***Al Shakuur (The Appreciative/Grateful)***

***Ramadan – Ashton Central Mosque – 12/07/13***

“Whosoever relieves from a believer some grief pertaining to this world, Allah will relieve from him some grief pertaining to the Hereafter. Whosoever alleviates the difficulties of a needy person who cannot pay his debt, Allah will alleviate his difficulties in both this world and the Hereafter. Whosoever conceals the faults of a Muslim, Allah will conceal his faults in this world and the Hereafter. Allah will aid a servant (of His) so long as the servant aids his brother.” [Muslim]

When we think of the concept of appreciation, what should immediately come to mind is that we should be appreciative and grateful for the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon us—everything from the material, to our friends and family, to the spiritual.

**لِيُوَفِّيَهُمْ أُجُورَهُمْ وَيَزِيدَهُمْ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ إِنَّهُ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ**

“That He may (pay them) in full their rewards and increase them of His Grace; surely He is Ever-Forgiving, Appreciative.” (35:30)

What the name means

Linguistically, the word “Appreciate” means **acceptance and increase.** Hence, The Appreciative is the One Who appreciates your deeds, however small they are, and doubles the rewards for you in this world and in the hereafter.

Therefore, the name encompasses two meanings: **your deeds**, no matter how small, and the magnified **rewards** you receive from Allah, The Appreciative.

**وَمَنْ يَقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ**

“… And whoever scores a fair deed, We will give him increase of fairness (i.e., goodness) therein. Surely Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Appreciative.” (26:23)

The Prophet urged us to do good deeds no matter how small, as he said that we should protect ourselves from Hellfire even by giving half of a date-fruit in charity. He also advised us not to belittle any kind of good deeds, even greeting others with a smile. Allah, The Appreciative, will appreciate all your good deeds and reward you, and knowing this deep inside oneself brings utmost happiness to a person.

**لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا الْحُسْنَى وَزِيَادَةٌ**

“To the ones who are fair-doers is the fairest reward and an increase…” (10:26)

**لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ**

**مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضَاعِفَهُ لَهُ وَلَهُ أَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ**

“Who is he that will lend to Allah a fair loan, so He will double it for him, and he will have an honourable reward?” (57:11)

**إِنَّ اللَّهَ لا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ وَإِنْ تَكُ حَسَنَةً يُضَاعِفْهَا وَيُؤْتِ مِنْ لَدُنْهُ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا**

“Surely Allah does not do injustice so much as an atom’s weight, and in case it is a fair deed, He will double it and bring from very close to Him a magnificent reward.” (4:40)

Through the above-mentioned verses, we see that for everything we do, Allah will double its reward. The Prophet asserted this when he said that charity, even as little as half a date-fruit, would be increased by Allah until the reward is equal to the mountain of Uhud.

**Other names of Allah relating to the Appreciative**

**The Ever-Praiseworthy:** There is an interrelation between Allah and you regarding this name; that is **when you praise Allah for His blessings, He appreciates your praise and grants you more blessings**. Thus you praise Allah again for His blessings and He appreciates you and grants you more blessings, and so on.

**The Ever-Forgiving:** this name is mentioned more than once in correlation with the Appreciative.

**إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ**

 “Surely our Lord is indeed Ever-Forgiving, Appreciative” (35:34).

**The All-Knowing:**

**وَكَانَ اللَّهُ شَاكِرًا عَلِيمًا**

“And Allah has been Thankful, Ever-Knowing” (4:147).

There are times when you benefit someone with a good deed, but he or she does not know that you are the doer, so they do not appreciate what you have done. As for Allah, who is the All-Knowing, He appreciates everything you do, no matter how small it might be.

**Our duty towards this name and its effect on our life:**

**Give as much as you can**, and help people, for whoever helps people in adversity, Allah will help him on the Day of Judgment.

**Worship Allah as best you can**. Perform more good deeds, prayers, qiyam (voluntary night prayer), Qur'an recitation, etc.

**Be honest and sincere with Allah** in your giving

We need to spread the meaning of **The Appreciative** in our society. Spread it amongst our children, in the media, at schools, and in businesses. It will change our world to the better.