

Khutba

Friday 11.06.10

English

Three qualities that make you taste the sweetness of faith

Dear Muslims,

Life is full of pleasures and blessings. Every one of us enjoys and like the taste of many of these blessings. We even compete for these pleasures and do our best to get them. While doing that, unfortunately, we forget that these blessings are fleeting and there are other eternal pleasures we need to work and compete for. One of these eternal blessings that brings joy to our lives and also reward us in the Judgment day is the sweetness of faith.

Anas bin Malik reported that Prophet Mohamed (PBUH) once said, *(Whoever possesses the following three qualities will have the sweetness (delight) of faith:*

1. *The one to whom Allah and His Apostle becomes dearer than anything else.*
2. *Who loves a person and he loves him only for Allah's sake.*
3. *Who hates to revert to Atheism (disbelief) as he hates to be thrown into the fire.)* **Narrated by Muslim.**

Let us briefly review these qualities:

1. The one to whom Allah and His Apostle becomes dearer than anything else.

The love of Allah and of prophet Mohamed should fill every Muslims heart and be greater than any other love. ***“Say: If it be that your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your mates, or your kindred; the wealth that ye have gained; the commerce in which ye fear a decline: or the dwellings in which ye delight - are dearer to you than God, or His Apostle, or the striving in His cause;- then wait until God brings about His decision: and God guides not the rebellious.” Al-Tawbah 24.***

Anas reported Prophet Mohamed as saying: *(None of you becomes a believer until I am dearer to him than his children, his parents and all mankind.)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

The consequence of this love should be reflected on the Muslim's acts and behavior by loving what Allah and His prophet love and hate what Allah and His prophet hates. Allah condemned who abandons his guidance and likes to do things that Allah does not like. ***“That is because they hate the Revelation of God; so He has made their deeds fruitless” Muhammad 9.***

“This because they followed that which called forth the Wrath of God, and they hated God's good pleasure; so He made their deeds of no effect” Muhammad 28.

So, to be true, love of Allah and His prophet is not only by words (i.e. to say I love Allah and I love prophet Mohamed) but should rather be reflected by acts and behavior.

“Say, if ye do love Allah, follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. For Allah is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful” Al-'Imran 31.

So, following the guidance of Allah and His prophet is a pre-requisite to acquire the love of Allah and to survive at the punishment Judgment Day.

It is worth noting that the guidance of Allah, which is provided in Quran, and His prophet, as described in *sunnah*, can not be separated from each other and should both be followed as indicated in Quran.

“So take what the Apostle assigns to you, and deny yourselves that which he withholds from you. And fear Allah; for Allah is strict in punishment” Al-Hashr 7.

“He who obeys the Apostle, obeys Allah” Al-Nisaa 80.

Most of the sins are results of favoring our desires and following our lusts rather than being bound to the guidance of our Lord. ***“Then seest thou such a one as takes as his god his own vain desire? God has, knowing (him as such), left him astray, and sealed his hearing and his heart (and understanding), and put a cover on his sight. Who, then, will guide him after God (has***

withdrawn Guidance)? Will ye not then receive admonition?" Al-Jathiyah 23.

And if we want to survive the punishment, we must control our selves and our desire ***“And for such as had entertained the fear of standing before their Lord's (tribunal) and had restrained (their) soul from lower desires * Their abode will be the Garden” Al-Nazi'at 40-41***

2. Who loves a person and he loves him only for Allah's sake.

Brotherhood in Allah is a tight and solid bond that is above all the other relations that exist between people. That is why Islam insists on consolidating it and making it based on faith.

Brotherhood in Allah is a divine donation whose value is not perceived but by those who grasp its essence; and whose delight is not sensed but by those who experienced it

Allah Almighty says in Quran ***“The Believers are but a single Brotherhood: So make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers; and fear God, that ye may receive Mercy” Al-Hujurat 10.***

The prophet -may peace be upon him- said: *(Among Allah's servants, there are people who are neither prophets nor martyrs, and both prophets and martyrs will envy them their position the Day of Resurrection). They said: "O prophet of Allah! Can you tell us who are they?" He said: (They are people who loved one another not because of having any blood relation or any property to deal in but for the sake of Allah. By Allah, their faces are lit up, and they are on light. They will not fear when people fear, and they will not grieve when people grieve).* **Narrated by Abu Dawood**

The prophet -may peace be upon him- said: *(Seven persons will be shaded in Allah's shade in a day when there will be no shade but His: (among them) Two men loved each other for the sake of Allah. So, they met for this (sake) and they separated for this).* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari.**

Muath bin Jabal -may Allah be pleased with him- reported that he heard the prophet -may peace be upon him- saying: *(Allah -High Exalted is He- said: "Those who love one another for the sake of My glory will have pulpits of light for which the prophets and martyrs will envy them).* **Narrated by Al-Termithy**

3. Who hates to revert to Atheism (disbelief) as he hates to be thrown into the fire

This quality indicates the declaration of faith which includes abandoning disbelieving and the way of disbeliever; and loving the believer and those with strong faith. ***“Thou wilt not find any people who believe in God and the Last Day, loving those who resist God and His Apostle, even though they were their fathers or their sons, or their brothers, or their kindred. For such He has written Faith in their hearts, and strengthened them with a spirit from Himself. And He will admit them to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow, to dwell therein (for ever). God will be well pleased with them, and they with Him. They are the Party of God. Truly it is the Party of God that will achieve Felicity” Al-Mujadilah 22.***

Abi Umamah, (may Allah be pleased with him), reported that Prophet Mohamed said: *(Whoever loves for Allah's sake, hates for Allah's sake, gives for Allah's sake and withholds for Allah's sake has a perfect faith)* **Narrated by Abu Dawood.**

Dear Muslims,

To be close to Allah, we should always work to improve our faith. The more we strengthen it the more we get closer to Almighty Allah. For this purpose, we should dedicate our lives and efforts and follow every path that leads to it. The qualities mentioned can help you to set the requirements and serve guidelines on how to strengthen your faith. It can also be used as a template to Judge your faith and your closeness to Allah.

We ask Allah to make us taste the pleasure and the sweetness of faith, to forgive our sins and bestow His mercy on us both in this and the next life.

Amen