

VIRTUE OF CHARITY

It is highly rewarding to spend in the way of Allah and it has various benefits in the world and the Hereafter, too. Allah Almighty says:

﴿ قُلْ لِعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَا بَيْعٌ فِيهِ وَلَا خِلَالٌ ﴾ (٣١) إبراهيم: ٣١

Translation of Meaning: “Tell My bondmen who believe to establish worship and spend of that which We have given them, secretly and publicly, before a day cometh wherein there will be neither traffick nor befriending.” [Ibrahim:31]

﴿ وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ﴾ (١٩٥) البقرة: ١٩٥

Translation of Meaning: “Spend your wealth for the cause of Allah.” [Al-Baqarah:195]

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ ﴾ (٢٥٤) البقرة: ٢٥٤

Translation of Meaning: “O ye who believe! spend of that wherewith We have provided you.” [Al-Baqarah:254]

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا كَسَبْتُمْ ﴾ (٢٦٧) البقرة: ٢٦٧

Translation of Meaning: “O ye who believe! Spend of the good things which ye have earned.” [Al-Baqarah:267]

Likewise, there are numerous ahadeeths which describe the virtue of charity. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا سَيَكْلُمُهُ اللَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَهُ ثَرْجُمَانٌ فَيَنْظُرُ أَيَمَنَ مِنْهُ فَلَا يَرَى إِلَّا مَا قَدَّمَ وَيَنْظُرُ أَشْأَمَ مِنْهُ فَلَا يَرَى إِلَّا مَا قَدَّمَ وَيَنْظُرُ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ فَلَا يَرَى إِلَّا النَّارَ تَلْقَاءَ وَجْهِهِ فَانْقُضُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ ثَمَرَةٍ» [متفق عليه]

Translation: “There will be none among you but his Lord will speak to him, and there will be no interpreter between them. He (the man) would see towards his right and would not find anything but (the deeds) which he had done before, and he would see towards the left and would not find anything but (the deeds) which he had done before. He would see in front of him and would find nothing but Fire just before his face. So protect

(yourselves) against Fire even if it is with the help of half a date.”
[Bukhari & Muslim]

This hadith clearly states that among the deeds, besides Oneness of God, that will be of helpful on the day of judgment, assisting any poor, orphan, destitute or widow assumes great importance. It does not matter whether assistance is of less or much in nature, Allah will increase it in weight.

Umar bin Khattab (*Radhi Allahu Anhu*) said:

«ذُكِرَ لِي أَنَّ الْأَعْمَالَ تَبَاهِي، فَتَقُولُ الصَّدَقَةُ: أَنَا أَفْضَلُكُمْ» [حاكم]

Translation: *Hazrat Umar (Radhi Allahu Anhu)* said, “It has been mentioned to me that the deeds will boast against each other and the charity will say: I am the greatest of you.”

Benefits of charity:

1. Charity keeps off Allah's anger: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«إِنَّ الصَّدَقَةَ لَتُطْفِئُ غَضَبَ الرَّبِّ وَتَدْفَعُ عَنْ مَيِّتَةِ السُّوءِ» [ترمذي]

Translation of Meaning: “Surely *sadaqah* (optional charity) cools down the anger of the Lord and protects one from an evil death” [Tirmizi]

2. Charity ends sins: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«وَالصَّدَقَةُ تُطْفِئُ الْخَطِيئَةَ كَمَا يُطْفِئُ الْمَاءُ النَّارَ» [ترمذي]

Translation: “And charity obliterates sin as water extinguishes fire.” [Tirmizi]

3. Giving in charity, even little, saves from Fire:

«فَانْقُذُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “So protect (yourselves) against Fire even if it is with the help of half a date.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

4. On the Doomsday the charity doer will be in the shadow of charity:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«كُلُّ أَمْرٍ فِي ظِلِّ صَدَقَتِهِ حَتَّى يُفْصَلَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ»

Translation: “Everyone will be under the shadow of his charity until people have been accounted for.”

