

KHUTBA

Friday 16.04.10

English

Steadfastness in Islam

Dear Muslims

People, whether good or bad, are exposed to different calamities and hardships during their lives. These calamities can be at personal, materialistic, spiritual or religious levels. One can argue why good people with good deeds and manners do get exposed to these hardships, what is the wisdom or the fact behind this?

The answer comes in several Quranic verses:

Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, "We believe", and that they will not be tested? We did test those before them, and God will certainly know those who are true from those who are false. [29:2-3]

Or do ye think that ye shall enter the Garden (of bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the Apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: "When (will come) the help of God?" Ah! Verily, the help of God is (always) near! [2:214]

We broke them up into sections on this earth. There are among them some that are the righteous, and some that are the opposite. We have tried them with both prosperity and adversity: In order that they might turn (to us). [7:168]

So, the purpose of these hard times is to test your faith and fine-tune personality. It reveals your true self for you and helps you to evaluate whether you are on the right path or not.

Only few are able to steadfast on their path and keep their faith during hard times and calamities. It is a gift that only the blessed people with strong faith and belief, such as prophets and scholars, can get.

And their purpose was to tempt thee away from that which We had revealed unto thee, to substitute in our name something quite different; (in that case), behold! they would certainly have made thee (their) friend! * And had We not given thee strength, thou wouldst nearly have inclined to them a little. [17:73-74]

Remember thy Lord inspired the angels (with the message): "I am with you: give firmness to the Believers: I will instil terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers: smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them." [8:12]

So, these blessed people, because of their strong faith and closeness to Allah, are given the privilege of steadfastness. They are able to keep clear vision, take the right decisions and persist on their path even during the very difficult situations.

There are certain factors that may play role and help in achieving this status of steadfastness:

Strong faith.

God will establish in strength those who believe, with the word that stands firm, in this world and in the Hereafter; but God will leave, to stray, those who do wrong: God doeth what He willeth. [14:27]

So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in Faith. [3:139]

Praying to Allah, asking him to persist and keep steadfast on the right path until death.

Following Allah's orders and the *sunnah* of Prophet Mohamed, because it is the truth and way for success; especially these days where all the world gathered against Islam and the Islamic rules.

Their intention is to extinguish God's Light (by blowing) with their mouths: But God will complete (the revelation of) His Light, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it). [61:8] They are) those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right,- (for no cause) except that they say, "our Lord is God". Did not God check one set of people by means of another, there would surely have been pulled down monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, in which the name of God is commemorated in abundant measure. God will certainly aid those who aid his (cause); - for verily God is full of Strength, Exalted in Might, (able to enforce His Will). [22:40]

Reciting, understanding Quran and working and behaving upon its guidance.

Those who reject Faith say: "Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once? Thus (is it revealed), that We may strengthen thy heart thereby, and We have rehearsed it to thee in slow, well-arranged stages, gradually. [25:32]

(Here is) a Book which We have sent down unto thee, full of blessings, that they may meditate on its Signs, and that men of understanding may receive admonition. [38:29]

Patience.

O ye who believe! Seek help with patient perseverance and prayer; for God is with those who patiently persevere. [2:153]

O ye who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God; that ye may prosper. [3:200]

Assurance, accepting the God's will and following his guidance.

If We had ordered them to sacrifice their lives or to leave their homes, very few of them would have done it: But if they had done what they were (actually) told, it would have been best for them, and would have gone farthest to strengthen their (faith). [4:66]

Dear Muslims

As there are factors that can help in achieving the steadfastness, there are others that can prevent it. The most important two factors are:

1. The preoccupation with life and its false hopes. This lead one to make all his effort to achieve what he want in this life, forgetting that his main mission is to work for the other life and worship Allah. Thus he spends his life chasing a false and fleeting hope without doing his duties in worshipping Allah and following his orders.

Leave them to eat and enjoy, and let them be preoccupied with (false) hope. They will come to know! [15:3]

2. Excessive doing and enjoyment of the allowed things (e.g. food, drinks, pleasure etc): This lead one to be bound to and preoccupied with these things he enjoys and, as a result, to be careless in doing his religious obligations. Some might also be dragged by his pleasure to do the non allowed things and fall into sins.

Eat of the good things We have provided for your sustenance, but commit no excess therein, lest My Wrath should justly descend on you: and those on whom descends My Wrath do perish indeed. [20:81]

We ask Allah to help us to steadfast on his path until death. We ask him to forgive our sins and our mischief with His mercy.

Amen

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