

United Submitters International

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Happiness is Submission to God

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Are You A Believer?

by Lou Sweum

"God is not to leave the believers without putting them to the test: the bad must be sifted away from the good. Nor does God inform you of the future, except for the messengers whom God chooses for such knowledge. Therefore, you shall believe in God and His messengers. If you believe and lead a righteous life, you receive a great recompense."

God brings the above verse to our attention in Sura 3:179. The believers have been, and are being, tested because the Messenger has been called back to God and it is up to us to carry on the action of the message. The bad will be sifted away and the good will carry on the messenger's disclosures from God. Believers cannot hold back. The knowledge given by God is a tremendous responsibility for which recipients will be held accountable:

"Let not those withhold what God has bestowed upon them from His bounty think that it is good for them; it is bad for them. ...To God belongs the inheritance of the heavens and the earth. God is fully Cognizant of everything you do" (3:180).

The Quran and its disclosures as set forth by God through His messengers must go forward. The believers are in this way tested by carrying on the Messenger's revelations from God. Our Creator further states in the Quran,

"God took a covenant from those who received the scripture: 'You shall proclaim the scripture to the people and never conceal it.' But they disregarded it behind their backs, and traded it away for a cheap price. Miserable indeed is what they traded it for" (3:187).

With God's help to the believers the message will move forward and spread. The believers are always rewarded by God for every effort made in His cause. This is revealed by God as,

"Their Lord responded to them: 'I never fail to reward any worker among you for your work be you male or female you are equal to one another. Therefore, those who immigrate, and those who are evicted from their homes- those who are persecuted because of Me- and those who fight and get killed, I will surely remit their sins and admit them into gardens with flowing streams.' Such is the reward from God. God possesses the best reward" (3:195).

God's victory is always guaranteed for His believers as again shown by God's message,

"Those who believe are fighting for the cause of God, while those who disbelieve are fighting for the cause of idolatry. Therefore, fight the devil's allies; the devil's power is nil" (4:76).

Are you a believer? The true believer is a submitter to God alone and strives to

do what can be done to share this message. God's Messenger of the Covenant was a new messenger bringing an old message: to worship God alone. The work will, God willing, continue. We must remember what God declared in the following verse:

"The only religion approved by God is Submission. Those who received the scripture dispute this fact, knowingly. This is due to jealousy on their part. For those who reject God's revelations, God is most strict in reckoning" (3:19).

GLORY BE TO GOD.

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Congratulations to all the people who attended the 6th Annual United Submitters International Conference.

"...Distinguished from the rest are those among you who spend before the victory and strive. They attain a greater rank than those who spend after the victory and strive. For each, God promises salvation. God is Cognizant of everything you do" (57:10).

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

AGGRESSION CONDEMNED

Say, 'My Lord prohibits only evil deeds, be they obvious or hidden, and sins, and unjustifiable aggression, and to set up besides God powerless idols, and to say about God what you do not know" (7:33).

Aggression is an evil behavior and a poor personality trait. This is why it is condemned in the Quran. We know that patience is advocated in the Quran quite frequently and is recognized by God as an admirable characteristic. Aggression is the opposite behavior, "You shall fight in the cause of God against those who attack you, but do not aggress. God does not love the aggressors. You may kill those who wage war against you, and you may evict them whence they evicted you, for oppression is worse than murder. Do not fight them at the Sacred Mosque, unless they attack you therein. If they attack you, you may kill them. This is the just retribution for such disbelievers. If they refrain, then God is Forgiver, Most Merciful. You can also fight them to counter oppression, and to worship God freely. If they refrain, do not aggress, except against the aggressors" (2:190-193). There is a verse in the Quran that says the righteous never initiate anything. This verse gives us a lot of information on how we should behave and react to situations. Most of this should be instinctual because God created us and taught us how to distinguish between right and wrong.

Another beautiful example is found in Sura 5:2, "...Do not be provoked by your conflicts with people who prevented you from reaching the Sacred Mosque into aggres-

sion. You shall cooperate in matters of righteousness and piety; do not cooperate in matters that are sinful and evil. You shall observe God. God is strict in enforcing retribution." We are all striving for peace and love of our brothers and sisters. There are many things which the human must constantly work against to overcome. Hatred, stinginess, arrogance and aggression are four of these obstacles, "Those who became believers after them say, 'Our Lord, forgive us and our brethren who preceded us to the faith, and keep our hearts from harboring any hatred towards those who believed. Our Lord, You are Compassionate, Most Merciful'" (59:10).

