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151- It is not permissible to fast the six days of Shawwal before the expiatory fast

Q: A man has to observe Sawm (Fast) for two consecutive months as a Kaffarah (expiation), but he wants to fast the six days of Shawwal. Is it permissible for him to do so?

A: You have to hasten to fulfill the Kaffarah; it is not permissible to fast the six days of Shawwal before the Kaffarah, for fasting these six days is a Nafil (supererogatory act of worship) while the Kaffarah is a Fard (obligatory act of worship) which should be carried out immediately. It should be given priority over the Sawm of the six days of Shawwal or any other supererogatory Sawm.

Source: Fatwas of Ibn Baz