

Love of God and how to achieve it (part 2 of 2)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Sixth, love of the Prophet, may Allaah praise him, is part of loving Allaah. All the world's treasures and riches can not match the love for the Prophet. It needs to be discussed separately.

Seventh, following Prophet Muhammad is a true sign of loving Allaah as He says in the Qur'aan:

["Say [O Prophet]: 'If you love Allaah, follow me, [and] Allaah will love you.'"]¹

A new Muslim should learn as much as possible about how the Prophet worshipped and prayed to Allaah, his guidance and Sunnah in all matters of life and lovingly imitate him to earn divine love. There is nothing that Allaah loves or with which one can come close to Allaah, except that the Prophet of Mercy has informed us of it.

The next question for is, 'how can I achieve the love of Allaah?'

(a) The first and most important way to achieve the love of Allaah is to understand the meaning of the Testimony of Faith and to commit oneself to live by it. Laa ilaaha ill-allaah is the purpose of your creation, the definition of your relationship with Allaah, and the key to Allaah's love and entry into Paradise. Anyone's whose last words are Laa ilaaha ill-allaah in this life will enter Paradise. One must also try to learn Allaah's beautiful Names and sublime Attributes. One cannot truly love someone they do not know.

(b) The second most important way to achieve the love of Allaah is to perform the obligatory duties followed by voluntary ones. The most important of the obligatory duties is to learn the Salaah and to pray regularly. This is followed by fasting, paying zakaah, and performing other obligations. Some scholars say that there is a Paradise on earth, if someone does not enter it, he shall not enter it in the afterlife. A person enters the Paradise on earth by enjoying God's worship and obedience. With time, understanding the spiritual significance, and patience one will reap the greatest spiritual benefit of carrying out the obligations of Islaam: the love of Allaah. The Prophet, may God praise him, related:

¹ Qur'aan [3:31]

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“Allaah the Mighty has said: ‘Whoever shows enmity to a beloved slave of Mine, I shall be at war with him. My slave does not draw near to Me with anything more loved by Me than what I have made obligatory upon him. And My slave continues to draw near to Me by voluntary works till I love him. When I love him, I am his hearing with which he hears, his seeing with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes, and his foot with which he walks. Were he to ask of Me, I would surely give and were he to seek refuge in Me, I would surely grant it.’”²

[This Prophetic narration is not to be taken literally, rather what is meant is that the person will act according to that which pleases God. For example, he will not look at impermissible things, will only listen to that which is useful and beneficial such as listening to the Qur’aan, Islaamic lectures, etc.]

(c) To enjoy being alone with Allaah in prayer, Salaah, reciting Qur’aan, and meditating in isolation with the Creator. Call out to Allaah by presenting your problems, ask for His assistance, and supplicate to Him in those specific areas in the prayer where this is to be done, such as the prostration. One does not reach this level immediately with the first prayer. A person has to struggle with distractions, one’s self, and the Devil and patiently practice being attentive to reach the state in Salaah where she finds comfort in it.

(d) A person can achieve the love of Allaah by developing the qualities Allaah loves and avoiding those things he dislikes. These qualities are found in the Qur’aan and the teachings of the Prophet, may Allaah praise him. Some of them are:

Patience in face of religious prejudice and persecution:

[“And Allaah loves the steadfast.”]³

A new Muslim should be patient when they face ridicule, lose friends, or are mocked for accepting Islaam. They should endure in learning Islaam and practicing it.

Doing good:

[“Surely, Allaah loves those who do good.”]⁴

Controlling your anger, spending more in charity, and learning the etiquette of supplicating to Allaah all fall under this category.

Taqwaa:

[“Indeed, Allaah loves those who fear Him.”]⁵

² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree

³ Qur’aan [3:146]

⁴ Qur’aan [3:134, 3:148]

⁵ Qur’aan [3:76]

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Taqwaa is to obey Allaah's commandments and to stay away from His prohibitions in dress, diet, behaviour, personal relationships, and other aspects of life.

Continuously repenting to Allaah and maintaining proper Hygiene:

["Indeed, Allaah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves."]⁶

Trusting Allaah in all affairs especially in decisions made after consultation:

["Indeed, Allaah loves those who rely [upon Him]."]⁷

Being fair:

["And if you judge, judge between them with justice. Indeed, Allaah loves those who act justly."]⁸

Allaah does not love:

Arrogance like rejecting the truth even after it has become clear:

["Indeed, He does not like the arrogant."]⁹

Transgression like speaking about Allaah and His religion what one does not know:

["Surely, Allaah does not love transgression."]¹⁰

Wronging others:

["Indeed, He does not like the wrongdoers."]¹¹

Being excessive in eating, drinking, and clothing:

["And be not excessive. Indeed, He does not like those who commit excess."]¹²

Spreading corruption like inciting wars:

["And Allaah does not like corruption."]¹³

Breaking treaties and covenants:

["Indeed, Allaah does not like traitors."]¹⁴

⁶ Qur'aan [2:222, 9:108]

⁷ Qur'aan [3:159]

⁸ Qur'aan [5:42]

⁹ Qur'aan [16:23]

¹⁰ Qur'aan [2:190, 5:87]

¹¹ Qur'aan [3:57, 42:40]

¹² Qur'aan [6:141, 7:31]

¹³ Qur'aan [2:205, 5:64]

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Sins:

["And Allaah does not like every sinning disbeliever."]¹⁵

Disbelief:

["Indeed, Allaah does not like the disbelievers."]¹⁶

Boasting and stinginess:

["Indeed, Allaah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful, who are stingy and enjoin upon [other] people stinginess and conceal what Allaah has given them of His bounty."]¹⁷

Deceiving Allaah and people:

["Indeed, Allaah does not love one who is a habitually sinful deceiver. They conceal [their evil intentions and deeds] from the people, but they cannot conceal [them] from Allaah, and He is with them [in His knowledge] when they spend the night in such as He does not accept of speech."]¹⁸

Mentioning evil:

["Allaah does not love the public mention of evil except by one who has been wronged."]¹⁹

¹⁴ Qur'aan [8:59]

¹⁵ Qur'aan [2:276]

¹⁶ Qur'aan [3:32]

¹⁷ Qur'aan [4:36-37]

¹⁸ Qur'aan [107-108]

¹⁹ Qur'aan [4:148]