The narrator says about ‘Abul Khair”, “He did not let any day pass except that he has given something in charity, even though it is sweet bread or onion.” [Tirmizi]

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) has counted the charity givers among the seven people who will be shadowed by Allah on the Day when there will be no other shade.

«وَرَجُلٌ تَصَدَّقَ بِصَدَقَةٍ فَأَخْفَاهَا حَتَّى لَا تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا تُنْفِقُ يَمِينُهُ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “A man who gives in charity and hides it, such that his left hand does not know what his right hand gives in charity.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

5. In charity there is cure for bodily illnesses: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«دَاوُوا مَرَضَانَكُمْ بِالصَّدَقَةِ» [الصحيح الجامع]

Translation of Meaning: “Treat your ill people with charity.” [Sahih Al-Jame]

6. Charity also cures inner illness: Abu Hurairah (Radhi Allahu Anhu) narrates that a man came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and complained him about his strictness of heart. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«إِنْ أَرَدْتَ أَنْ يَلِينَنَّ قَلْبُكَ فَاطْعِمِ الْمِسْكِينَ، وَ امْسَحْ رَأْسَ الْيَتِيمِ» [مسند أحمد]

Translation: “If you wish to soften your heart, feed the destitute and have an affectionate hand over the head of an orphan.” [Musnad Ahmad]

7. Allah keeps off many troubles due to charity as Hazrat Yahya (Alaihis Salam) had said making a will to Banu Israel:

«وَأْمُرُكُمْ بِالصَّدَقَةِ فَإِنَّ مَثَلَ ذَلِكَ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ أَسْرَهُ الْعَدُوُّ، فَأَوْتَقُوا يَدَهُ إِلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَدَّمُوهُ لِيَضْرِبُوا عُنُقَهُ، فَقَالَ: أَنَا أَفْدِيهِ مِنْكُمْ بِالْقَلِيلِ وَالْكَثِيرِ، فَفَدَى نَفْسَهُ مِنْهُمْ» [الصحيح الجامع]

Translation: “And I command you to give sadaqah. Its similitude is like that of a man who is imprisoned by his enemy. They tie his hand to his neck and take him to be executed. He offers, ‘I pay ransom to you the little or much, and he ransoms himself from them.’” [Sahih Al-Jame]

8. The slave finds reality of righteousness only through charity: Allah Almighty says:

﴿لَنْ نَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّى تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ﴾ (٩٢) آل عمران: ٩٢

Translation of Meaning: “Ye will not attain unto piety until ye spend of that which ye love.” [Aal Imran:92]

9. The angels pray for charity giver while they curse upon the miser. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَا مِنْ يَوْمٍ يُصْبِحُ الْعِبَادُ فِيهِ إِلَّا مَلَكَانِ يَنْزِلَانِ فَيَقُولُ أَحَدُهُمَا اللَّهُمَّ أَعْطِ مُنْفِقًا خَلْفًا وَيَقُولُ الْآخَرُ اللَّهُمَّ أَعْطِ مُسِيكًا تَلْفًا» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “Every day two angels come down from Heaven and one of them says, ‘O Allah! Compensate every person who spends in Your Cause,’ and the other (angel) says, ‘O Allah! Destroy every miser.’ [Bukhari & Muslim]

10. Only what a rich man spends will benefit him on Doomsday. Allah says:

﴿وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَلَا تُنْفُسُكُمْ﴾ (٢٧٢) البقرة: ٢٧٢

Translation of Meaning: “And whatsoever good thing ye spend, it is for yourselves.” [Al-Baqarah:272]

Narrated by Aayisha (Radhi Allahu Anha) that they slaughtered a goat. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) asked if something was remaining from its flesh. I said, ‘Only a hind leg of the goat is remaining.’ He said, ‘Whole meat except the hind leg remains.’ [Muslim]

11. Charity does not lead to decrease in wealth: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلَّا عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعُ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلَّا رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ» [مسلم]

