

What are the two necessary matters for our good deeds in Ramadan to be accepted

Shaykh Mohammad ibn Salih al Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy upon him) commented on this issue:

The Prophet ﷺ said:

Whoever fasts Ramadan, with imaan and ihtisaab, then his previous sins will be forgiven.

And whoever stands (in prayer) during Ramadan, with imaan and ihtisaab, then his previous sins will be forgiven.

And whoever stands (in prayer) for Laylat ul Qadr, with imaan and ihtisaab, then his previous sins will be forgiven. [1]

So the Prophet ﷺ made it a condition for achieving forgiveness for one's sins that the person did their good deeds with *imaan* (true belief) – meaning true belief in Allah – and with *ihtisaab* (hope and anticipation) for the reward of Allah ﷻ.

So the person did not do those good deeds just out of habit or for showing off or for gaining a good reputation or for improving the health of his body.

Rather he does them out of *imaan* in Allah ﷻ and in the way He ﷻ legislated for these noble actions, and out of *ihtisaab* for the reward from Allah. [2]

[1] Reported by al Bukhari and Muslim

[2] Quoted in *fataawaa suwaal 'ala al haatif* vol.1 page 734