

Benefits of faith (part 2)

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All thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. Peace and prayers be upon the most honourable of all messengers, Muhammad (ppbu).

The benefits of faith are great and many. Last Friday we talked about four of those benefits, and they were:

- 1) Total confidence into Allah.
- 2) The change to the better
- 3) Avoiding sins
- 4) Trusting into Allah's promises.

Today the Imam talks about the following benefits of faith:

- 1) Never take one's self for granted
- 2) Transparency and sensitivity
- 3) Remaining firm in good and in bad
- 4) The good life in this worldly life
- 5) Not facing loss
- 6) Remaining firm on faith at time of death
- 7) Entry into Paradise on Day of Judgment.

1) Never take one's self for granted

A Sign of having faith is that the faithful can not feel relaxed in this life despite how much good living he or she lives. The faithful always

worries about himself from slipping into hypocrisy or if his word contradict his deeds. Many of the messenger's companions were never certain that they had the same level of faith as Gabriel and Michiel.

2) Transparency and sensitivity

It is a sign of faith to have a transparent soul and a sensitive heart which will get emotional when remembering Allah. Allah says: {those who have faith are those who when Allah is mentioned their heart humbled, and when His verses are recited on to them they become more faithful, and upon their Lord they depend and trust} 8:2. Someone with faith will share his brothers in faith their problems and sorrows, and will give them the support generously. The messenger (ppbu) said: {He is not faithful this who shall have full stomach and his neighbour next door to him is hungry}.

3) Remaining firm in good and in bad

It is a sign of faith that the faithful shall remain firmly faithful in good times and in bad and firmly faithful in the face of all temptations. When stricken the faithful should be patient and tolerant. And when exposed to something good the faithful should give thanks to Allah. This, who worships Allah on an edge, will quickly be taken away with temptations. Allah says: {Some people worship Allah on an edge. When exposed to something good he becomes relaxed and when exposed to a temptation faced the opposite, and lost this worldly life and the next life. And that is the clear loss} 22:11. The messenger (ppbu) said: {The state of the faithful is a wonder, for there is good in every thing that happens to him/her. And that is only the case of the faithful. If stricken with a good, he gave thanks and that is good for him. And when stricken with calamity he remained patient and that is good for him}.

4) The good life in this worldly life

Allah says: {Each and every male or female, whoever does a good deed while being on faith then We shall give them a good life, and We shall reward them based on the best deed they ever did} 16:97.

Allah also says: {Allah promised those of you who become faithful and do good deeds that He will make them successors on earth as He made those who are before them. And strengthen their religion which He chose for them, and will replace their fear to security, as long as they worship Me and never to associate any thing with Me. And those who disbelieve afterwards; are the wrong doers} 24:55.

5) Not facing loss

Allah has made an oath that this who has faith will never be a loser. Allah says: {This is an oath with *Asr* (والعصر) is that all mankind is at loss, except those who have faith and who do good deeds, and who preach justice and truth and who preach patience} 103: 1-3.

The messenger (ppbu) said: {for every bad thing that a faithful is struck with, for every tough matter and for every difficulty, for every worry and sadness, and for every hurt and every depression, even for each prickle of a thorn that hits a faithful, Allah shall wipe off his or her sins}. The messenger (ppbu) also said: {Calamity still befalls a man or a woman of faith within them selves, or in their child or their money until he or she meet their Allah with all their sins gone}.

6) Remaining firm on faith at time of death

Another benefit of faith is that at the time of death angels help the faithful remain firm on their faith. Angel will give them the good

news of what Allah has for them as reward. Allah says: {Those who say Allah is our Lord and then live a straight life, our angels descends upon them and say: have no fear and have no worries, and have the good tidings about the Paradise which you were promised. We are supporters in this worldly life and in the next. And there will be in it everything your souls shall crave for, and you shall have any thing you could think of. A place of accommodation prepared for you by one who is forgiving and merciful} 41:30-32

7) Entry into Paradise on Day of Judgment.

Any faithful man or woman whose faith is pure from all associations, Allah shall give them peace and security on the day of resurrection and shall admit them into the Paradise. Allah says: {Those who are faithful and did not mix their faith with wrong, they shall have security and they are the guided ones} 6:82. Allah says: {Those males or females who do good deeds while on faith, shall be entered into Paradise, and they shall not be short done not by a tiny bit} 4:124

Dear God, The most Merciful and the Lord of the worlds, please keep our faith and make us remain firm upon it. Give us strength to do good deeds, and to refrain from bad. Allah, we have no power and strength except with you. Do not leave us to ourselves and to our weaknesses.