Translation of Meaning: “Charity does not, in any way, decrease the wealth and the servant who forgives Allah adds to his respect, and the one who shows humility Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people).” [Muslim]

12. Allah Almighty multiplies the rewards of charity giver. Allah Almighty says:

﴿إِنَّ الْمُسْذِقِينَ وَالْمُصْذِقَاتِ وَأَقْرَضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا يُّضْعَفُ لَهُمْ وَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ﴾

الحديد: ١٨

Translation of Meaning: “Lo! those who give alms, both men and women, and lend unto Allah a goodly loan, it will be doubled for them, and theirs will be a rich reward.” [Al-Hadeed:18]

﴿مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضْعِفُهُ لَهُ أَضْعَافًا كَثِيرَةً﴾ البقرة: ٢٤٥

Translation of Meaning: "Who is it that will lend unto Allah a goodly loan, so that He may give it increase manifold?" [Al-Baqarah:245]

13. Who gives charity will enter the Paradise through a special gate called ‘Gate of Charity’. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَنْ أَنْفَقَ زَوْجَيْنِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ نُودِيَ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ هَذَا خَيْرٌ فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّلَاةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّلَاةِ ، وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجِهَادِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الْجِهَادِ ، وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصِّيَامِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الرِّيَّانِ ، وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّدَقَةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّدَقَةِ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “Whoever gives two kinds (of things or property) in charity for Allah’s Cause, will be called from the gates of Paradise and will be addressed, ‘O slaves of Allah! This gate is better.’ So, whoever was amongst the people who used to offer their prayers, will be called from the gate of the prayer; and whoever was amongst the people who used to participate in Jihad, will be called from the gate of Jihad; and whoever was amongst those who used to observe fasts, will be called from the gate of Ar-Raiyan; whoever was amongst those who used to give in charity, will be called from the gate of charity.” Abu Bakr said, “Let my parents be sacrificed for you, O Allah’s Apostle! No distress or need will befall him who will be called from those gates. Will there be any one who will be called from all these gates?” The Prophet (ﷺ) replied, “Yes, and I hope you will be one of them.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

14. Charity causes inner satisfaction: Allah Almighty says:

﴿وَمَنْ يُوقِ شُحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ﴾ الحشر: ٩

Translation of Meaning: “And whoso is saved from his own avarice – such are they who are successful.”[Al-Hashr:9]

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَثَلُ الْبَخِيلِ وَالْمُنْفِقِ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلَيْنِ عَلَيْهِمَا جُبَّتَانِ مِنْ حَدِيدٍ مِنْ تُدِيهِمَا إِلَى تَرَاقِيهِمَا فَأَمَّا الْمُنْفِقُ فَلَا يُنْفِقُ إِلَّا سَبَعَتْ ، أَوْ وَفَرَتْ - عَلَى جِلْدِهِ حَتَّى تُخْفِيَ بَنَانَهُ وَتَعْفُو أَنْتَرَهُ وَأَمَّا الْبَخِيلُ فَلَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُنْفِقَ شَيْئًا إِلَّا لَزِقَتْ كُلُّ حَلْقَةٍ مَكَانَهَا فَهُوَ يُوسِّعُهَا ، وَلَا تَنْسَعُ»
[بخاري و مسلم]

Translation : “The example of a miser and the one who gives in charity, is like the example of two men wearing iron cloaks so tightly that their arms are raised forcibly towards their collar–bones. So, whenever a charitable person wants to give in charity, his cloak spreads over his body so much so that it wipes out his traces, but whenever the miser wants to give in charity, the rings (of the iron cloak) come closer to each other and press over his body, and his hands gets connected to his collar–bones. The miser then tries to widen it but in vain.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

It means that a generous person finds pleasure in spending money and it extends his heart, while the iron ring of the miser clings to his chest in the first step and so he is not enabled to give in charity. His hands remain tied to iron ring.

