

Ibaadah means Tawheed and obedience to Allaah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

[A lecture given by Shaykh `Abdul-`Azeez ibn `Abdullah ibn Baaz (*May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him*) at a charitable organisation in Kuwait, via phone on 20/08/1418 A.H.]

All praise be to Allaah, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, his Companions, and those who follow his guidance. Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) says in His Noble Book:

[O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth.]¹ [He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise).]²

Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) asks His believing Servants in many Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) to fear Him as He should be feared, because Taqwaa (fear/wariness of offending Allaah) is the core of religion; it is the form of `Ibaadah (worship) for which the people were created and were asked to perform in Allaah's saying (*Exalted be He*),

[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]³

He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become al-Muttaqoon (the pious).]⁴

It is the form of `Ibaadah with which the Messengers (Peace be upon them) were sent. Allaah (*Exalted be He*) says:

¹ سورة الأحزاب – Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:70]

² سورة الأحزاب – Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:70]

³ سورة الذاريات – Soorah adh-Dhariyat [51:56]

⁴ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:21]

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[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): “Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah).”]⁵

This `Ibaadah is Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah) and obedience to Allaah. It also includes Taqwaa, `Eemaan (Faith), guidance and righteousness, according to Allaah's saying (*Exalted be He*),

[...whereas there has surely come to them the Guidance from their Lord!]⁶

He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[...but al-Birr (is the quality of the one) who fears Allaah.]⁷

He also says:

[...but al-Birr is (the quality of) the one who believes in Allaah, the Last Day]⁸

All Mukallafs (people meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions), whether people or Jinn (creatures created from fire), Arabs or non-Arabs, men or women should fear Allaah as He should be feared by believing in Tawheed, sincerity to Him and following His Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*). This is the `Ibaadah they were created for; its basis is testifying that there is no true Ilaah (god) but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. This is the basis of testifying that there is no true Ilaah but Allaah; it means that there is none worthy of being worshipped but Allaah. A Mu'min (believer) should testify that there is none worthy of being worshipped but Allaah and that Muhammad ibn `Abdullah, the Arabian, Hashemite, the Makkan and then the Madanee man is the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*); that we should follow him, believe in that with which he was sent and follow his Sharee'ah (Islamic law). This is an obligation on everyone. Allaah (*Exalted be He*) says,

[And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]⁹

He (*Exalted be He*) says:

[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him)]¹⁰

⁵ سورة النحل – Soorah an-Nahl [16:36]

⁶ سورة النجم – Soorah an-Najm [53:23]

⁷ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:189]

⁸ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:177]

⁹ سورة الإسراء – Soorah al-Israa [17:23]

¹⁰ سورة البينة – Soorah al-Bayinah [98:5]

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This is the form of `Ibaadah they were created for: dedicating `Ibaadah to Allaah alone, whether Du`aa' (supplication), fear, hope, slaughtering animals, seeking help, Salaah (Prayer) and other things. They should also testify that Muhammad ibn `Abdullah ibn `Abdul-Muttalib is truly the Messenger of Allaah to the residents of the two worlds, whether Jinn or men, Arabs or non-Arabs, men or women. All Mukallafs should make such a testimony, that there is none worthy of being worshipped but Allaah and that Muhammad ibn `Abdullah is the Messenger of Allaah to men and Jinn, and the final Prophet, according to Allaah's (*Exalted be He*) Saying:

[Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allaah and the last (end) of the Prophets.]¹¹

He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[Say (O Muhammad *May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*): "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allaah]"¹²

Then, `Eemaan is necessary, in addition to the rest of the pillars of Islaam: Salaah, Zakaah (obligatory charity), Sawm (Fast) and Hajj, according to the saying of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*):

Islaam was based on five pillars: testimony that there is none worthy of being worshipped but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; performing Salaah; giving Zakaah; observing Sawm in Ramadhaan; and performing Hajj.¹³

