

For Fast 2

Chapter 2

- 43 And keep up prayer and give the due charity and bow down with those who bow down.
- 44 Do you tell people to be good and neglect your own souls while you read the Book?
Have you then no sense?
- 45 And seek assistance through patience and prayer, and this is hard except for the humble ones,
- 46 who know that they will meet their Lord and that to Him they will return.

Notes: These verses lay stress on the importance of prayer. Prayers should lead us to be sincere, not like those who tell others to do good but neglect to act on this instruction themselves.

The qualities to be combined with prayers are *patience* and *humility*. These qualities can only be adhered to, if you realise that one day you will be called to account before God for your actions.

Some say that in the words “seek assistance through patience and prayer”, by patience is meant fasting.

- 127 And when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House: Our Lord, accept (our work) from us; surely You are the Hearing, the Knowing.
- 128 Our Lord, and make us both submissive to You, and (raise) from our offspring, a nation submissive to You, and show us our ways of devotion and turn to us (mercifully); surely You are the Oft-returning (to mercy), the Merciful.

Notes: Abraham (Ibrahim) and Ishmael (Isma‘il), father and son, were re-building the Ka‘ba, as a place of worship of the One God, at which nations would gather in the distant future to pay homage.

Notice that father and son are on *an equal level* in praying to God. They both pray to be made submissive to His commands, **not** that the father says: I am a great prophet, of a very elderly age, and my son here has just entered his teens, so he is the one who needs guidance!

We find sincere Muslim parents asking people to pray that their children follow the right path, but how many parents ask people to pray for *both themselves and their children* to be guided to the right path!

We, too, can lay the foundations of permanent good works, from which posterity benefits. We should pray that God accepts our efforts, and that we ourselves and future generations are submissive to His commands.
