

Pillars of worship

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: What are the three pillars around which worship revolves?

ANSWER:

One of the scholars of Islam from 700 years ago – a man called ibn Taymeeyah, defined worship as: *'a comprehensive term for everything which Allaah loves and is pleased with, from the person's speech and actions, both outward visible actions and inward (i.e. hidden) actions.'*

This worship comprises three different aspects:¹

- a) Love (which occurs along with humility)
- b) Hope
- c) Fear

Islam teaches that in order for worship to be complete, it has to combine all of these three aspects.

Whoever attaches himself to one of them only has not truly worshipped Allaah.

To illustrate this:

A person who loves something whilst not humbling himself before that thing has not worshipped it. This is the case with a person who loves his son or loves his friend, but does not of course humble himself before them. He has not worshipped his son or his friend.

A person who humbles himself before a person, whilst not loving that person has similarly not worshipped that person. This is the case with the person who humbles himself before a tyrannical ruler or oppressor out of fear of the ruler's evil, but in his heart he hates him.

And similar examples regarding hope and fear can be made.

It is hopefully clear that to truly worship Allaah, Muslims should have the utmost love of him and humbleness before Him, whilst having hope in Him for His Mercy to come upon them, yet fearing that His Punishment may come to them.

¹ Refer to *'Aqeedah ut Tawheed* p70 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information