Those pillars are obligatory in addition to believing in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Day of Resurrection and the Divine Decree, whether favourable or not. Those are the six tenets of `Eemaan. Then come all the Commands of Allaah and His Messenger, and abandoning all the things prohibited by Allaah and His Messenger. These are also included in Islaam and `Eemaan. All Mukallafs should believe in Allaah and His Messenger; believe in the six tenets of `Eemaan; and apply the five pillars of Islaam: the two Shahadahs (Testimonies of Faith), Salaah, Zakaah, Sawm and Hajj, while believing that they are Fard (obligatory) on everyone. They should also believe that Allaah prohibited Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) and all the sins mentioned in the Qur'aan and clarified by the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*), such as Zina (adultery), theft, drinking Khamr (intoxicant), Riba (usury) and other things prohibited by Allaah. All Mukallafs should believe in all the things made obligatory by Allaah and prohibited by Allaah. They should also perform the obligations enjoined by Allaah, refrain from the prohibitions made by Allaah and observe

¹¹ سورة الأحزاب – Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:40]

¹² سورة الأعراف – Soorah al-`A`raaf [7:158]

¹³ Narrated by at-Tirmidhee no.2609

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Allaah's Limits. They should hope for Allaah's Reward and fear His Punishment. It is prescribed for them to hasten to do good, voluntary deeds, because they compensate for the missing parts in obligatory deeds.

It is prescribed for every Mu'min to hasten to perform good deeds, such as supererogatory Salaah, supererogatory Sadaqah (voluntary charity), Dhikr (Remembrance of Allaah), Hajj more than once, `Umrah (lesser pilgrimage) more than once and other supererogatory acts prescribed by Allaah. If a Mu'min hastens to do this, they become with those closer to Allaah in the highest stage. There are **three** degrees of Muslims:

First, the ones who wrong themselves by committing sins.

Second, moderate people who perform the obligations and leave the prohibited things.

Third, the close ones who hasten to perform good deeds and obligations; they hasten to obey Allaah and perform supererogatory acts hoping for Allaah's Reward and fearing His Punishment.

I advise my sons, the students, and everyone to fear Allaah as He should be feared everywhere, in all cases and at anytime. They should hold fast to Allaah's Religion; beware of things prohibited by Allaah; and observe the Limits of Allaah, hoping for Allaah's Reward and fearing His Punishment, according to Allaah's (*Exalted be He*) Saying:

[Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allaah (Alone)," and then they stand firm, on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): "Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!]"¹⁴ ["We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have (all) that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask."¹⁵ ["An entertainment from (Allaah), the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."]¹⁶

He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is (only) Allaah," and thereafter stand firm and straight on the Islaamic Faith of Monotheism, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.]¹⁷
Those are [...the dwellers of Paradise, abiding therein (forever) — a reward for what they used to do.]¹⁸

He (*Exalted be He*) told His Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*):

¹⁴ سورة فصلت – Soorah Fussilat [41:30]

¹⁵ سورة فصلت – Soorah Fussilat [41:31]

¹⁶ سورة فصلت – Soorah Fussilat [41:32]

¹⁷ سورة الأحقاف – Soorah al-Ahqaaf [46:13]

¹⁸ سورة الأحقاف – Soorah al-Ahqaaf [46:14]

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[So stand (ask Allaah to make) you (Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him)) firm and straight (on the religion of Islaamic Monotheism) as you are commanded and those (your companions) who turn in repentance (unto Allaah) with you]¹⁹

All Mukallafs should follow Istiqamah (integrity) on Al-Haqq (the Truth), whether performing obligations or leaving prohibitions, during their lifetime. Everyone should fear Allaah as He should be feared; perform obligations and leave prohibitions out of 'Eemaan in Allaah and His Messenger, hoping for reward and sincerity, while hoping for Allaah's Reward and fearing His Punishment. That is why Allaah (*Exalted be He*) says to His Prophet:

[And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (i.e. death).]²⁰

He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[O you who believe! Fear Allaah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islaam [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allaah)].]²¹

Everyone should fear Allaah; hold fast to His Religion; keep away from prohibitions; love people or hate them for Allaah (according to norms prescribed by Allaah); and befriend people or create enmity with them for the Sake of Allaah. That is why they were created and that is what they were asked, which is `Ibaadah that they were created for according to Allaah's (*Exalted be He*) Saying:

[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]²²

It is the same `Ibaadah people were created for as mentioned in Allaah's (*Exalted be He*) Saying:

[O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah)]²³.

