.
- Weak narration: Du'a is the brain of worship.
- Reason: in making du'a you are acknowledging Allah and your own status, that you are incapable of doing anything without His help, that Allah only hears you and cares about you, only Allah has the power, the names and attributes to respond to you. It places you in your proper level (inferior) and Allah in His proper level (superior).

- Du'a is related to Monothiesm (Tawheed alUloohiya, alRuboobiya, alAsma wa Sifat) and automatically affirms all of them. A proof of Allah's existence is du'a: every single man no matter what religion he follows will call out to God in which ever name they use at the time where all other types of aids are cut off.
- Allah will answer prayers even if you don't use his name, which is why the disbeliever's du'a is accepted.
- Du'a affirms alAsma wa Sifat by simply saying Oh God because he is all knowing, all hearing, all power and etc. Once you realize that He is the one you make du'a to necessitates his worship alone.
- The essence of Shirk: calling to other than Allah which is rampant with even many Muslims. Allah says that anything that you call on to can not hear you, even if they can hear you they can not help you.
- The greatest sin is Shirk. Calling to awliya and grave worship is a manifestation of Shirk that has no basis in Islam. It is idolatry and paganism. It also negates the kalimah (the word): Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah.

2.) Types of Du'a

- The word du'a is literally used in the Quran more than a thousand times and it has two types which are important to know.
- Du'a of asking (masala) asking Allah for something we want.
- Du'a of worship (al ibada) act of worship such as salat, thikr, reading of Quran
- Du'a of as ala and du'a of Ibada and linked together and necessitate each other.

We praise Allah which is why only He is worthy of asking. And if we are only asking Allah then we also must praise only Him.

- Some people only do du'a al ibada, some only do du'a al mas-ala only, others reject both and the other category does both of them.
- Atheists reject both except for serious situations.
- They do du'a al ibada by worshiping Allah but they will never ask Allah. Like the Christians, they worship Allah but they ask Jesus. Extreme Sufi groups they never ask Allah, they only ask awliya and the prophet and so on. But they pray to Allah.
- Those who practice du'a almasala but not du'a al ibada. Unfortunately many Muslims fall under this by never praying, never fasting and never worshiping Allah properly, but when something happens to them they ask Allah. Another example is Iblees (la'natu Allahi alayh), when Allah told him to do sajdah to Adam he refused out of arrogance. At the same time he asked Allah to grant him a life till the Day of Judgment.
- Proper category is combination of worshiping Allah and asking Allah.

3) Status and Blessings of du'a:

- Most noble act in the sight of Allah. Prophet said: nothing is more noble in the sight of Allah than du'a. Because it confines man in his proper place and it attributes to God what he deserves to be attributed.

- Best act of worship. Prophet said: the best ibada is du'a. Our salat contains many types of du'a. Surat alFatiha is full of du'a.
- Allah commanded us to make du'a. Allah says: "Your lord has said make du'a to me I will respond to you."
- The one who makes du'a Allah comes close to him. When my servant asks about me, tell them I am very close to me, I will respond to the du'a of the one who makes du'a once he makes du'a. Allah loves him and comes close to him.
- Allah cares about us, and loves because of du'a. When we leave it, he does not care about us. Allah says: "tell them (O Muhammad) the only reason my lord cares about is because of your du'a." You only have a status if you worship Allah and make du'a to him.
- Du'a is a sign of Allah's generosity. Allah says: "every single creature in the heavens and the earth asks him."
- Du'a is one of the signs of a person's humility and humbleness. Allah says: "those who leave du'a are arrogant." Shaykh Al-Shawkani says: "to leave du'a is a sign of madness." The Prophet said "the one who leaves du'a Allah gets angry at him." Because this shows you are not thinking of Allah and that you are arrogant. Humans get angry when they are asked, and Allah gets angry when you stop asking him. The more you ask Allah the more he gives you.
- Du'a saves you from the fire of hell. Ayesha said: there used to be a man in the times of Jahiliya by the name of Ibn Jad'an, a famous arab that was very generous and extremely hospitable to caravans. Ayesha asked if his actions would benefit him in the hereafter. The Prophet said "no, he never in his life asked Allah for forgiveness." Your actions towards other people are meaningless if you do not acknowledge Allah and worship him. This also applies to all non-Muslims. What greater injustice can be when you disobey and reject your creator?
- Du'a is only act that can change predestination (qadar). The Prophet said "nothing can repeal, change qadar except for qadar.". Also said "caution will not be of any benefit against qadar, but du'a benefits matters that have occurred and that will occur."
- Every single du'a will be responded to by Allah no matter what you ask, whenever you ask and however you ask; Allah will respond. But it might not be the way you wanted it. The Prophet said "there is no person that asks Allah for anything except that Allah gives it to him or keeps some evil away from him." For example: suppose you asked for a job you wanted, even though you might not get the job some evil that was supposed to happen to him will be removed from him because of du'a. When the Sahaba heard this they said they will make plenty of du'a since Allah will respond to everything. The prophet said "Allah is more than that." No matter how much and what you ask, Allah can give you more than that. Prophet said, Allah said "O my servants if all of you were to stand in front of me, and all of you were to ask what your hearts desire, and I were to grant all of your request then that will

