

KHUTBA
Friday 23th of July 2010
English

Thankfulness and gratitude for the blessings of Allah

Dear Muslims.

Allah Almighty has provided us with great blessings in this world. His blessings are unlimited and are given to people in different forms, levels and degrees. Allah reminds us with these blessings in Quran:

«And He giveth you of all that ye ask for. But if ye count the favours of God, never will ye be able to number them. Verily, man is given up to injustice and ingratitude». [Quran Ibrahim 43]

«And if you would count the Favours of Allaah, never could you be able to count them. Truly, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful» [Al-Nahl 18]

«Do ye not see that God has subjected to your (use) all things in the heavens and on earth, and has made his bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, (both) seen and unseen? Yet there are among men those who dispute about God, without knowledge and without guidance, and without a Book to enlighten them! » [Luqman 20]

«Say: "It is He Who has created you (and made you grow), and made for you the faculties of hearing, seeing, feeling and understanding: little thanks it is ye give» [Al-Mulk 23]

For us Muslims, the best blessings ever provided for us is the guidance and the light of Islam and the honor of being a part of the *Ummah* (nation) of prophet Muhammed (PBUH).

«...This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But if any is forced by hunger, with no inclination to transgression, God is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. » [Al-Ma'idah 3]

«You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah. If only the People of the Scripture had believed, it would have been better for them. Among them are believers, but most of them are defiantly disobedient. » [Al-Imran 110]

As a way of worshipping and showing appreciation, it is a duty for every Muslim to thank Allah and show gratitude for His great blessings bestowed on him. This is achieved by worshipping Him as the only God, following His guidance and the right path, and avoiding to fall in sins and to follow our desires. In another words, it can be achieved by trying our best to be good Muslims. Allah ordered us to be thankful for His blessings, and warned us from not being thankful.

«And We have enjoined on man (to be good) to his parents: in travail up on travail did his mother bear him, and in years twain was his weaning: (hear the command), "Show gratitude to Me and to thy parents: to Me is (thy final) Goal. » [Luqman 14]

«So eat of the sustenance which God has provided for you, lawful and good; and be grateful for the favours of God, if it is He Whom ye serve» [Al-Nahl 114]

«Then do ye remember Me; I will remember you. Be grateful to Me, and reject not Faith. » [Al-Baqarah 152]

«And remember! Your Lord caused to be declared (publicly): "If ye are grateful, I will add more (favours) unto you; But if ye show ingratitude, truly My punishment is terrible indeed."» [Ibrahim 7]

Gratitude can be achieved in three ways; by the heart, by submission and humility; by the tongue, by praise and acknowledgement; and by the physical faculties, by means of obedience and submission.

1. Gratitude of the heart: what is meant is that the heart senses the value of the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon His slave, and fully acknowledges that the one who has bestowed these great blessings is Allah alone, with no partner or associate

2. gratitude of the tongue, it means acknowledging verbally - after believing in the heart- that the one who grants blessing is indeed Allah, and keeping the tongue busy with praise of Allah, may He be glorified and exalted

3. Gratitude of the physical faculties means using one's physical faculties in obedience of Allah and keeping them from committing sins and acts of disobedience that Allah has forbidden. Allah says in Quran:

«Work you, O family of Dawood (David), with thanks! But few of My servants are grateful! » [Saba' 13]

The gratitude for blessings is a great worship and is practiced mostly by the true believers, who understand the values and greatness of Allah's blessings.

«Seest thou not that the ships sail through the ocean by the Grace of God? - that He may show you of His Signs? Verily in this are Signs for all who constantly persevere and give thanks. » [Luqman 31]

«If it be His Will He can still the Wind: then would they become motionless on the back of the (ocean). Verily in this are Signs for everyone who patiently perseveres and is grateful. » [Alshura 33].

That is why you find that the most thankful and grateful to the Lords are the Prophets. Because they know Him the best and they know the value and the greatness of His blessings.