We should strive in this and ask Allaah to grant us success and help. Allaah (*Exalted be He*) says:

[As for those who strive hard in Us (Our Cause), We will surely guide them to Our Paths (i.e. Allaah's religion - Islaamic Monotheism). And verily, Allaah is with the Muhsinoon (good doers).]²⁴

¹⁹ سورة هود – Soorah Hood [11:112]

²⁰ سورة الحجر – Soorah al-Hijr [15:99]

²¹ سورة آل عمران – Soorah Aale-Imraan [3:102]

²² سورة الذاريات – Soorah adh-Dhariyat [51:56]

²³ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:21]

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He (*Exalted be He*) says:

[And whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty).]²⁵ [And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine.]²⁶

He also says:

[...and whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make his matter easy for him.]²⁷

He also says:

[...and whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will expiate from him his sins, and will enlarge his reward.]²⁸

He further says:

[O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth.]²⁹ [He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins.]³⁰

If a person fears Allaah, saves their tongue and keeps Istiqamah, Allaah will set right their deeds and forgive their sins. If a person obeys Allaah and His Messenger, they will win greatly. This is Taqwaa, to obey Allaah and His Messenger; this is Allaah's Religion and this is 'Eemaan (belief) in Allaah and His Messenger,

[And whosoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise).]³¹

May Allaah guide us all to do good, useful deeds! May Allaah grant you and us good comprehension of religion! May Allaah protect you and us from the evils of ourselves and our misdeeds!

I repeat my advice again; apply what we have mentioned; perform Da`wah (calling to Islaam); hope for Allaah's Reward and fear His Punishment according to His (*Exalted be He*) Saying:

²⁴ سورة العنكبوت – al-Ankaboot [29:69]

²⁵ سورة الطلاق – Soorah at-Talaq [65:2]

²⁶ سورة الطلاق – Soorah at-Talaq [65:3]

²⁷ سورة الطلاق – Soorah at-Talaq [65:4]

²⁸ سورة الطلاق – Soorah at-Talaq [65:5]

²⁹ سورة الأحزاب – Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:70]

³⁰ سورة الأحزاب – Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:71]

³¹ سورة الأحزاب – Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:71]

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[And who is better in speech than he who [says: "My Lord is Allaah (believes in His Oneness)," and then stands firm (acts upon His Order), and] invites (men) to Allaah's (Islaamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims."]³²

He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[Invite (mankind, O Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*)) to the Way of your Lord (i.e. Islaam) with wisdom (i.e. with the Divine Revelation and the Qur'aan) and fair preaching, and argue with them in a way that is better.]³³

This is what our Lord (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) ordered us to do. He (*Exalted be He*) also says:

[Say (O Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*)): "This is my way; I invite unto Allaah (i.e. to the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism) with sure knowledge, I and whosoever follows me (also must invite others to Allaah i.e. to the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism with sure knowledge). And Glorified and Exalted be Allaah (above all that they associate as partners with Him). And I am not of the Mushrikoon (polytheists, pagans, idolaters and disbelievers in the Oneness of Allaah; those who worship others along with Allaah or set up rivals or partners to Allaah)."]³⁴

May Allaah make you and us follow the Messenger of Allaah with deep insight; and protect you and us from the evils within ourselves and our misdeeds! He is the Only One Capable of doing so. May Allaah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

³² سورة فصلت – Soorah Fussilat [41:33]

³³ سورة النحل – Soorah an-Nahl [16:125]

³⁴ سورة يوسف – Soorah Yoosuf [12:108]