



# At Taqwa

Assalaam 'alaykum warahmatullaahi wabarakaatuh

*Inside this Issue:*

- **Guard Your Prayers From Riyaa'** front page
- **What is the Qur'aan?** front page
- **The Acceptance of Deeds** pg 2
- **Eemaan wears out** pg 3
- **SEERAH: Who Was Muhammad (saw)** pg 4

## GUARD YOUR PRAYERS FROM RIYAA'

The Prophet (saw) said:

*"Should I not inform you of that which I fear for you even more than the dangers of Dajjal? It is the hidden shirk: A person stands to perform salaah and he beautifies it because he sees the people looking at him"*

[Ibn Maajah, Saheeh]

*"O My Lord! Make me one who establishes Salaah regularly and raise such people from among my offspring as well. O Lord, accept my prayer! Grant Your forgiveness, O Sustainer, to me, my parents and to all the believers upon the Day of Judgement."*

[14: 40-41]

## WHAT IS THE QUR'AAN ?

The Qur'aan is the Word of the Lord of the Worlds, which Allaah revealed to His Messenger Muhammad (saw):

**"It is He Who sends down manifest Ayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) to His slave (Muhammad) that He may bring you out from darkness into light"** [57:9]

In the Qur'aan, Allaah has informed us of the stories of the earlier and later generations and the creation of the heavens and the earth. He has explained in detail what is halaal and haraam, the basics of good manners and morals, the rulings of worship and dealings with others, the lives of the Prophets and the righteous, and the reward and punishment of the believers and disbelievers. He described Paradise, the abode of the believers, and He has described Hell, the abode of the disbelievers. He has made it (the Qur'aan) an explanation of all things:

**"And We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'aan) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allaah as Muslims)"** [6:89]

The Qur'aan explains the Names and At-

tributes of Allaah and what He has created. It calls us to believe in Allaah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day:

**"The Messenger (Muhammad) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. (They say,) 'We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers' — and they say, 'We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all)'"** [2:285]

The Qur'aan describes the Day of Judgement and what will happen after death — the Resurrection, Gathering, Judgement and being brought to account. It describes the Cistern, the Siraat (bridge over Hell), the Balance, the blessings and torments of mankind on that great Day:

**"Allaah! Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He). Surely, He will gather you together on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt. And who is truer in statement than Allaah?"** [4:87]

*"Had We sent down this Qur'aan on a mountain, you would surely have seen it humbling itself and rent asunder by the fear of Allaah. Such are the parables which We put forward to mankind that they may reflect"*

[58:21]

The Qur'aan calls us to examine and ponder the signs of Allaah in its verses and in the universe:

**“Say: ‘Behold all that is in the heavens and the earth’”** [10:101]

**“Do they not then think deeply in the Qur’aan, or are their hearts locked up (from understanding it)?”** [47:24]

The Qur'aan is for all of mankind:

**“Verily, We have sent down to you (O Muhammad) the Book (this Qur’aan) for mankind in truth. So whosoever accepts the guidance, it is only for his own-self; and whosoever goes astray, he goes astray only for his (own) loss. And you (O Muhammad) are not a Wakeel (trustee/guardian) over them”** [39:41]

The Qur'aan confirms the Books which came before it, the Tawraat and Injeel (Gospel), and it is a witness over them, as Allaah says:

**“And We have sent down to you (O Muhammad) the Book (this Qur’aan) in truth, confirming the Scripture that came before it and Muhaymin (trustworthy in high-**

**ness and a witness) over it (old Scriptures)”** [5:48]

After the Qur'aan was revealed, it became the Book for all of mankind until the Hour begins. Whoever does not believe in it will be punished with torment on the Day of Resurrection, as Allaah says:

**“But those who reject Our Ayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), the torment will touch them for their disbelief (and for their belying the Message of Muhammad)”** [6:49]

Because of the greatness of the Qur'aan and the signs, miracles, parables and lessons contained therein, in addition to its eloquence and beautiful style, Allaah says:

**“Had We sent down this Qur’aan on a mountain, you would surely have seen it humbling itself and rent asunder by the fear of Allaah. Such are the parables which We put forward to mankind that they may reflect”** [58:21]

Allaah has challenged mankind and the jinn to produce something like it, even one surah or one aayah, but they could not do that and will never

be able to do that, as Allaah says:

**“Say: ‘If the mankind and the jinn were to get together to produce the like of this Qur’aan, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they helped one another’”** [17:88]

As the Qur'aan is the greatest of the heavenly Books, the most complete, the most perfect and the last of them, Allaah commanded His Messenger Muhammad (saw) to convey it to all of mankind, as He says:

**“O Messenger (Muhammad)! Proclaim (the Message) which has been sent down to you from your Lord. And if you do not, then you have not conveyed His Message. Allaah will protect you from mankind”** [5:67]

Because of the importance of this book and the Ummah's need for it, Allaah has honoured us with it. He sent it down to us and has guaranteed to preserve it. Allaah says:

**“Verily, We, it is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Qur’aan) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption)”** [15:9]

## THE ACCEPTANCE OF DEEDS

Before a Muslim moves another step forward or performs any act or deed, he is obliged to acquire knowledge in the path that will lead him to the best end, that is, having his good deeds accepted by Allaah.