not diminish my kingdom except like a needle when dipped in the ocean and taken out diminishes the water from the ocean.”

- Du'a is the weapon of the weak and the oppressed. When all other hopes of victory are cut off and no other defensive mechanism is there du'a will help you. Example of Prophets, Nuh and his arrogant people, Ibrahim and the fire, Musa and the Nile, Yunus and the Whale. This is the power of du'a, when there is no hope, there is always du'a. We can always use it against our enemy, whether it is ourselves or the shaytan or another physical enemy. Du'a is the strongest weapon.
- Opens up a relationship with Allah. Communication and dialogue with Allah. The more we make du'a to Allah, the stronger the relationship becomes. So much so that a person will develop a special relationship with Allah where he will enjoy the du'a more than the response and acceptance of du'a. Your iman goes to new heights where you prefer your du'a is not accepted so that you continue this relationship with Allah.
- One would think because of all of those blessings du'a is a very difficult act. Yes du'a is the easiest act. There are no physical requirements or spiritual requirements. You do not even have to verbalize it; you can make it in your heart.

4) Preconditions of Du'a:


- What factors must be present before you make the du'a
- Etiquettes while making du'a
- What you should not do during du'a
- Ibn Al Qayyim rahimu Allah said: “Du'a is like a weapon from Allah. But the sharpness of a weapon is not sufficient for it to cause effect. For the person that handles the weapon also plays a role. So whenever the weapon is a perfect one having no flaw, no mark on it, and the full arm is strong, and there are no barriers, enemy not wearing any protective armor, then the weapon will cause an effect on the enemy. But if any of these three factors are missing, then the effect will also be absent. So if the du'a in of itself is not correct, or the person making du'a has not combined between his heart and tongue, or if there is a preventing factor, then the desired effect will not occur.”

5) Conditions:

- Tawheed. Perfect knowledge and yaqeen (certainty) that only Allah responds to du'a.
- Since only Allah can answer the du'a, be sincere to Him alone when making the du'a.
- Realize we must be persistent and patient. If you are impatient, Allah will not respond to du'a.
 1. It is not haram to ask for a du'a to be accepted quickly and immediately.
- Must ask for halaal things. Haram and kufr to make du'a for something that is haram. Ex. to commit zina.

- Intention of asking must also be halal.
- Have an attentive heart and soul, to pay attention to du'a, thinking about what you are asking and sincerely want it.
- Al Hafith Annawawi said: "purpose of du'a is to have an attentive heart towards Allah."
- Ones earnings must be halal. Eat, drink, and earn halal.
- Prayer upon the messenger is highly recommended.
- Du'a must not interfere with something more important than it.

6) Etiquettes of Du'a:

- What should be done during du'a:
 1. Praise and glorify Allah. Ex. Alhamdulillah, Subhanna Allah, salat on the Muhammad salla Allahu alayhi wassalam.
 - a. Using Allah's names and attributes is one of the best ways to call out to Allah. Known as tawassul.
 2. Raising your hands up to Allah. 
 - a. In extreme and desperate moments you can put your hands as high as you can.
 - b. Not allowed to raise hands during Friday khutba.
 - c. Do not raise hands for general du'as that are made day and night.
 3. Facing the Qiblat.
 4. Making wuduu before the du'a is made.
 5. To cry. Shows sincerity and humbleness.
 6. Expect Allah's acceptance for the du'a and be certain of it. Be sure in your heart that Allah will respond to you.
 7. Have fear, humility, and humbleness while making the du'a.
 8. Seek sympathy only from Allah as it is the perfection of Iman.
 9. Pray quietly and secretly. Shaykh Ibn Tayyminyah extracted the following benefits for doing it quietly:
 - a. It is a sign of Iman in Allah.
 - b. Sign of respect and adab (manners).
 - c. Achieve humility.
 - d. Achieve sincerity.
 - e. Allows you to concentrate on content of du'a.
 - f. Shows closeness to Allah.
 - g. Allows you to make it for a longer period of time.
 - h. Causes less distraction for others around you.
 - i. Prevents others from envying your du'a.
 10. Acknowledge ones sins.

