

## FAITH

Faith is linguistically a matter of belief. Religiously, faith is a word of mouth, a belief in the heart, and actions that reflect it. Belief in all that Allah mentioned in His holy Qur'an or on the tongue of His messenger. Such a belief must be absolute, whereas no doubt or suspicion may mar it. A consequence of belief is that Allah and His messenger become dearer to oneself than anything else.

### From the Qur'an:

- You were the best of nations; you call on good deeds, denounce bad ones, and believe in Allah. Had those with the book believed, it would have been to their benefit. Some of whom are believers, and most are astray.
- Oh people, the messenger has come to you with the truth from your God, so believe for your own sake. If you disbelieve, to God is all that is in heavens and on earth. Allah is knowledgeable and wise.
- He who does good, whether a man or a woman, as he believes, we shall give him a good life, and we shall reward them in a better way than their good deeds.
- Know that the messenger of Allah is among you. Had he obeyed you in a lot of the matters you would have been stubborn. However, Allah made you love faith and made it dear to your hearts, and made you hate disbelief, transgression, and disobedience. Those are the truthful.
- Believers are those who had faith in Allah and His messenger, they then had no doubts and fought with their fortunes and themselves for the sake of Allah. These are the righteous.
- By the name of Al Asr, man is indeed at a loss, except for those who believed and did good deeds, and called for truth and called for patience.

### From the Hadeeth:

- Abu Horira narrates that the prophet -peace be upon him - said: There are sixty some or seventy some braches of faith, the least of which is cleaning away dirt from the street, and the highest of which is utterance of "there is no God but Allah".
- Soheib narrates that the messenger of Allah -peace be upon him - said: How amazing is the believer's condition; he is always in good standing, which is something that does not apply to anyone but the believer, if he is blessed with good fortune he is thankful and it is good for him, and if he is tested with a hardship he is patient, and that too is good for him.

- Al Abbas Ben Abdul Mottaleb narrates that the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – said: He who accepts Allah as his God, Islam as his religion, and Muhammad as the messenger will have tasted the flavor of faith.
- Anas narrates that the prophet -peace be upon him – said: Three traits, if present in one he shall taste the sweetness of faith; that Allah and His messenger be dearer to him than anything else, that he would love a human only for Allah’s sake, and that he would hate to return to disbelief after being saved by Allah as he hates to be thrown in fire.

### **Stories from the past:**

- Om Salamah said that two men disagreed about a matter of inheritance with no proof for each but their own testimony. Each claiming it to be his own right and denying the other his. Both men then sought the judgment of the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – in this state of mind so the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him- said to them: I am only human, and you are seeking my judgment, if one of you has a more convincing tongue such that I rule in his favor unjustly, he shall not take that which is not rightfully his, as he is then grabbing a piece of hell.

Upon hearing those words, the men were touched by faith in their hearts and felt the fear of God and the hereafter, they both then broke in tears and each was willing to give his own right to the other. The prophet -peace be upon him – then said: as you do what you are doing, divide the inheritance and make sure to be fair, then each of you shall relieve the other and forgive him for any unjust distribution that may accidentally occur.

- Abu Musa Al Ashary said: as we were sitting down drinking booze – while it had not yet been forbidden – the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – came by and informed us that booze has been forbidden as per the aya: Oh you believers, booze and gambling ...up to ... will you denounce it? I then went back to my friends and read the aya upon them and all of them immediately threw the booze away and said no more of that dear God, no more. Such are matters of faith.
- In the battle of Badr, Omeir Ben Al Hammam Al Ansary heard the prophet -peace be upon him – tell his followers: By God, any man fighting the infidels today and he gets killed while fighting patiently, going forward not backward, God shall enter him into paradise. Omeir then exclaimed in happiness, so the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – said: what are you exclaiming about Ibn Al Hammam? To which Omeir inquired: Is that all that stands between me and paradise, to go forward fighting these people and get killed? The messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – said: Yes. At that point, Omeir was eating a couple of dates so he threw them away saying: Am I going to prolong this life until I eat those dates? Such is a long life, and he went into battle and fought bravely until he was killed.

- The infidels gave the poet Hassan Ben Thabet (before converting to Islam) some money to write poetry in insult of the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – so he waited on a hill top thinking what characteristics may he use to insult the prophet with. As he was there, he saw the messenger of Allah-peace be upon him – upon which his heart was filled with faith and he converted to Islam. He then went back to the infidels returning their money, saying I bear witness that he is the messenger of Allah.
- Allah told one of His prophets: tell your people how come do you hide away your sins from my creatures and show them to me? If you thought that I did not see you, you are nonbelievers, and if you knew I saw you, why do you not fear me seeing you?