
The nearness of Paradise and the Hellfire

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The student reads:

“The fifth (point): The nearness of Paradise and the Hellfire.”

Shaykh Saalih bin Fawzaan al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹ comments:

“Yes, the Paradise and the Hellfire are near. Between you and Paradise and the Hellfire is only your death! Only your death! So either you’re from the people of the Paradise, or you are from the people of the Hellfire. And you do not know at which moment your death will take place. And that is why there is narrated in the hadeeth:

“Paradise is nearer to any of you than the Shirak (leather strap) of his shoe, and so is the (Hell) Fire.”²

(So) do not say: “I am young, I am in the strength (prime) of my age.” You do not know at what moment (you will die)! If you die, then you will be either in the Paradise, because he (the Prophet صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

“Whoever dies while still invoking anything other than Allaah as a rival to Allaah, will enter Hell (Fire). And whoever dies without invoking anything as a rival to Allaah, will enter Paradise.”³

He therefore connected the matter to death. And death is near! And the Paradise is near, and the Hellfire is near! Yes.”

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah preserve him

² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree, no. 6488

³ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree, no. 4497