

Renew your faith

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Dear Muslims, refresh and renew your faith. That is because; the level of faith goes down; as one commits sins and disobediences, and the level of faith increases (and goes up) as one does good deeds of obedience. And also because the fact that faith is those three things: spoken words, and belief and deeds. Words spoken with the tongue, and believing in paradise and physical deeds done by you. Faith increases and becomes stronger as you do deeds of obedience, and decreases as you commit sin and deeds of disobedience. Allah says: **{It is He Who sent down peace and calmness and reassurance into the hearts of the believers that they might have more faith on top of their faith}** 48:04. Yes, as the clouds of disobedience pile up over the heart; that; causes the light of faith to be dimmed or obscured, just as the heavy cloud in the sky can obscure or conceal the moon light from reaching earth. But as soon as the clouds clear away, the light of the moon appears again to the people on earth. It is exactly the same, when the clouds of sins and disobediences clear away from the heart; then the light of faith appears within those hearts. It is necessary dear faithful; it is necessary to take care of your hearts. Faith in the heart must be refreshed or renewed or strengthened every now and again. That is done by exposing the heart to faith-strengthening material. Such as:

1. reciting of Quran, and
2. remembering the Most Gracious Allah, and
3. saying prayers upon the prophet ppbu; and

4. the frequently asking for forgiveness, and
5. visiting graveyards; and
6. visiting the sick; and
7. the keeping up of morning and evening supplications (duas) or Azkar;
8. and donating or giving to or spending on the poor and destitute;
9. and being kind to widows and orphans and the deprived.

Those are the deeds which will strengthen faith within the heart. The heart, dear Muslims; is the master of all organs. All other organs and senses are its subjects and soldiers (or tools at its disposal). If the king (heart) was good then so will be his soldiers and subjects. And if the king was bad then so follow his soldiers and subjects. The messenger ppbu said: **{there is a part within the body; if it goes good then the entire body becomes good; and if it goes evil then so does the whole body. That is the heart}**. You must take care of your heart, you must renew faith within your heart every now and then; because faith grows stronger or weaker; and it gets refreshed or it gets rusted and depleted.

Slaves of Allah; hearts have hardened away; and sins have piled up over them; and fear from Allah has lessened. Allah says: **{Is it not time for the hearts of those who believe to submit to the remembrance of Allah, and to the truth which is revealed, that they have not become as those who received the scripture in the past but the term was prolonged for them and so their hearts were hardened, and many of them are sinners. }** 57:16. Yes, is it not time for hearts to submit and revere in remembrance of Allah? Is

it not time for the hearts of those who believe in Allah as the One and only; and believe in His messenger ppbu; is it not time for their hearts to humble and submit to His Greatness and His Majesty? And is it not time to comply with His command; and refrain and abstain from His prohibitions; and is it not time to stop at His limits? Is it not time to do so; before time passes and hearts become hardened; just as happened with people of the scriptures before you?

I do take oath in the name of Allah; the one and only; that lack of fear of Allah is a bad or sour result of a hardened heart; and a darkened and desolate heart. You would definitely see those of us; who could hear the Quran being recited; but no tear appears in their eyes; and their hearts are not moved; and their senses are not softened or relaxed; and their skin does not tremble or shivers. Why is that?? It is because their hearts have hardened; and because their hearts are barren and desolate; and because their hearts are in darkness. Yes indeed; lack of fear of Allah is a sour consequence of a hardened; darkened and desolate heart. Just as it is that God-fearing is a good consequence of having faith in Allah. It is true that according to how much faith you have in Allah; and how much love you have for Allah; and how much knowledge you have about Allah; and how close you live to Allah; all that will determine how much respect you have for Allah; and how much you revere Him watching you. The more knowledge and understanding you have about Allah; the more you shall fear and revere Him; and the more modest and timid towards Him you would be. In fact; the level of God fearing and respect is in accordance to the level of knowledge you have about Allah.

Allah says: **{The learned (or scholarly or the knowledgeable) among His slaves fear Allah.}** 35:28. The messenger ppbu said: **{I amongst you who knows Allah the most; and I amongst you who fear Him the most}**. It is for that; the messenger ppbu used to do his prayers with a hissing or humming sound in his heart from the crying he used to do. That is despite the fact that he was the one who was assured that his earlier and later sins were forgiven.

One day the messenger ppbu was giving a talk about paradise and hellfire. He said: **{By the Almighty Allah; if you knew what I know, you would laugh a little and cry a lot}**. The companions covered their faces while crying because of those few words had affected their sensitive hearts.