It is important to note that what counts is not the number of good deeds nor the acts of worship performed, for there may be a person who performs many good deeds, yet, all he gains is tiredness in this life and hardships in the Last Life. The Messenger (saw) said:

*“There may be a Sa'im (fasting person) who only gains hunger from his Siyam (fast), and there may be a Qaa'im (who stands up in prayer at night) who only gains Sahar (staying up late) from his Qiyam!”* [Ibn Majah]

Rather, what truly counts is knowing and implementing

the conditions that will ensure Allaah's acceptance of the performed good deeds and various acts of worship.

There are two essential conditions that must both be present in every performed good act or deed, so as to ensure their acceptance by Allaah.

First, a Muslim must seek Allaah alone in the good deeds that he performs.

Second, this good deed must be in total accordance with what Allaah has legislated in His Book and what His Messenger has commanded in his Sunnah.

Whenever one of those two conditions is absent from any righteous act or deed, then this good deed or act is neither good nor is it accepted, for Allaah said:

**"So whoever hopes for the meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord."** [18:110]

In this Ayah, Allaah has decreed that any good act or deed must be

righteous, that is, being in accordance with His Religion, and that He alone is sought by this good act or deed.

In his Tafseer (explanation) of the Qur'aan, Ibn Kathir (rh) said, "These are the two conditions that

ensure the acceptance of any righteous act:

- 1. It must be performed for the sake of Allaah alone**
- 2. It must be according to the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (saw)."**

By Husayn al-Awaishah

## EEMAAN WEARS OUT!

The Messenger of Allaah (saw) said *"Eemaan wears out in one's heart, just as the dress wears out (becomes thin). Therefore, ask Allaah to renew eemaan in your hearts."* [Tabarani & Hakeem]

Eemaan, therefore, becomes old and wears out just as the case of clothes. In addition, the believer's heart may become cloudy because of committing sins. The Prophet (saw) clearly mentioned this later case, when he said,

*"Each heart has its own passing cloud, just as the moon when it is shining and there comes a cloud that replaces its brightness and darkness. Whenever it (the cloud) moves on, it (the moon) will shine yet again."* [Abu Nu'am & As-Silsilah As-Sahihah]

Sometimes, a cloud overtakes the moon's brightness and replaces it with darkness, but when this cloud moves on, the moon will become bright and shining again. This is the exact case with the believer's heart, for sometimes a dark cloud overtakes the heart, because of indulging in sin. This dark cloud will prevent the light of Eemaan from filling the heart and will only go away when one strives hard to increase his Eemaan, depending on Allaah. Then, the cloud will certainly vanish and the heart will once more regain its full health and brightness.

In the process of healing weak Eemaan, it is important to know that Eemaan increases with working the good deeds and decreases by indulging in sin, for Eemaan entails acknowledgement with the tongue, belief in the heart and implementing the Commandments. Furthermore, Allaah said:

**"That they may grow more in Faith"** [48:4]

**"Which of you has had his faith increased?"** [9:124]

Also, the Messenger of Allaah (saw) said: *"He among you who witnesses an evil, let him change (stop, remove) it with his hand, if he could not, then with his tongue, and if he could not, then with his heart, and this is the weakest Eemaan."* [Bukhaaree]

The effect of indulging in sin or performing good deeds is well-known, as Eemaan in the heart will be affected by experiencing either a decrease or an increase. When one

goes to the marketplace and spends the time there looking at women and listening to the often unnecessary speech that people indulge in and then goes to a grave site, he will experience an immediate change in the status of Eemaan in his heart while he is in the graveyard as compared to when he was at the marketplace.

Some of our predecessors said, "It is a sign of the slave's Fiqh (knowledge of religion) that he concerns himself with enhancing the status of his Eemaan when it experiences a decrease. Also, it is a sign of the slave's Fiqh to know if his Eemaan is on the increase or on the decrease. Furthermore, it is a sign of one's Fiqh that he knows why and where the evil whispers of Satan are coming from."

It is important to know that it is a turn to the worse, a dangerous precedent to let the decreased Eemaan the heart is experiencing, lead to abandoning some of the obligations. Such behaviour leads one to be among the criticized persons and obliges him to repent to Allaah. He must also immediately start solving the weakness of his Eemaan. On the other hand, when the decreased Eemaan only leads to abandoning some preferred acts of worship, one must strive hard to perform such preferred acts with patience and endurance until his heart regains its health. In this regard, the Messenger of Allaah (saw) said,

*"With regards to each act of worship, there is a period of increased activity, and after each period of increased activity, there is a period of decreased activity (that follows it). Therefore, if one settles down to that which is a part of my Sunnah, he will be the successful one. As for he who settles down to the opposite, then he is destroyed."* [Ahmad & Saheeh at-Targheeb]

Before we start detailing the manner with which one can cure weak Eemaan, we should mention that many of those who experience hardness in their hearts search for external cures for this problem. However, such people can solve their weak Eemaan by themselves, for Eemaan is a personal matter between the slave and the Lord.

