

Friday Sermon

Obedience

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ -

أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ ه بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ه أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ه مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ه إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ه إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ه صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ ۗ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ه

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ۝

قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكٰفِرِينَ ۝

[3:32] Say, 'If you love Allah, follow me: *then* will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.'

[3:33] Say, 'Obey Allah and the Messenger;' but if they turn away, then *remember that* Allah loves not the disbelievers.'

The very simple meaning of these verses is that, if you claim that you do love Allah, than one must also love and follow the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{SA}, and in return Allah will love you and will forgive your sins as he is Most Forgiving and Merciful. However if you do not obey Allah and his Messenger (Muhammad^{SA}), then you will be counted as a disbeliever and Allah does not love the disbelievers. In other words, Allah's Love and forgiveness is tied with the love of our Holy Prophet^{SA} and by following him in every aspect of life. If we choose not to follow him then automatically we are considered among disbelievers. The reason for this conclusion is that, not following Allah and not following the Prophet^{SA} our actions and beliefs will falter and will eventually takes us so far away that at the end we will become like disbelievers or act like one. Forgiving of sins is also very important here, every sin is kind of a poison as Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} has mentioned it in many places and in his prayers.

Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} said in one place that; "The way this whole world get benefits from Sun, and then that benefit does not stop at one end but keeps on going beyond that; exactly the same way the sun of blessings and benevolence from Holy Prophet^{SA} will always be shining on us and will provide its benefit to all the pious natured. This is the reason Allah mentioned قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ means tell them that if you want to become the lover of Allah, then come and follow me and Allah will love you also. Therefore if perfectly following the Holy Prophet^{SA} can make you the lover of Allah, then there is no reason why Allah will not talk to the one he loves." (Al-Hakm

This poison of Sin has a direct effect on our spirit and our spiritual link becomes weaker with Allah, the Al-Mighty. The result of this interruption with Allah also ends with becoming a disbeliever.

Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} has very clearly stated how one can achieve the nearness of Allah in such a way that anyone who tries to truly follow our beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad^{SA} can ultimately win the love of Allah, and can have the door of revelation open on him/her also. This is the highest level of sincerity and love which Allah showers on his beloved. We see this in our daily lives that, communication and especially with the ones we love is very dependent on two-way talking, either be it by mobile phone, in person or messaging. So in the same way if we open our hearts and pray to Allah, Allah will in return reply.

In another place Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} said that, "All Prophets, Oliya and Atqiya and Saleheen had this combined doctrine that purification (of soul) is the work of Allah, and to absorb this Fazal of Allah, we need a source and that source is Following the Holy Prophet^{SA}. As he mentioned in this verse **قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ** Sun is present in this world but you also need the eyes which can see. The law of nature of Allah is not useless and futile. Whatever resources and ways Allah had created to achieve the desire can only get results by obeying the rules of those resources and ways. Ears are created to listen but they can not be used to see. Similarly eyes are created to see, it can not be used to listen. Just this is how there is a way and resource appointed by Allah, to can gain the benevolence and blessings of Allah, how can one gain those benefits by going out of the way." (Al-Hakm Vol. 12 dated May 10, 1908 Page 4) (Tafseer Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} Surah Al-Imran Page 26)

These lines talks about the importance of the obedience and following the commands of Allah and the Holy Prophet^{SA}. In the time of our beloved Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} this verse **قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ** was also revealed to him by Allah (Tadkirah pg 37), the All-Knowing, purpose of revealing this holy verse is that to show that Hadrat Masih Ma'ud^{AS} is the second coming of the Holy Prophet^{SA} as mentioned in Surah Jumah and following him will lead anyone to following the Holy Prophet^{SA}, which will in result fulfill the promised made by Allah, to make him Allah's dearest and forgive his sins.

May Allah, help all of us to follow the footsteps of Holy Prophet^{SA} and obey Allah and Prophet^{SA} in every aspect of life. Only then we will be considered purified and loved one by the Allah. Amin!

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنُؤْمِنُ بِهِ وَنَتَوَكَّلُ عَلَيْهِ - وَتَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مِنْ يَهْدِيهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ - وَنَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ - عِبَادَ اللَّهِ - رَحِمَكُمُ اللَّهُ أَنْ اللَّهُ يَا مُر
بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَ إِيْتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى وَ يَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ - يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَذَكَّرُونَ - أَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَادْعُوهُ يَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ وَ لَذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ -