

God fearing and Fasting

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25/07/2014

28 Ramadan 1435

Dear brothers and sisters, Allah says: **{O ye who believe! Be God fearing, and speak words which are valid and proper and straight; (70) He will make your deeds right and will forgive you your sins. Whosoever obeys Allah and His messenger, he verily has gained a great victory. (71)}** 33:70-71.

In this great verse of the Quran Allah commands us to be God fearing in public and in private. Allah (May He be praised) Has promised us in return that our deeds will be corrected, and our sins would be forgiven in this life, and achieving the greatest victory and tremendous grace in the next life.

God fearing is the advice given by the earlier and later believers. Allah says: **{We have advised the people of the Book before you as well as you (O Muslims) to fear Allah. But if you deny Him then to Allah belong all things in the heavens and on earth, and Allah Has all wealth, worthy of all praise.}** 4:131

In this verse Allah commanded all His creations (past and present) to be God fearing. He is more specific at advising the believers who have faith as Allah says: **{O ye who believe! fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except as Muslims}** 3:102 . Allah also says: **{O you who believe! Fear Allah and let every soul look to what (provision) he/she has put forward for tomorrow. And God fearing, for Allah is well-acquainted with (all) that you do.}** 59:18.

Dear brothers and sisters, fasting worship is considered one of the most important routes to reach a state of God fearing. Fasting has numerous benefits and Allah Has imposed it upon us for many good reasons. One of the most important is achieving

God fearing state. Yes, God fearing is one expected benefit of fasting. Allah says: **{O you who believe! fasting is dictated to you as it was dictated to those before you that you may become God fearing}** 2:183.

God fearing was defined by some scholars as: “For Allah not to see you where He deterred you against, and Not to miss you where He commanded you to be”

Tulq Ebn Habeed (طلق ابن حبيب) said: God fearing is to carry on doing your deeds in obedience to Allah, in light from Allah, and in expectation of reward from Allah; And also to refrain from Allah’s disobedience, in light from Allah, and in fear of Allah’s punishment.

It is from this point that the good people in the past were quite interested in God fearing. They used to investigate it, and work hard for it, and they used ask and enquire about it. Omar ben Khuttab asked Abey-Ka3f (أبي كعب) What God fearing is. He answered him by saying: Have you ever travelled a path with lots of thorns? Omar said: yes. Abey Ka3b asked: “then; what did you do?”. Omar said: “Pulled myself together in preparation, and put a huge effort in being careful”. Abey-Ka3b said: “That’s God fearing”.

Hassan Basri said: “God fearing will remain in the God fearing people until they give up much of what is allowed (or *Halal*) in fear of stepping into the what is forbidden (*haram*)”

God fearing qualifies the slave to achieve the status of being of the people of Allah, and His loved ones and those who are protected by Him. Allah says: **{Behold! Those under the custody of Allah no fear and no grieve shall come on to them; those who believed and were God fearing. It is that for**

them are Glad Tidings, in this life and in the next: no change can there be in the Words of Allah. That is the real victory or win} 10:62-64.

A rich man with great splendour and pageantry beautifully and elegantly dressed once passed by the messenger ppbu. The messenger ppbu asked his companions, what would say about that man? They said: It is obvious that if he speaks; he would be listened to; and if goes for marriage he would not be refused; and if he is to give a reference for someone, then his reference would be accepted. A while late a poor man passed by; and the messenger ppbu asked: what would you say about this man? They said: it is obvious that if he speaks; he would not be listened to; and if goes for marriage he would be refused; and if he is to give a reference for someone, his reference would be refused. The messenger ppbu said: This one –meaning the poor man- is better than as many as the earth would fit of that one – meaning the rich man-.

Therefore, the human evaluation factors are not right. It is God's evaluation factors are the right ones. It is possible for a real poor person so dear to God that if he makes an oath upon Allah; then Allah will see to it that this oath is honoured. The messenger ppbu said: **{there may well be a ragged, shaggy and dusty and deformed person; yet if he makes an oath then Allah will honour it}**.

This is my dear brothers and sisters the Godly evaluation measure. Not evaluation of the mankind, but the evaluation of the Lord of mankind. The messenger ppbu said: **{On the day of resurrection many a big, great fat man is put on the scale and he would not weight as much as a wind of mosquito}**.

Dear brothers and sisters, God fearing is the wished for aim that many people of faith would try to fulfil or achieve as a result of fasting the month of Ramadan. Indeed, the aim of fasting the month of Ramadan is not a soul punishment by denying it what it got accustomed to of food, drink and other desires; and not commanding it to refrain from harming others, arguing, sinning and being disobedient. The main aim of fasting Ramadan is to achieve the status of those who are God fearing. That is the reason the messenger ppbu said: **{Who does not refrain from false talking and going according to it then there is no need for him to give up his food and drink}**. He also said: **{there may be a person who fasts, but all he gets from fasting is the hunger; and there may be a person who stays up the night in prayer; but all he gets from his night prayers is the staying up off his sleep}**.

The people who are most happy in both this life and next are the God fearing people. Many times in the Quran it is stated that “Guidance is for the God fearing”; “Counselling and advice is for the God fearing”. Allah say: **{The Hereafter We shall give to those who intend not high-handedness on earth or evil: and the ending and final consequence is (best) for the God fearing}** 28:83.

The messenger ppbu used to say: **{O Allah, I ask You for guidance; and God fearing, virtue and riches}**