

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي

خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَثَلُ الَّذِي يَذْكُرُ رَبَّهُ وَالَّذِي لَا يَذْكُرُ مَثَلُ الْحَيِّ وَالْمَيِّتِ.

HEARTS FIND COMFORT IN THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Almighty Lord (swt) describes the believers of reason as follows: **“They are those who remember Allah while standing, sitting, and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth...”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, **“He who remembers his Lord and who does not remember his Lord are like the living and the dead.”**²

Dear Believers!

Dhikr is a manifestation of our servitude and loyalty to our Lord (swt). It is a gateway to abundance of spiritual blessings. It is a source of peace for the heart. It is what feeds our hearts and cures our troubles. Dhikr is to remember that our Lord (swt) sees, hears and protects us at all times and in all places. It is through dhikr that we may attain the mercy and grace of our Lord (swt). It is through dhikr that we may enjoy His love for us. It is through dhikr that we may get out of our heedlessness or negligence, and get rid of our misguided thoughts. It is through dhikr that we may attain salvation in this world and the Hereafter.

Dear Muslims!

Believers open their hearts to their Lord (swt) through dhikr. They fully observe the verse,

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرْتُمْ **“Remember Me; I will remember**

you.”³ Through dhikr, they contemplate the existence, oneness and might of Allah. They live a life with the awareness that they are under the supervision of their Lord (swt). They always strive for good and stay away from evil.

The believer’s heart is comforted through dhikr. The believer’s soul finds comfort through dhikr, in accordance with the verse, **“Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort.”**⁴ Their homes will become peaceful through dhikr.

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur’an as follows: **“O believers! Always remember Allah often, and glorify Him morning and evening.”**⁵ Our Prophet (saw), who took this verse as his principle, would start all his actions by mentioning the name of Allah (swt). He would remember Allah (swt) when he put on his clothes, when he entered his house, when he left his house, and when he got on his mount. He would recite the Basmala at the beginning of the meal and say “Alhamdulillah” at the end. He would mention Allah (swt) before going to sleep and after waking up.

Dear Muslims!

Dhikr is to keep Allah (swt) in the mind, and to recite certain words verbally, as well as the effort to earn Allah’s pleasure through our words, attitudes and behaviors. It is the endeavor to rehabilitate our nafs, to be on the path of goodness and righteousness, and to attain peace and happiness. Believers who comprehend the true meaning of dhikr lead a life in accordance with the Qur’an and Sunnah. They observe the laws and rights of brotherhood. They strive to strengthen unity and solidarity in society. Believers who embrace dhikr do not forget the purpose of their creation. They do not lose their sensitivity to the rights of others.

Dear Muslims!

Our Almighty Lord (swt) warns us in the Holy Qur’an as follows: **“O believers! Do not let your wealth or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah.”**⁶ This verse commands us to remember Allah (swt) at all times while earning our livelihood, doing our job, and fulfilling our responsibilities. It calls on us to worship our Lord (swt), to remember Him and to seek His help in wealth and dearth, and in comfort and hardship.

So, Dear Believers!

Let us always remember our Lord Almighty (swt), seeking His pleasure, help and mercy. Let us perform our dhikr by reciting His beautiful names such as Allah, al-Rahman, al-Rahim, al-Salim. Let us not be negligent of our prayers, which are the ultimate dhikr. Let us recite, understand and live by the Holy Qur’an, one of the names of which is “Dhikr”.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following supplication our Prophet (saw) taught us: **“اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنَّا عَلَىٰ شُكْرِكَ وَذِكْرِكَ وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ** **“O Allah!**

Help me to remember You, to express gratitude to You, and to worship You in the best manner.”⁷

¹ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/191.

² Bukhari, Da’awat, 66.

³ Baqarah, 2/152.

⁴ Ra’d, 13/28.

⁵ Ahzab, 33/41-42.

⁶ Munafiqun, 63/9.

⁷ Ibn Hanbal, II, 299.