- a. Do not put conditions if it is akhira and worship matters. Ex. O' Allah forgive me if you wish. Okey to say 'O Allah give me this job if it is good for me.
 - 11. Start du'a for one's self before others.
 - 12. Say Ameen (O Allah respond to the prayer).
 - 13. Continually make du'a to Allah even at times of ease.
 - 14. Make du'a for all matters.
 - 15. Make du'a at times where it is more likely to get accepted.
- What we should not do during du'a
 1. Make du'a to other than Allah.
 2. Do not ask for haram things.
 3. Do not make it rhyming, long, and poetic because it goes against the humility you should have during du'a.
 4. Transgression.
 - a. Asking for haram things.
 - b. Asking for something unnecessary.
 - c. Asking for dunya only.
 5. Improperly using the names of Allah. Ex. when asking for forgiveness, you do not call Allah by saying ya shaded al iqab.
 6. Make du'a against yourself and your family.
 7. Do not curse. (Prophet asked forgiveness and guidance for his enemies.)
 8. Do not ask for death.
 9. Do not look up during Salat.
 10. Do not experiment.
 11. Do not say Allah give me only this.
 12. Do not rely on others to make du'a for you.
 13. To cry in front of other people. It is okay for it to happen sometimes, but do not make it a habit.
 14. Making long du'a when you are an imam.

7) Recommended timings for du'a:

- Last third of the night. Allah comes down to the lowest heaven and says:
 1. Whose du'a can I respond to.
 2. Who is making du'a so that I can give.
 3. Who's asking for forgiveness that I may forgive.
- Du'a during an athan.
- Du'a when facing the army.
- Between the athan and iqama.
- During salat:
 1. After the takbeer before the Fatiha.
 2. After standing up from ruku'.
 3. In the sajda.

4. Before the tasleem.

- During the Sajda. (Allah understands all languages so you can make it in any language.)
- At the end of Salat after the tashahud before the tasleem.
- After the tasleem.
- An hour on Friday before sunset.
- After performing wudu'.
- Before drinking the water of Zamzam.
- Month of Ramadan and especially Laylat al-Qadr.
- All the occasions of Hajj.
- Du'a of the day of Arafat at Arafat.
- Du'a when rain falls.

8) Conditions during which du'a is responded:

- In severe circumstances whose hope has been cut off.
- When other people have wronged you.
- Du'a against someone that deceived you or lied about you.
- Du'a of the traveler.
- Du'a of the parent.
- Du'a of the son/daughter who prays for their parents.
- Du'a of the one who is fasting.
- Du'a of the one who is about to break his fast.
- After reciting the Qur'an.
- When traveling to hajj, umra, jihad.
- Du'a for a Muslim who is not with you.
- The one who constantly remembers Allah gets his answered more.

9) Factors that help a du'a to be answered:

- Sincerity.
- Expecting the best and Allah's acceptance.
- Increase your good deeds.
- Fulfilling the rights of the parents.
- Repent from the previous sins.
- Make du'a at times and places of response. Most beloved places to Allah are the masjids, and the most hated are the markets.

10) Factors that prevent a du'a from being responded to:

- Praying to other than Allah.
- Making du'a while your sustenance is haram.
- Sins.
- Leave advising one another. Enjoining what is right and forbidding what is evil.
- Being hasty, giving up and not being patient after several du'as to Allah.

11) Wisdom behind delayed response:

- Du'a is never unanswered but it might be different than how you expected it. Ex. Allah will protect you from an evil that might befall you.
- Pure iman that Allah is the King and He has the right to do what he wants when He wants.
- Recognition of man's proper status who has no power to do anything over Allah.
- It is a type of test that shows your courage and iman.
- Man does not know the result of his du'a.
- A person will contemplate about his life at the time of an affliction which will increase your iman.
- When a du'a is not answered, you will stop and think why your du'a is not being accepted; a time for contemplation and self judgment.
- Du'a might have already been responded to by other means.
- Pondering over the du'a and its perfection.
- Manifests Allah's names and attributes. Ex. alHakam, alAdl, alKareem.
- Perfects your ibada (worship) by prolonging your fear and hope of Allah.

12) Du'a and the relation with qadar:

- Du'a can change qadar.

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