

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا
أَمَّا بَعْدُ

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَخَيْرَ الْهُدَى هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُحَدَّثَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُحَدَّثَةٍ بَدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ

Dear my brothers in Islam,

All thanks and praise is due to Allah Ta'ala, we seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge to Allah from the evil within ourselves and the consequences of our evil deeds. Whosoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whosoever Allah leads astray will never find guidance. We bear witness that there is no God but Allah, alone without any partners, and we bear witness that Muhammad shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam is His servant and His Messenger.

As a reminder for myself and all of us, let us increase our taqwa to Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala by fulfilling all of His commands and refraining from all His prohibitions. Let's continue to be guided by the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam in our daily life.

Dear brothers,

Today's topic is about the fruits of taqwa and ihsan. First of all, let's be aware that we are asked to obey Him, the Most Exalted, in line with His orders:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُمْ مُلَاقُوهُ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

"and fear Allah and know that you will meet Him. And give good tidings to the believers." (Al-Baqara: 223).

We know that fear of Allah, the Almighty, is a great principle of Islam to which a lofty status has been attributed. Allah, the Most Exalted, orders us to fear him as evidenced in this Aya, " **وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُمْ مُلَاقُوهُ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ** and be afraid of [only] Me." (Al-Baqara: 40).

Therefore, obedience to Allah is the fruit of piety. It was narrated that Urwa ibn Az-Zubai said in this regard, "التَّقْوَى حَشْيَةُ اللَّهِ Piety is to fear Allah."

Dear brothers, Among the great merits of being conscious of Allah is that it will guide every Muslim to perfect their actions and be devoted to good deeds. This is related with the concept of Ihsan. It was narrated that a man once asked the Prophet Shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam,

"مَا الْإِحْسَانُ؟" What is Ihsan?" He shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam replied,

أَنْ تَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ كَأَنَّكَ تَرَاهُ، فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ تَرَاهُ فَإِنَّهُ يَرَاكَ

"It is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you do not achieve this state of devotion, then know that Allah sees you." (Muttafaqun 'alaihi)

The concept of ihsan also has a close relationship with taqwa. In this regards, Allah praises "Al-Muttaqiin", or people of taqwa, as those who are mindful of Him even when they are unseen. Allah describes the quality of these people, for example in Surat Al-Anbiyaa: 49,

الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ وَهُمْ مِنَ السَّاعَةِ مُشْفِقُونَ

"They are those who fear their Lord unseen, while they are of the Hour apprehensive."

It means that people of taqwa are those who fear Allah in their hearts and when they are alone with themselves. Those are worried about the Day of Judgment and, hence, they prepare for it by being as much obedient to Allah as could be. So in this sense, the meaning of ihsan can be understood as a special form of taqwa.

Dear brothers, Glad tidings, then, to those who achieve such a state of devotion for they will, by Allah's favour, attain His forgiveness and rewards. As he says,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ

"indeed, those who fear their Lord unseen will have forgiveness and great reward." (Al-Mulk: 12).

Among the great rewards that they will obtain is that Allah, the Most High, will protect them under His shade on the Day of Resurrection. In an authentic Hadith, the Messenger of Allah shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam mentions seven types of people those who will gain such gracious status and find refuge with Allah. Those combine the qualities of fear of Allah, consciousness of Him and being devoted to His obedience.

These seven types of people are (1) a just ruler, (2) a young man who has been brought up in the worship of Allah, (3) a man whose heart is attached to mosques, (4) two persons who love each other for the sake of Allah, (5) a person who gives in charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given, (6) a person who remembers Allah in seclusion and his eyes are then flooded with tears, (7) and (finally) a man who is called by a charming lady of noble birth to commit illegal sexual intercourse with her, but he refuses and says, 'I am afraid of Allah'."

All of those people mentioned in that hadith possess the qualities that Allah, the Almighty, praised in the following Aya,

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ * فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ

"but as for he who feared the position of his Lord and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination. Then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge." (An-Naziat: 40-41).

Thus, those who obey Allah and are mindful of the things that He has banned, will, by His grace, win Paradise as their perpetual dwelling as per Allah's promise to them. Allah The Almighty says,

وَأُزْلِفَتِ الْجَنَّةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ * هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِكُلِّ أَوَّابٍ حَفِيظٍ * مَنْ خَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَجَاءَ بِقَلْبٍ مُنِيبٍ * ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُلُودِ * لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ

"and Paradise will be brought near to the righteous, not far. [It will be said], 'This is what you were promised - for every returner [to Allah] and keeper [of His covenant]. Who feared the Most Merciful unseen and came with a heart returning [in repentance]. Enter it in peace. This is the Day of Eternity.' They will have whatever they wish therein, and with Us is more." (Qaf: 31-35).

Indeed, obedience to Allah and fearing Him are one's path for cherishing the eternal blessings of Paradise. About them, the Almighty says,

وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ * قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا قَبْلَ فِي أَهْلِنَا مُشْفِقِينَ * فَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَانَا عَذَابَ السَّمُومِ

"and they will approach one another, inquiring of each other. They will say, 'Indeed, we were previously among our people fearful [of displeasing Allah]. So Allah conferred favour upon us and protected us from the punishment of the Scorching Fire!'" (At-Toor: 25-27).

That is: we feared Allah in this world, were conscious of His punishment and devoted to His obedience. Thus, Allah, the Almighty, bestowed upon us His favour and protected us from the punishment we have feared of.

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ . وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ . أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ

Second sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَبِهِ نَسْتَعِينُ عَلَى أُمُورِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ،
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، أَمَا بَعْدُ

Dear my brothers,

Being conscious of Allah is necessary to boost our self-observation in our private and public matters, at work and in our dealings and relationships with one another. Allah, the Almighty, emphasised in many places in the Quran the need for His servants to be mindful of their actions always. This way, they will be aware of all their inner desires and manners and thereby control them. Allah says, "وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُ" **and know that Allah knows what is within yourselves, so beware of Him.**" (Al-Baqara: 235). He also says,

"إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا" **indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer.**" (An-Nisaa: 1).

This means that Allah is watching over us always and seeing what we do. He equally knows all that His servants do. He hears what they say and sees where they are. He is well acquainted about their secrets and private conversations.

Thus, being heedful of Allah will, definitely, urge us to seek perfection in all our affairs. As such, we will only say and do all that earns us Allah's satisfaction and benefits us in this world and the next. May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger Shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ إِنَّكَ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ
رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ
رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا
طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ
سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