

Directing a command to someone who already fulfils it

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Directing a command to someone who already fulfils it

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Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to directing a commands towards someone who is already fulfilling that command, the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ comments:

Benefit no 10:

Directing the command to the one who (already) possesses (that) attribute – as per His statement:

(O Messengers! Eat from the foods which are tayyib) and work righteous deeds...

[Soorah al Mu-minoon (the 23rd chapter) aayah 51]

So the command to perform righteous deeds was directed to the messengers, despite them (already) performing righteous deeds – and there is no doubt about that.

And this is like His statement, He the Most High, to His Messenger Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)²:

O Prophet, have taqwaa (fear and dutifulness to) Allaah...

[Soorah al Ahzaab (the 33rd chapter) aayah 1]

And His statement:

And when you said to him, upon whom Allaah had bestowed Favour and upon whom you had bestowed favour, "Keep your wife to yourself and have taqwaa of Allaah." But you did hide in yourself that which Allaah will make manifest...

[Soorah al Ahzaab (the 33rd chapter) aayah 37]

So in these aayaat, Allaah commanded His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to (have) taqwaa - despite his (صلى الله عليه وسلم) being the person from the people with the most taqwaa of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic.

And were it to be said to one of us – and we are people who fall short – "Fear Allaah!" he would become filled with anger.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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And if it were said to him, “May Allaah guide you!” he would certainly say, “And what is it that I am supposed to have fallen into?”

And (yet) the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was being addressed by his Lord, with His statement:

O Prophet, have taqwaa (fear and dutifulness to) Allaah...

[Soorah al Ahzaab (the 33rd chapter) aayah 1]

So the messengers (عليهما الصلاة والسلام)³ were commanded with doing righteous deeds, even though they were (already) doing them – affirming for them that which they were upon, in order that they continue upon doing it.

(Sharh al Arba’een an-Nawawee (p148) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen (رَجْمَةُ اللَّهِ))

³ (عليهما الصلاة والسلام) (‘alaihim us salaatu was salaam) Upon them prayer and peace