

Last Day 39 – How to get to Paradise

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: How can a person try to “get himself” into Paradise? And why do people enter the Hellfire?

ANSWER:

One of the great scholars of the past, Imam at Tahaawee, who wrote a well known book on Islamic belief called al Aqeedah at Tahaweeyyah, said:

And (we believe that) He created inhabitants for both of them (Paradise and the Hellfire). So whoever He Wishes from them will go to Paradise through His Favour, and whoever He Wishes from them will go to the Fire from His Justice.

So the obvious question is then: how does a person attempt to be one of the first group mentioned here – those who will go to Paradise – and avoid being one of the second group mentioned, those who will go to the Fire?

Islam teaches that if a person is to enter Paradise, doing many good deeds are crucial for this but ultimately are only a means to achieve this. In fact, a person will enter Paradise only through the fadl (Favour) of Allaah.

Why then bother doing any good deeds at all? Why not do no good deeds, “live life to the full” and then ask Allaah for His Favour?

The answer is that a person must perform good deeds since they are a means of achieving the Favour of Allaah.

This is mentioned in a verse from the Qur’aan:

...Enter Paradise through (those deeds) that which you used to do.

[Soorah An-Nahl (the 16th chapter) Aayah 32]

And as for entering the Hellfire, then the reason for this is the person’s kufr (rejection of Islam). As justice from Allaah, He enters the person into the Fire because of the person’s bad deeds, the greatest of which are kufr and shirk (associating others in worship with Allaah).

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So we can see that a person's actions which he/she did in this life have a critical role in deciding their outcome after death but even then, a person will only gain entry to Paradise through Allaah's bestowing His Favour upon them. However good deeds are a means of "earning" this Favour.