The messenger ppbu once said: **{How do I relax and have joy when the owner of the great horn has grabbed his horn. (Referring to angel Israfeel who will blow the horn terminating this worldly life). He said: How do I relax and have joy when the owner of the great horn has grabbed his horn; and got ready and paid attention by listening; and bent his forehead; ready and waiting when he will be ordered to blow}**. The companions found that so tremendous, and they asked the messenger: what shall we say then? The messenger ppbu said: **{Say حسبنا الله ونعم الوكيل In Allah we trust, Allah suffice us, He is the best protector}**

If we look at how much our prophet ppbu feared his God, and he was the most knowledgeable of Him, and it was he who revered Allah most; we would be absolutely

astonished. If we realize the huge difference between us and the early Muslims then we would know how hardened our hearts have become. Omar ebn Khattab; may Allah be pleased with him, used to fear Allah so much that it tore his heart. As he was on his deathbed, Ebn 3abbas came to him and said: “You should be happy with your life Omar, you were with the prophet ppbu and you were a good companion, then he died while he was happy with you. Then you were with Abu-Baker and you were a good companion, then he died while happy with you. Then you ruled and you practiced justice. If you die today all the messenger’s companions will be happy with you”. Omar then turned to Abu-3abbas and said: “That is what Allah had given me out of His grace. He who is vain and delusional is the one people makes him so. By Allah, I would just hope to leave this life just even; neither for me nor against me. By Allah, if I have the earth’s fill of gold then I would be happy to trade all today to avoid the punishment of Allah before I see Him”. You, who have over-whelmed yourself with sins and disobediences, remember what Omar said.

The messenger ppbu once said to Muaad (معاذ) **“O Muaad, by Allah, I do love you”**. Imagine Muaad was loved by the messenger ppbu, clearly stated; what do you expect Muaad to say at his deathbed? Muaad got infected by the plague at the age of thirty three; he laid in bed waiting to die on seemingly a long night. He asked: “is it morning yet?” They say: no. he repeated that many; many times. He cried and said: “O Allah, protect us from a night that its morning leads to hellfire”

Malik Ebn Dinar was a famous Imam. He used to pray at night and hold his beard and cries saying: “O God, you know who shall live in paradise and who shall live in hellfire. Where is the destiny of Malik Ebn Dinar?”

Have you dear Muslim, you slave of Allah? Have thought about your final destiny? Where it shall be? Will it be paradise or hellfire?

All thanks be to Allah; and I know that having faith in Him is not just a word uttered by the tongue. Faith is with which we shall be made winners, dignified. Faith is what will save us and make us happy in this life and next.

Faith is words spoken and deeds done according to foundations of Islam. Faith increases by deeds of obedience and decreases by deeds of disobedience.

Faith has foundations; and they are: to believe in Allah, and His angels and His books and His messengers and the day after, and to believe in fate both good and bad.

Faith has a sweet taste, have you tasted the sweetness of faith?

The messenger ppbu said: **{there are three characteristics; whoever possessed them; then through them the person will find the sweet taste of faith. They are:**

1- that Allah and His messenger are more loved to the person than anything or anyone else.

2- is to love another person for no reason whatsoever except for Allah’s sake,

3- for a person is to hate to go back to being faithless (or Kufr) after being saved by Allah, just as one would hate to be thrown into a fire }.

The messenger ppbu said: **{ He/she who has accepted or is contented with Allah as God, and with Islam as religion, and with Muhammad as a prophet and a messenger, he will taste the flavour of faith }**

Also dear Muslims remember that faith has a light. The messenger ppbu said: **{ Each and every heart has a cloud like the moon's cloud which comes and goes with it. While the moon shines, if a cloud obstructs it then it darkens, and if the cloud clears off then it shines }**. Meaning that the clouds of sin would obstruct the light of faith in the heart, and when the cloud of sin is pushed off with repentance and good deeds then the light of faith shines within the heart.

I see that sin kills the hearts and sin addiction will inherit humiliation. Abstaining from sin gives life to hearts; and it is better for your sole to be disobeyed when it entices you to sin.

Dear Muslim, make an effort to renew faith in your heart, and remember the messenger ppbu saying: **{ faith wears out within the heart of a person; just as the clothes you wear; wears out }**

The wise one is that who knows the true values of the days he lives through in this life. Life may be taken away at any moment. Upon death, one would hope if he could come

back to life to do one good deed. He is denied that hope. Allah says: **{As death comes to one of them he says: My Lord send me back so I may do a good deed}**. Notice as he says: I may do a good deed. He is not even certain whether he would or not do a good deed. Despite that, the answer comes to him: **{No, it is just a word said by him. There behind them is a barrier until the day they are resurrected}**.

Dearly beloved, make a promise to your Lord to repent and return to Him, a promise to refrain from what is forbidden, give up sins and deeds of disobedience. Make a pledge to give up dealing in (Reba) usury, and give up consuming or taking the money of the orphans. Pledge to give up ill-treatment of parents, give up being abusive and offensive towards Muslims. Promise your God now to adhere to His commands and refrain from He cautioned or warned against, and promise to limit yourself to his boundaries, and do your prayers on time. Do all that in love for Allah, and in full satisfaction with Allah.

We ask Allah to renew faith in our hearts and grant us the good ending.