

deserves to be despised (by his Lord) and to have his deed rejected, just as the former deserves to be accepted and enabled to do more good deeds.

Then Allah (ﷻ) tells us about the condition of people. All of them ask Him for their needs and for protection from harm, but their ultimate goals vary. Among them are ﴿some people who say: Our Lord, give us good in this world﴾ that is, they ask Him for things they want in this world that stem from their whims and desires; they will have no share in the hereafter, because they are not interested in it and their focus is limited to this world. Others ask Allah for what is good in both realms and express their need of Allah's help and support with regard to their religious and worldly affairs. Both groups will have a share of what they have earned, and Allah will requite them in accordance with their deeds, aims and intentions, in a manner that is based on justice and generosity. All praise be to Him.

This verse indicates that Allah answers the supplication of everyone who calls upon Him, whether he is a Muslim or a disbeliever or an evildoer, but His answering a supplication does not indicate that He loves the person who offered it or that that person is close to Him, unless it has to do with the hereafter or spiritual matters.

The good that is sought in this world includes everything that is liked by people, such as abundant and enjoyable halal provision, a righteous wife, a child who is a source of joy, ease and comfort, beneficial knowledge, righteous deeds and other things that are liked and are permissible.

The good that is sought in the hereafter is safety from punishment in the grave, during the standing (on the Day of Resurrection) and in hell; attaining the good pleasure of Allah and eternal bliss; and being close to the Most Merciful Lord. Hence this supplication is the most perfect and comprehensive of supplications, and the most appropriate for the believers. Hence the Prophet (ﷺ) often recited this supplication and encouraged others to do likewise.