

## Correct Faith and Righteous Deeds

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Islamic Faith and performing righteous good deeds are the basis and the greatest way and means to acquire happiness. Allaah, the Exalted said:

***“Whoever works righteousness – whether male or female – while he (or she) is a true believer (of Islaamic Monotheism) verily, to him We will give an good life (in this world with respect, contentment and lawful provision), and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do (i.e., Paradise in the Hereafter).”*** (16:97)

Allaah states in this *ayaah* that He has promised those who combine faith and righteous actions, of having a good life in this world and excellent rewards in this life and the Last Life. There is a good reason behind this promise. Those who have correct faith in Allaah (fruits of which include performing good deeds that purify the hearts, behavior, this life and the Hereafter) have the basis and resources to rely on to deal properly with whatever they receive of happiness and delight, as well as, depression, sadness and worry. For instance, the believers receive happy and delightful bounties with acceptance and thankfulness and use them in an advantageous manner. This better conduct gives them more delight, resurrects hope in them that these bounties will remain and be blessed further, and they also anticipate Allaah's rewards for thankful believers. This way, they earn types of goodness and blessings that outweigh the original delights and bounties they received and which produced these fruits and traits in them.

Moreover, faithful believers receive whatever harm, afflictions, depression and sadness that befall them by resisting whatever they can resist, striving hard to lessen their impact, and observing patience for whatever they cannot repel or defy. By doing so, they acquire various types of benefits, experience and strength from resisting the effects of the afflictions. They also taste tremendous delights from patience and awaiting the rewards with Allaah, that which diminishes the afflictions and replaces them with contentment, happiness and anticipation of compensation from Allaah. The Prophet ﷺ described the believers in this authentic *hadeeth*:

*“Amazing is the matter of the believer, for all of his affairs are good for him. If a bounty was bestowed on him, he thanks for it, and this is better for him. If an affliction touches him, he observes patience, and this is better for him, and this is only for the believer.”* (Muslim)

This *hadeeth* states that the believer's rewards and goodness, and the fruits of his good deeds multiply when he receives bounties, as well as, when he suffers afflictions. This is why when you compare any two persons who receive a similar bounty or suffer a similar affliction, they vary greatly in the way they respond to the bounty or affliction, according to the degree of faith and righteous good deeds each one has. The believer who has good deeds in his records receives the bounty or affliction in the manner we described thankfulness and patience. This conduct brings him happiness and elation and dissipates sadness, depression,

worry, bother and various discomforts of life; he thus lives a good life in this world.

He who has the opposite characteristics, receives the bounty with arrogance, extravagance and tyranny, and as a consequence, his behavior worsens and he acts like a beast when catching prey. Yet, this type is never content in their hearts, always feeling unease and weary that they might lose whatever they covet. Further, they always long for more and never stop at any limit, even though whatever they long for might and might not come. And even if they acquire what they wish for, they would still feel the concerns we mentioned. On the other hand, this type receives the afflictions with worry, fright, fear and annoyance. Hence, do not ask about the enormity of misery they receive in this life and the mental and psychological problems they suffer from, because they do not long for Allaah's rewards nor have adequate patience that might comfort them in difficult times.

Islam teaches and encourages the believers to always feel contentment with Allaah's bounties, favors and generosity He bestows on them. If the believer is tested with an illness, poverty or a type of affliction that touches all mankind, he becomes complacent on account of his faith, content with Allaah and accepting of what He has destined for him. In this case, the believer does not long in his heart for another destiny that was not meant for him and compares himself to those below him rather than those above him. This behavior brings him a type of delight and comfort more than that felt by those who have all types of worldly possessions but do not feel contentment. This latter type feels utter misery when tested with poverty or loss of material possession, because they do not act upon their faith, if they have any.

There is another parable that pertains to happiness, that when a matter of concern strikes, you will find those who have correct faith at ease and striving to resolve the fear or problem with the necessary thoughts, statements and actions. These qualities bring relief to people and strengthen their resolve. In contrast, those who do not have faith feel disturbed, become anxious, have confused thoughts and fall prey to fright and fear when a matter of concern strikes, thus, combining an outward fear and inward anxiety that cannot be duly explained. Unless they have some type of natural strength to draw on (with temporary effect), this type of people feel fatigue and utter mental exhaustion, because they do not have faith that directs them to patience, especially in delicate times and situations.

Even though the believer and the disbeliever both have the ability of training themselves to be brave in the face of fear or affliction, the believer has added qualities. These are the strength of faith, patience, total dependence and reliance on Allaah and awaiting His rewards. All this increases the believer's strength and lessens the effect of concerns and hard times. Allaah, the Exalted, said:

***“If you are suffering (hardships) then surely, they (too) are suffering (hardships) as you are suffering, but you have a hope from Allaah (for the reward, i.e. Paradise) that for which they hope not.”*** (4:104)

Therefore, the believers earn Allaah's help and special aid that will dissipate all concerns and fears. Further, Allah the Exalted said:

***“...and be patient. Surely, Allaah is with those who are As-Saabiroon (the patient).”*** (8:46)



## The Sunnah the Better: Etiquettes of Jumu'ah

*“There is not a man who takes a bath on Jumu'ah, using whatever is available for purification, then wears some oil or fragrance from his home, then he goes to the masjid, not separating between two people, then he prays what is written for him to pray, then he remains silent while the imaam is delivering the khutbah, except that all the sins he committed since the preceding Jumu'ah are forgiven as long as he did not commit a major sin.”* (Bukhaaree)