«Abraham was indeed a model, devoutly obedient to God, (and) true in Faith, and he joined not gods with God * He showed his gratitude for the favors of God, who chose him, and guided him to a Straight Way» [Al-Nahl 12-121]

«O ye that are sprung from those whom We carried (in the Ark) with Noah! Verily he was a devotee most grateful» [Al-Israa 3]

Aa'ishah said that when the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) prayed, he would stand for so long that his feet became swollen. 'Aa'ishah said: "O Messenger of Allah, are you doing this when Allah has forgiven your past and future sins?" He said: "O 'Aa'ishah, should I not be a thankful slave?" [Narrated by al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

It was reported by Mu'aadh ibn Jabal that the Messenger of Allaah (BPUH) took his hand and said: "O Mu'aadh, by Allah I love you, by Allah I love you." Then he said, "I advise you, O Mu'aadh, do not fail following every prayer to say: O Allah help me to remember You, thank You and worship You properly." [Narrated by Abu Dawood and al-Nasaa'i]

Allah's Messenger (sallAllaahu `alaihi wasallam) used to supplicate Allah: "My Lord, help me and do not give help against me; grant me victory, and do not grant victory over me; plan on my behalf and do not plan against me; guide me, and made my right guidance easy for me; grant me victory over those who act wrongfully towards me; O Allah, make me grateful to Thee, mindful of Thee, full of fear towards Thee, devoted to Thy obedience, humble before Thee, or penitent. My Lord, accept my repentance, wash away my sin, answer my supplication, clearly establish my evidence, guide my heart, make true my tongue and draw out malice in my breast." [Narrated by Ahmad]

Gratitude and thank for the blessings prevent from punishment as Allah tells us: **«What can God gain by your punishment, if ye are grateful and ye believe? Nay, it is God that recogniseth (all good), and knoweth all things. » [Alnisa' 147]**

«The people of Lut rejected (his) warning * We sent against them a violent Tornado with showers of stones, (which destroyed them), except Lut's household: them We delivered by early Dawn, - * As a Grace from Us: thus do We reward those who give thanks. » [Al-Qamar 33-35]

On the other hand, being unthankful has been the reason behind Allah's punishment to be bestowed on the non-believer.

«God sets forth a Parable: a city enjoying security and quiet, abundantly supplied with sustenance from every place: Yet was it ungrateful for the favors of God: so God made it taste of hunger and terror (in extremes) (closing in on it) like a garment (from every side), because of the (evil) which (its people) wrought. » [Al-Nahl 112]

«There was, for Saba, aforetime, a Sign in their home-land - two Gardens to the right and to the left. "Eat of the Sustenance (provided) by your Lord, and be grateful to Him: a territory fair and happy, and a Lord Oft-Forgiving! * But they turned away (from God), and We sent against them

*the Flood (released) from the dams, and We converted their two garden (rows) into "gardens" producing bitter fruit, and tamarisks, and some few (stunted) Lote-trees. * That was the Requital We gave them because they ungratefully rejected Faith: and never do We give (such) requital except to such as are ungrateful rejecters. * Between them and the Cities on which We had poured our blessings, We had placed Cities in prominent positions, and between them We had appointed stages of journey in due proportion: "Travel therein, secure, by night and by day." * But they said: "Our Lord! Place longer distances between our journey- stages": but they wronged themselves (therein). At length We made them as a tale (that is told), and We dispersed them all in scattered fragments. Verily in this are Signs for every (soul that is) patiently constant and grateful. » [Saba' 15-19]*

Dear Muslims,

No one can deny the great blessings of Allah, except ignorant and heedless people. There is no excuse for being unthankful because these blessings are huge and we can clearly see and feel it in every aspect of our lives. Remember that it is the devil who tries to deviate and distract you from doing that because he wants you to be like him. He disobeyed Allah and refused his order despite all the blessings that he was given. He wants you also to disobey Allah and be unthankful to be with him in the hellfire.

«O men! Certainly the promise of God is true. Let not then this present life deceive you, nor let the Chief Deceiver deceive you about God. * Verily Satan is an enemy to you: so treat him as an enemy. He only invites his adherents that they may become Companions of the Blazing Fire. » [Fatir 5-6]

So, fear Allah, follow his orders as He says: Ye who believe! Obey God, and obey the Messenger, and make not vain your deeds, and do good deeds and worship as prophet Mohamed advised us- as reported by Moadh bin Jabal: **"Fear Allah wherever you are. Follow up a bad deed with a good deed and it will blot it out. And deal with people in a good manner."** [Narrated by Altermithy] - to be among the survivors at the Judgment day.

Amen

Khutba by Sidi Mohamed Ould Cherif.