The devil is an enemy and God says to treat him as one. It really takes a strong character to persevere and overcome the tests we were given, "We said, 'O Adam, live with your wife in Paradise, and eat, generously, anything you like, but do not approach this one tree, lest you become transgressors.' But the devil duped them, and caused their eviction therefrom. Consequently, we said, 'Go down as enemies of one another. On earth shall be your settlement and provisions for awhile'" (2:35-36).

A good example of combating aggression is found in Sura 5:8, "...Do not be provoked by your conflicts with some people into committing injustice. Be equitable, for

it is more righteous. You shall observe God. God is fully Cognizant of everything you do." God commands in Sura 16:126-127, "And if you punish, you shall inflict an equivalent punishment. But if you resort to patience (instead of revenge), it would be better for the patient ones. You shall resort to patience- and your patience is attainable only with God's help. Do not grieve over them, and do not be annoyed by their schemes." We must follow God's guidelines given in Sura 42:40-43, "Although the requital for an evil work is an equivalent retribution, those who pardon and maintain righteousness are rewarded by God. He does not love the unjust. Certainly, those who stand up for their rights, when injustice befalls them, are not committing any error. Committing errors are those who treat the people unjustly, and resort to aggression without provocation. These have incurred a painful retribution. However, maintaining patience and forgiveness reflects a strength of character."

God has given us the best opportunity and outlet for releasing our aggressions and that is to fight in the cause of God, advocating righteousness and forbidding evil. All we can do everyday is to strive with everything we have to submit and observe God as He should be observed. God willing, we will be helped by God Almighty.

Unity In Diversity

by Ahmed Currim

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

As the human mind perceives, God's creations in this universe are very diverse. However all of God's creations submit to Him willingly (13:15; 61:1) except the vast majority of the human souls, their jinn companions and of course Satan. God in His infinite grace and mercy, while preserving the free will chosen by us, has sought to redeem us if our souls had even a grain of goodness left that deserved to be saved. Among the ways God has done this is by sending many scriptures and messengers from Him delivering the same fundamental message of strict monotheism. These have pointed out, among other things, the necessity of making no distinction among any of His messengers.

The human mind and understanding has developed in accordance with God's predestined plan; of the aggregate population of humans from Adam to the Day of Judgement, those who are presently alive and the higher density populations yet to come constitute, say, 92%; these must understand God better and willingly submit to His will. The final authorized translation into English of the purified and restored Quran by God's Messenger of the Covenant interalia based on its mathematical composition (far beyond human ability) completes the simple and universally acceptable religion of submission to God alone and provides the basis of unity in diversity. To facilitate the universal comprehension of the Quran, the final testament, this translation furthermore restores the meaning of the Arabic affected by the evolution of the language over 14 centuries since its revelation and updates its understanding. God explains and teaches the Quran. In fact this translation brings into focus the fact that the Quran itself functions as a messenger of God as stated in the scripture and establishes itself as complete, perfect and fully detailed (6:19,38,114,115; 50:45) and that

religious regulations not specifically instituted in the Quran constitute a religion other than Submission (17:46; 42:21).

Unity is a trait of the believers (3:103-105; 61:4). Many contemporaries of every human messenger in the past, out of egotism and jealousy (42:13-15; 45:17,22,23), initiated the process of dividing themselves; they and their successors failed to resolve all differences on the basis of unanimous consensus (42:38). Believers stood by things which they themselves failed to practice (61:2-3). The focal point of unity in diversity worldwide would be on the basis of submission to God alone as detailed in the authorized translation of God's final scripture. This would recognize that there is no compulsion in religion (2:256); this would set the standard for moral and righteous behavior- we must be charitable, honest, trustworthy, truthful, chaste, loving and peaceful; guided by Quran (60:8-9), human beings could be loved and regarded as potential believers who may become better than any of us in due time (25:77). Unity in diversity would, among other things, be characterized by maximum freedom for the individual (2:256; 10:99; 88:21-22) and the barest minimums of organizational hierarchy and professional religionism, if any (9:31,34); guaranteed human rights (5:8; 49:13), social justice for all (2:215; 70:24-25; 107:1-7), environmental protection (30:41), mutual respect (3:110) and prohibition of high interest loans (2:275-277; 59:7). To retain unity, believers must remember that God disapproves the use of personal opinions in judging persons (38:26) and particularly among believers, slandering, backbiting, spying, and even a little bit of suspicion is sinful (49:12; 59:10; 68:10-11; 104:1). God's retribution for sin follows even in this tinsel world and one's soul and family could be lost if timely corrections are not made.