15. Every righteous deed is a charity: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«كُلُّ مَعْرُوفٍ صَدَقَةٌ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “Every righteous deed is a charity.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

16. Charity is a proof of faith: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«الصَّدَقَةُ بَرُّ هَانٍ» [مسلم]

Translation of Meaning: “Charity is proof [of one’s faith].” [Bukhari & Muslim]

Imam Nawawi (may Allah have mercy upon him) has written explaining the hadith that charity is a proof of a believer’s faith because a hypocrite does not give in charity due to his thought that it is not beneficial in anyway. While a believer confess to charity, spends with the intention of getting reward and this proves his faith.

17. Charity purifies wealth: The Messenger of Allah addressing the traders said:

«يَا مَعْشَرَ الثَّجَّارِ إِنَّ الْبَيْعَ يَحْضُرُهُ الْحَلْفُ وَاللَّغْوُ ، فَشُوبُوهُ بِالصَّدَقَةِ» [ابن ماجه، نسائي، أحمد]

Translation: “O businessmen, false oath and wrong communication may occur in business negotiation (or transaction). Wash it away with charity.”[Ibn Majah, Nasa’i, Ahmad]

The greatest charity in terms of reward:

1. Hidden charity: because it has sincerity in it. Allah says:

﴿إِنْ تُبْدُوا الصَّدَقَاتِ فَنِعِمَّا هِيَ وَإِنْ تُخْفُوهَا وَتُؤْتُوهَا الْفُقَرَاءَ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ﴾ البقرة: ٢٧١

Translation of Meaning: “If ye publish your almsgiving, it is well, but if ye hide it and give it to the poor, it will be better for you.”[Al-Baqarah:271]

2. It is more virtuous to give in charity while a man is healthy and longing for wealth. Hazrat Abu Hurairah (Radhi Allahu Anhu) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and asked him which was the most virtuous of the charities. He (ﷺ) replied:

«أَنْ تَصَدَّقَ وَأَنْتَ صَحِيحٌ تَخْشَى الْفَقْرَ وَتَأْمُلُ الْغِنَى ، وَلَا تُمְهِلُ حَتَّى إِذَا بَلَغَتِ الْحُلُقُومَ قُلْتَ لِفُلَانٍ كَذَا وَلِفُلَانٍ كَذَا وَقَدْ كَانَ لِفُلَانٍ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “The charity which you practice while you are healthy, niggardly and afraid of poverty and wish to become wealthy. Do not delay it to the time of approaching death and then say, ‘Give so much to such and such, and so much to such and such.’ And it has already belonged to such and such (as it is too late).” [Bukhari & Muslim]

3. Giving optional charity after paying the obligatory. Allah Almighty says:

﴿وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنْفِقُونَ قُلِ الْمَفْزُوقُ﴾ البقرة: ٢١٩

Translation of Meaning: “And they ask thee what they ought to spend. Say: that which is superfluous.”[Al-Baqarah:219]

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«خَيْرُ الصَّدَقَةِ مَا كَانَ عَنْ ظَهْرِ غِنًى» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “The best charity is that which is practiced by a wealthy person.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

4. During financial hardships giving in charity as per the capacity:

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (Radhi Allahu Anhu) narrates that he asked the Messenger (ﷺ) what kind of sadaqah is the most excellent? He replied:

«جَهْدُ الْمُفِلِّ وَابْدَأْ بِمَنْ تَعُولُ» [ابوداؤد]

Translation of Meaning: “What a man with little property can afford to give; and begin with those for whom you are responsible.” [Abu Dawood]

5. Spending on children: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«الرَّجُلُ إِذَا أَنْفَقَ النِّفَقَةَ عَلَى أَهْلِهِ يَحْتَسِبُهَا كَأَنَّهُ لَهُ صَدَقَةٌ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “When the man spends what he spends on his family intending to receive Allah’s reward it is regarded as sadaqah [charity] for him.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

