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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: Sister Umm Abdullah says: My children are teenagers and they are heavy sleepers Shaykh Saalih. I am not able to awake them for Fajr prayer though I sit with them for hours. Should I just leave them alone considering that their father does not assist me with them.

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: It is obligatory upon the father to give importance to this affair and to assist in waking the children. And do not leave them even if they are deep sleepers. Sometimes, perhaps they do not go to sleep until the last part of the night, this is a mistake. It is incumbent that they get sufficient sleep during the night so that they can awake refreshed for Fajr prayer. This will give them the ability to pray Fajr prayer; by going to sleep early and taking proper rest. Also the person should try to wake up for the night prayer and then the Fajr prayer, and if he is not making the night prayer then at the least he will get up for the Fajr prayer. And do not lose hope of their waking up and do not become tired of trying; this requires patience.

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا

[And enjoin upon your family the prayer, and be patient in offering them. (The prayers)]²

Thus this requires patience, and you should never abandon them; because if you leave them they will become accustomed to this. But if you persist in waking them up then they will be accustomed to waking up and giving importance to this matter.

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² سورة طه - Soorah TaaHaa [20:132]