It's God's promise that submission to God alone will inevitably prevail in this world (9:33; 41:53; 48:28; 61:9) and we have irrefutable evidence that this generation should, God willing, witness it (110:1-3). It is therefore necessary for all of us to take heed and strive our utmost to be with the believers as much as possible, rearrange our priorities (3:14; 6:32; 9:24; 57:20; 87:16), be kind and steadfast (90:17; 103:3), for God exalts whomever He wills in the Hereafter and in this world (7:26; 25:77). Even messengers of God had to be reminded not to be jealous and lower their wings for the believers (15:88); in relation to the believers even messengers were advised to be compassionate and consult them or else face abandonment by them (3:159); this would have to be done with all humility, perseverance and submission to earn God's support; methodologies would have to be evolved and progress on delegated responsibilities reviewed periodically- there are many techniques and systems successfully established world wide in manufacturing and service organizations which could be studied and adapted to start with.

After putting us through our tests to help our souls to grow in righteousness, God is the One who guides His precious submitters to introspect our minutest actions each day and repent; then God is the One who reconciles our hearts- God is in full control of all things. We must, however, continue to strive to remember God more than 50% of every day and appreciate so many of His beautiful attributes at every opportunity we can think of 3:41; 3:191; 18:23-24; 33:41); also meditate directly, or indirectly, at least one-third of the night (from sunset to sunrise) so that God can be our friend. One with God is a majority (10:62).

ALL PRAISE BE TO GOD.

Fear Stunts Spiritual Growth

Fear underlies repeated retreat from the truth. Such fear is a kind of fixation - an unwillingness to go forward, grow, and learn. This fixation reflects insecurity and grief. Sometimes, a small stray cat moves about in my backyard at night. When the light suddenly comes on, the cat stops in his tracks, thinking that by remaining in a fixed motionless position no harm shall come to it. Analogous to the frightened stray cat, the disbeliever "freezes" in his position with other opponents of God's revelations. Rejectors of the Quran's miraculous code are fixated - unwilling to move forward, to relinquish loyalties to their egos, false teachings, and traditions of a misguided majority. Fear and fixation fashion a mind-set that resists submission to God alone. Unfortunately, most people resist changing their fixed false beliefs because they have spent years convincing themselves and others that their beliefs are true.

"Say, 'Shall I tell you who the worst losers are? They are the ones whose works in this life are totally astray, but they think that they are doing good'" (18:103-104).

"Anyone who disregards the message of the Most Gracious, we appoint a devil to be his constant companion. Such companions will divert them from the path, yet make them believe that they are guided" (43:36-37).

If a person is guided, he or she does not fear the truth. Thus, when exposed to an irrefutable truth (e.g. Quran's miraculous code) a truly guided person examines then accepts it. The test of whether one is guided comes with the challenge to accept a truth that was previously rejected, not understood, or unknown.

"Those who are blessed with knowledge will recognize the truth from your Lord, then believe in it, and their hearts will readily accept it. Most assuredly, God guides the believers in the right path" (22:54).

If a person is not blessed with knowledge, he does not overcome his fears and fixed opposition to God's evidence that: 1) the Quran is the only source of religious guidance in Submission, and 2) only God should be exalted and worshiped. He holds fast to the position that suits him and those he admires.

"He (God) thus sets up the devil's scheme as a test for those who harbor doubts in their hearts, and those whose hearts are hardened. The wicked must remain with the opposition" (22:53).

The leader of this opposition is Satan. He cannot escape Hell. Put another way, he is "fixed" on Hell. Satan knows that when you remain with this opposition, namely his supporters, your misery and unhappiness is virtually assured.

One of Satan's "names" is MUKHAW-WIF- one who makes souls fearful, faint-hearted, scared, and timid. Satan encourages the fearful to "fixate" on anything that undermines psychospiritual growth and strength. By God's leave, individuals who refuse to accept God's revelations stunt their souls. An undeveloped stunted soul in this life as well as the Hereafter is plagued with fear and anxiety.

"But he who is stingy, though he is rich. And disbelieves in the scripture. We will direct him towards misery" (92:8-10).

"Why should you not strive to reverence God?" (71:13).

The disbeliever is unable to place hope and reverence in God. For, to do so, requires the will and courage to move beyond doubt, ignorance, and fear, and to submit totally to God. This is one reason why God says that believers are free of fear and grief.

"Surely, those who believe and lead a righteous life, and observe the contact prayers (Salat), and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), will receive their recompense from their Lord; they will have nothing to fear nor will they grieve" (2:277).

Publications by Dr Rashad Khalifa, available through Masjid Tucson:

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