6. Spending on close relatives: *Hazrat Abu Talha (Radhi Allahu Anhu)* was the richest Ansari companion due to his date gardens. And among his gardens he liked most the “Bairuha” garden. It existed in the rear of Masjid an-Nabwi and the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) would go there and drink its sweet water. When this verse was revealed:

﴿لَنْ نَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّى تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ﴾ ٩٢ آل عمران: ٩٢

Translation of Meaning: “Ye will not attain unto piety until ye spend of that which ye love.” [Aal Imran:92]

Hearing this verse *Hazrat Abu Talha (Radhi Allahu Anhu)* came to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and said, “O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)! Allah says: Translation of Meaning: ‘Ye will not attain unto piety until ye spend of that which ye love.’ And I love most my Bairuha garden, so I give it in Allah’s way expecting rewards for it and hoping it would be a treasure for me in the Hereafter. Use it where you deem suitable.” The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said that it is a much profiteering business and what you said I heard and I deem it proper that you give to some of your close relatives. *Abu Talha (Radhi Allahu Anhu)* said, “O the Messenger

of Allah! I will do only this.” So, he gave it to his relatives and cousins.
[Ahmad, Nasa’i, Tirmizi , Ibn Majah]

7. Giving charity to neighbour: Allah says:

﴿وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْبُيُوتِ﴾ النساء: ٣٦

Translation of Meaning: “And [show kindness] unto the neighbour who is of kin (unto you) and the neighbour who is not of kin.” [An-Nisa:36]

Hazrat Abu Zarr (*Radhi Allahu Anhu*) narrated that Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«إِذَا طَبَخْتَ مَرْقَةً فَأَكْثِرْ مَاءَهَا وَتَعَاهَدْ جِيرَانَكَ» [مسلم]

Translation: “When you prepare the broth, add water to that and give that (as a present) to your neighbour.” [Muslim]

8. Giving in charity to the companions in jihad:

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«أَفْضَلُ دِينَارٍ يُنْفَقُهُ الرَّجُلُ دِينَارٌ يُنْفَقُهُ عَلَى عِيَالِهِ وَدِينَارٌ يُنْفَقُهُ الرَّجُلُ عَلَى دَابَّتِهِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَدِينَارٌ يُنْفَقُهُ عَلَى أَصْحَابِهِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ» [مسلم]

Translation: “The most excellent dinar is one that a person spends on his family, and the dinar which he spends on his animal in Allah’s path, and the dinar he spends on his companions in Allah’s path.” [Muslim]

This hadith indicates that during jihad we should care for one another. On such occasions spending on the companions, too, is a deed of jihad and much rewarding.

9. Giving in charity in jihad: Allah says:

﴿انْفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالًا وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ التوبة: ٤١

Translation of Meaning: “Go forth, light-armed and heavy-armed, and strive with your wealth and your lives in the way of Allah! That is best for you if ye but knew.” [At-Taubah:41]

﴿إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي

سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصَّدِيقُونَ﴾ الحجرات: ١٥

Translation of Meaning: “The (true) believers are those only who believe in Allah and His messenger and afterward doubt not, but strive with their wealth and their lives for the cause of Allah. Such are the sincere.” [Al-Hujraat:15]

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَنْ جَهَّزَ غَازِيًّا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَقَدْ غَزَا ، وَمَنْ خَلَّفَ غَازِيًّا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِخَيْرٍ فَقَدْ غَزَا» [بخاري]

Translation: “He who equips a Ghazi (fighter) in the way of Allah is as if he has taken part in the fighting himself; and he who looks after the dependents of a ghazi in his absence, is as if he has taken part in the fighting himself.” [Bukhari]

10. Continuous charity: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«إِذَا مَاتَ الْإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثَةٍ إِلَّا مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ» [مسلم]

Translation of Meaning: “When a man dies, his acts come to an end, but three, recurring charity, or knowledge (by which people) benefit, or a pious son, who prays for him (for the deceased).” [Muslim]

