

Believing in Allah in the unseen

By

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If Allah were to reveal Himself in His full majesty, all of mankind would fall into prostration and believe in Him without even a moment's hesitation or shadow of a doubt. But the Creator has spread all of the signs of His powers around us, which point clearly to His omnipotence and omnipresence. Any eye that observes and any receptive heart that reflects, can easily find Allah and believe in Him, without even seeing Him. Therefore, the whole point of having faith is to believe in something unseen.

The Koran says:

This is the Scripture whereof there is no doubt, a guidance for those who are conscious (of Allah). Who believe in the Unseen, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them (Al-Baqarah 2, 3).

These verses lay emphasis upon the fact that belief in the unseen is a part of faith.

A person is a believer if he possesses faith. Faith is born into the heart and is a genuine, spiritual state. Belief in the unseen is a fundamental condition of faith in Islam. Having faith in a vast, unseen world which cannot be comprehended by our sense of perception is a requirement for having faith in Allah.

As Muslims, the basic foundation of our faith lies upon our belief in Allah that we cannot see, hear, or feel. Believing in the unseen includes believing in Allah, His angels, divine Books, all Messengers, the Last Day, Paradise, Hell, the meeting with Allah, life after death and Resurrection. Believing in the unseen applies also to later generations who believe in Muhammad without seeing him. For such generations, there is greater

reward compared with those who lived with him and received the Divine revelation right in their midst.

Those who are steadfast in praying to Allah have proven without doubt that they believe in Allah in the unseen. Prayer is one of the most important acts of worship to draw Muslims nearer to Allah. Prayer is a gift given to every Muslim to enable him to experience a spiritual ascension five times a day. Prayers give Muslims the chance to communicate with their Lord. The real Master is Allah. He Alone is Mighty, He Alone, is Great. He Alone is never tired, never needs rest, and is never dependent upon anyone. Prayers remind the worshipper that time is short, the journey is long, the destination is distant, the task is heavy, and the deadline is closing in. Faith in the unseen means belief in a relationship between oneself and the unseen and not thinking of the two as totally separate.

Believing in the unseen is highly appreciated by Allah and He grants the worshippers in the unseen a great reward.

We read in the Koran:

He is the Lord of the heavens and the Earth and all that is in between them, so worship Him and be patient in His worship; do you know any equal to Him? (Maryam, 65).

The Prophet said:

“Faith is to affirm your faith in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day, and to believe in the Divine Destiny whether it be good or bad.”

Many things in life require a leap of faith, a decision we take in order to extend our experience without knowing the resulting impact with certainty. Having faith in the unseen is definitely more challenging; after all, the outcome will be revealed only after we cease to exist in this life. Faith requires us to build a conceptual bridge from our material existence to an unknown destination and to journey through bravely. Perhaps this is why the results are expected to be far more rewarding.

Allah has promised the believers in the unseen forgiveness and a great reward:

Surely those who fear their Lord in the Unseen – there awaits them forgiveness and a great wage (Al-Mulk, 12).

Allah created human beings, for a purpose. The purpose is to worship Him alone without incorporating with Him other deities. Man was created only to worship Allah.

Allah says in the Koran:

'I created not the Jinns and mankind except to worship me'
(Adh-Dhariyat, 56).

Allah also says:

I am Allah. There is no god but Me, so worship Me and establish prayer to remember Me (Taha, 14).

Man is to live in this world as a worshipper of Allah and prayer is the best means for worship.

The Prophet said:

'Prayer is regarded as a dividing line between a believer and a non-believer (Sahih Muslim).

The Messenger also said, "Prayer is the pillar of religion." (Al-Baihaqi).

He also informed that Islam is built upon five pillars, the second being to establish prayer five times a day.

In prayer the worshipper stands in awe in the presence of Allah by feeling His might and grandeur, with fear and respect.

Prayer is a great opportunity to remember the Lord, praise Him, and worship Him as one God free of all imperfections.

Prayer in Islam has a special role of connecting the weak and vulnerable human beings to Almighty Allah, the Powerful and the Source of all goodness.

In addition, daily worship remind Muslims to give thanks for Allah's blessings and that submission to Allah takes precedence over all other concerns, thereby revolving their life around Allah and submitting to His will. Worship also serves as a means of remembering Allah. The true believers are those who feel fear in their hearts when God is mentioned.

And when His Revelations are recited to them, they find their faith strengthened. They do their best and then put their trust in their Lord.

The Koran says:

Those only are believers who, when God is mentioned, their hearts quake, and when His signs are recited to them, it increases them in faith, and in their Lord they put their trust (Al-Anfal, 2).

Allah says, concerning the plight of the disbelievers on the Day of Judgment, that they will be asked by the Believers, 'What led you into the Hell-fire?' They will say, 'We were not of those who prayed.' (Al-Muddaththir 42, 43). Allah also says, 'Successful indeed are the Believers, those who humble themselves in their prayers (Al-Mu'minun 1, 2). Allah also says about the believers, 'And who observe their prayers; those shall be in Gardens, high honoured (Al-Ma'arij 34, 35).