

God-fearing 4

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Dearly beloved,

The title of our talk on this blessed Friday is God fearing. For indeed God fearing is Allah's advice given to early creation and the recent ones. It is also the advice given by our messenger ppbu to his entire nation. It is also the advice our early Muslim ancestors gave each other, yet many or present day generations may not know the great value of this advice.

Dearly beloved, the aim of creating the creation is worship. It is for this purpose that Allah had created the heavens and the earth, and paradise and hellfire, and had sent down the scriptures or books. Allah says: **{I only created Jinn and mankind so they would worship me. I do not want any provision from them, and I do not want them to feed me. Indeed, Allah is the provider the most powerful and the firm}**. We all know this fact. We all know the purpose of all creation is: worship. However, do you know that the purpose of worship is: God fearing. Allah says: **{O people; worship your God who created you and those before you so you may become God-fearing}**.

What is God-fearing? God-fearing is for a person to make between him and what he fears some sort of a guard or a shield. God-fearing for a slave is to make between him and the anger or wrath of Allah and the punishment of Allah some sort of a shield. This shield is doing acts or deeds of obedience and avoiding acts of disobedience.

Our ancestors may Allah be pleased with them had different definitions for God-fearing. A man asked Abu-Hurairah what God-Fearing was. Abu-Hurairah asked the man: Did you ever walk in a place with thorns? The man said: yes. Abu- Hurairah said: what did you do? The man answered: wherever I saw thorns I avoided them and kept away. Abu-Hurairah said: that is God-fearing.

Ebn-Mutaz (إبن معتز) said: staying away from sin; big and small is God-fearing; And do as a someone who walks in a land of thorn, take precaution based on what you see. Do not under estimate small sins. Remember that big mountains are made up of small stones.

Tulq Ebn-Habeeb (طلق إبن حبيب) defined God-fearing by saying: God-fearing is to do the acts of obedience for Allah, under the light or guidance of Allah, in expectation of reward from Allah. And also is to refrain from deeds of disobedience for Allah, under the light or guidance of Allah, in fear of punishment from Allah.

Ali Ebn-Abi Talib defined God-fearing by saying: God-fearing is to act according to the Quran; and to fear the Almighty, and to be satisfied with the little, and to be getting ready for the day of departure.

Yes, God-fearing was Allah's advice to early people and later people of His creation. God-fearing was the advice given by the messenger ppbu to his nation. God-fearing was the advice of the righteous people to each other up to the time when Allah shall inherit the earth and all that is above it.

Allah says: **{I have advised those who received the scripture before you, and I advise you to be God-fearing}**. Arbat Ebn Saryah (عرباط (ابن سارية said: One day; the messenger ppbu gave us an eloquent talk with much advice. It made our hearts to pump, and tears to flow. We said: this sounds like the advice of someone who is departing, give us more advice. The prophet ppbu said: **{I advise you to be God-fearing}**. The messenger ppbu also gave advice to his beloved Muad Ebn Jabal by saying: **{Be God-fearing anywhere you happen to be, and always follow up a sin with a good deed, it will wipe it off, and interact with people with good behaviour}**. The messenger ppbu once gave advice to Abu-Saeed El-khethri (أبو سعيد الخدري): **{I advise you to be God-fearing, for it is the peak of all matters}** and in another narration, it was reported that he said:

{I advise you to be God-fearing, for it is all good things put together}.

Our predecessors advised each other to be God fearing. Omar Ebn-Khattab was himself advised by AbuBaker Saddique who was on his deathbed when he said to Omar: Fear-Allah Omar Fear-Allah Omar. Imagine someone on his deathbed advising Omar who is known to be as the Farooq who always identified right and wrong with no other advice except: God fearing. Omar ebn Khattab himself says to his son: I advise you to be God-fearing.

Did you my dear Muslim parent ever advise your son or daughter to be God-fearing? Yes it is good to advise them to do well in learning English, or French or German, I do not under estimate the value of learning other science. This nation is the nation of science and learning, we must be competitive and inventive in every field, but on the other hand, parents should advise their offspring to be God-fearing. And if your son asks you what God-fearing is, then you ought to explain to him what true God-fearing is. In addition, what fulfils being a God-fearing person, and what are the characteristics of those who are God-fearing, and what are the benefits in this life and the life after; of being a God-fearing person. We ourselves need to learn more about Allah and about the messenger of Allah ppbu.