Occasions of continuing charity:

1. Facilitating drinking water, installing a hand pump or digging a well: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«أَفْضَلُ الصَّدَقَةِ سَقْيُ الْمَاءِ» [أحمد]

Translation: “The most excellent charity is facilitating [drinking] water.” [Ahmad]

Hazrat Sa'd (Radhi Allahu Anhu) said, “O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)! My mother had died. Which is the most excellent continuing charity for her?” The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Water is the most excellent.” So, *Hazrat Sa'd (Radhi Allahu Anhu)* had a well dig for her mother's continuing charity. [Nasa'i]

2. Feeding people: The Messenger of Islam was asked about the righteous deeds. He said:

«تُطْعِمُ الطَّعَامَ وَتَقْرَأُ السَّلَامَ عَلَى مَنْ عَرَفْتَ ، وَمَنْ لَمْ تَعْرِفْ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “Feeding the hungry, and saying salaam to those you know and those you don’t know.”[Bukhari& Muslim]

3. Building a mosque: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا لِلَّهِ بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ مِثْلَهُ» [بخاري و مسلم]

Translation: “He who built a mosque for Allah, the Exalted, Allah would build for him a house in Paradise.”[Bukhari & Muslim]

4. Spending for preaching of the religion, distributing the copies of the Qur’an, building houses for travellers, helping the orphan and the widow: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«إِنَّ مِمَّا يَلْحَقُ الْمُؤْمِنَ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ وَحَسَنَاتِهِ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهِ : عِلْمًا نَشَرَهُ ، وَوَلَدًا صَالِحًا تَرَكَهُ ، وَمُصْحَفًا وَرَّثَهُ ، أَوْ مَسْجِدًا بَنَاهُ ، أَوْ بَيْتًا لِابْنِ السَّبِيلِ بَنَاهُ ، أَوْ نَهْرًا أَجْرَاهُ ، أَوْ صَدَقَةً أَخْرَجَهَا مِنْ مَالِهِ فِي صِحَّتِهِ وَحَيَاتِهِ ، تَلَحُّقُهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَوْتِهِ» [ابن ماجه]

Translation : “Among the acts and good deeds that will reach a believer after his death are: knowledge which he learnt and then spread; a righteous son whom he leaves behind; a copy of the Qur’an that he leaves as a legacy; a mosque that he built; a house that he built for wayfarers; a canal that he dug; or charity that he gave during his lifetime when he was in good health. These deeds will reach him after his death.” (Ibne- Majah)

The excellent times to give in charity:

1. Giving in charity in the month of Ramadan: Ibn Abbas (Radhi Allahu Anhu) narrates that the “Apostle (ﷺ) was the most generous of all the people, and he used to reach the peak in generosity in the month of Ramadan when Gabriel met him. Gabriel used to meet him every night of Ramadan to teach him the Qur’an. Allah’s Apostle was the most generous person, even more generous than the strong uncontrollable wind (in readiness and haste to do charitable deeds).” [Bukhari & Muslim]

2. Giving in charity in the first 10 days of Zul-Hijjah: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

«مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهَا أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ» [ابوداؤد]

Translation: “There is no virtue more to the liking of Allah in any day than in these days, that is, the first ten days of Zu al-Hijjah.” [Abu Dawood]

And it is known that charity is among the virtuous deeds that leads to attainment of Allah’s closeness and accompany.

3. Helping someone when he needs it badly: Allah Almighty says:

﴿فَلَا أُقْنِحَمُ الْعَقَبَةَ ۝ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ ۝ فَكُ رَقَبَةً ۝ أَوْ إِطْعَمٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ ۝﴾
البلد: ١١ - ١٤

Translation of Meaning: “But he hath not attempted the Ascent –Ah, what will convey unto thee what the Ascent is! – (It is) to free a slave, And to feed in the day of hunger.” [Al-Balad: 11-14]

May Allah enable us all to give in charity more and more.

* * *