

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسَ أَنْ يَتَرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنِّي لَأَرَى اللَّهُ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتُ، وَأَتَّبِعُ السَّيِّئَةَ الْحَسَنَةَ تَمَحُّهَا، وَخَالِقِ

النَّاسِ بِخُلُقٍ حَسَنٍ.

GOOD DEEDS AND GOOD MORALS PERFECT THE FAITH

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, "Do people think once they say, "We believe," that they will be left without being put to the test?"¹

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, "Have Taqwa of Allah wherever you are. And follow an evil deed with a good one to wipe it out. And treat the people with good behavior."²

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, is a complete whole with faith, good deeds, and good moral principles. Islam resembles a tree, with its roots being faith, its trunk being good deeds, and its fruits being good morals.

Faith is the single most jewel that will raise a person to the rank of their Lord's servant. Faith is first and foremost about knowing Allah (swt) well, imprinting His existence and oneness in the heart, and recognizing that nothing or no one is the same as, similar to, or a partner with Him (swt). It is then about believing wholeheartedly in angels, divine books, prophets, the Day of Judgment, qadar and qada, and that all good and evil is due to Allah (swt).

Dear Muslims!

Faith-honored hearts can only be exalted in Allah's (swt) eyes and earn His (swt) favor in an atmosphere of peace-inducing good deeds. Good deeds refer to every kind of pleasant behavior aimed at earning Allah's (swt) pleasure. They are about devotion to the commandment **الْبِقِينُ بِأَتْبِكَ حَتَّى رَبِّكَ وَاعْبُدْ**

"And worship your Lord until the inevitable comes your way."³ and living a life conscious of servitude to Allah (swt). They entail the timely and due performance of worships, such as prayers, fasting, zakat, and hajj, which constitute the basis of Islam. They are about proper and correct conduct of what is halal and legitimate. They are about staying away from such harams as alcohol, gambling, adultery, interest, and wastefulness, and avoiding lies, backbiting, and slandering. They include not laying eyes on an orphan's property, avoiding bribery, and not engaging in blackmarketing.

Dear Believers!

Our faith is perfected when we reflect the Islamic morals in every part of our lives. In this respect, the Messenger of Allah (saw) says in one hadith, **بُعِثْتُ إِنَّمَا لِتَمِّمَ الْأَخْلَاقَ صَالِحَ** "I was sent to perfect good character."⁴ Every believer who is honored to be a member of the Prophet of Mercy's (saw) ummah beautifies their morals by taking him (saw) as example. They equip themselves with such virtues as goodness, benevolence, chastity, piety, humility, and righteousness. They strive for enabling compassion and mercy to prevail in their family and environment. They stay away from all kinds of violence, oppression, arrogance, and stinginess. They view violation of the rights of other people and the public rights as a grave sin.

Dear Muslims!

Let our faith direct our lives. Let our good deeds orient us to be proper servants of Allah (swt). Let our good morals lead us to treating people and all creation with compassion and mercy.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with our Prophet's (saw) following supplication: "**O Allah! Guide me to the best of deeds and the best of manners. For none can guide to the best of them but You. And protect me from bad deeds and bad manners. For none can protect against them but You.**"⁵

¹ Ankabut 29/2.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 55.

³ Hija, 15/99.

⁴ Ibn Hanbal, II, 381.

⁵ Nasa'i, Iftitah, 16.