

## For Fast 3

### Chapter 2

**186** And when My servants ask you concerning Me, surely I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he calls on Me, so they should hear My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way.

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*Note:* This is a very fundamental verse about prayer which occurs in the section relating to fasting in Ramadan. Fasting undoubtedly awakens a living consciousness of the existence of God in the mind. This is the idea underlying the words: "When My servants ask you concerning Me". A real and earnest search for God is raised in the mind through fasting. "I am near" is the reply to that inner search.

God is near, and He in any case answers prayers, merely because man calls on Him. Therefore, just as God listens to man's call, man must listen to God's call. And God's call to man is that he should develop his faith in God and follow the right path.

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**200** ... But there are some people who say: Our Lord, give us (good) in the world. And for such there is no portion in the Hereafter.

**201** And there are some among them who say: Our Lord, grant us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Fire.

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*Note:* Anyone would be willing to pray to God for more good things of this life! The Quran teaches that we should pray for those good things, but along with that, we *must* pray also that we use those things in such ways and for such purposes that we advance morally (earn good in the Hereafter), instead of misusing them so that we suffer due to possessing those good things of the world.

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**214** Or do you think that you will enter the Garden, while there has not yet come upon you the like of what befell those who have passed away before you. Distress and affliction befell them and they were shaken violently, so that the Messenger and those who believed with him said: When will the help of Allah come? Now surely the help of Allah is near!

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*Note:* Even prophets of God and their immediate followers faced such situations of despair that they cried out to God: *When will the help of Allah come?* Faith is tested by the most severe set-backs and defeats, before the help of Allah comes to the rescue.

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