The article will continue, to detail some cures for weak Eemaan which help erase hardness in the heart insha' Allaah. ...To be continued By Shaykh Munajjid

# SEERAH

## 1. WHO WAS MUHAMMAD (saw)

Prophet Muhammad (saw) was born over 1400 years ago, to the noblest family of the noblest clan (Banu Hashim) of the great Qur'aysh tribe of Makkah. Saudi Arabia was mostly a desert land at the time. His parents died when he was very young, leaving him an orphan child, with no brothers or sisters. He was then looked after and raised by his uncle Abu Taalib.

The people of that time had forgotten Islaam. Instead of worshipping Allaah alone, the people made and worshipped hundreds of idols, which they would make sacrifices to. They no longer knew what was forbidden or allowed and would do very evil things - like burying their daughters alive.

The Prophet (saw) was blessed from the moment he was born. He was an intelligent child and as he grew, he developed excellent manners and characteristics.

He was known to be truthful and trustworthy, he was kind and gentle and stayed away from the evil things the other Arabs used to do. He never drank alcohol or cheated others and he never worshipped the idols that everyone around him did. He simply did not believe in worshiping things that people made themselves. As the Prophet (saw) grew, he worked with his uncle in his trading business and was known to be an honest and reliable worker. Through his goodness, he came to be respected not just by those he worked with, but by all the people around him.

Tawheed (belief in one Allaah) was ordered and followed from the days of Prophet Aadam (as). With time, people began to worship other things besides Allaah (Shirk). When mankind left Tawheed, Allaah sent Prophets to them to guide them back to Islaam. Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

*"I have only created men and Jinns to worship Me".*  
[Ath-Thaariyaat 51:56]

*"Mankind were one community and Allaah sent Prophets with glad tidings and warnings".*  
[Baqarah 2:213]

When Muhammad (saw) was 40 years old, Allaah chose him to be one of His Prophets, to bring the misguided people back to the truth, to Tawheed. He was the most special and important of all the Prophets that had come before him. He was called the 'Seal of the Prophets' as he was to be the last of all the Prophets. The previous Prophets were sent to their small areas or tribes, to teach Islaam and Tawheed. But Prophet Muhammed (saw) was chosen to spread the message of Islaam to the whole of mankind, all over the world.

This was an amazing mission for one man alone but, by the Will of Allaah and the help of Allaah, he achieved this.

Throughout the rest of his life, the Prophet (saw) received messages, or revelations, from Allaah. These were brought to him by the angel Jibra'eel (as), or he received them in the form of dreams, whether he was awake or asleep. In this way the Qur'aan, the noble book of the Muslims, was revealed to Mu-

hammad (saw) and then shared with the whole of mankind.

The Prophet (saw) continued to teach the people until he died at the age of 63.

He himself followed the orders of Allaah in his everyday life and was an example

to all the believers of how the Muslim life should be. He treated his family members in the best manner, caring for his relatives, friends and neighbours and treating them extremely well, as Allaah guided him to. He helped the needy and loved children. He struggled to end all evil around him and taught only goodness. He once said Allaah sent him to teach the people good manners.

The guidance the Prophet (saw) brought is complete, nothing was left out. It covers everything we need to know to lead a righteous life in this world. It explains the rewards a person will get if he follows the right path and explains the horrors and punishments prepared for those who reject it. The Prophet (saw) taught Muslims how to remain pure and pious. He taught us the correct way to manage businesses, the Halaal way to earn money and spend it. He showed us by his own example, how to walk, talk and deal with others, how we should live and behave in a community, how the home life-style should be and explained the way to rule, govern and prepare for war. The guidance he brought is complete and today, the Prophet (saw) is still loved and remembered by millions of Muslims all over the world.

### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE / FALSE?

1. Banu Hashim was the name of the Prophet's (saw) father \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Prophet (saw) is over 1400 years old \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Muhammad (saw) became an orphan at a very young age \_\_\_\_\_
4. When Muhammad (saw) was born, the people of that time had forgotten Islaam \_\_\_\_\_
5. Muhammad (saw) sinned like everyone else, until he became a prophet \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Muhammad (saw) worshipped idols \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Muhammad (saw) worked in his grandfather's trading business \_\_\_\_\_
8. Tawheed is to believe in and worship only one god, Allaah \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Muhammad (saw) prayed to Allaah to become a prophet \_\_\_\_\_
10. The only reason mankind was created was to worship Allaah \_\_\_\_\_
11. A prophet is another name for a king \_\_\_\_\_
12. Muhammad (saw) became a prophet at the age of 40 \_\_\_\_\_
13. He was sent to guide the whole of mankind, not just his own country \_\_\_\_\_
14. The Prophet found the revelations from the history books \_\_\_\_\_
15. The way the Prophet lived his life is an example for us to follow \_\_\_\_\_