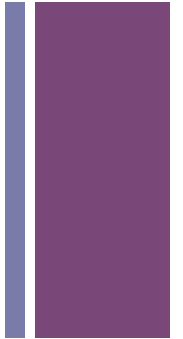




Gratitude of Allah

April 2012 Study Circle

+ Learning Outcomes



- Understand the importance of gratitude
- Link gratitude to purpose of man
- Understand man's weakness
- How gratitude links to the 3rd condition of Bait



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- A Christian man called John Oathman wrote a hymn in 1897 and the main chorus is:-

Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your blessings; See what God hath done.

- (Guide post 155)



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- Allah's blessings are countless and when man begins to focus on them, then he begins to think and understand how Allah is so Gracious and Merciful.
- But when man is facing trial and tribulations then how does he lift his feelings, or how does he prevent himself from reaching that state, where he starts to show **ingratitude**?
- When all he can see is a mist surrounding him and all he can see is feet and no further, how does he demonstrate gratitude?



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- So before man begins to become deep in his thoughts of ingratitude and his prayer show signs of emptiness and his mind is deviated - let's look at how the Holy Prophet (saw) has advised us as he is the biggest example of gratitude through some of the hardest trials and tribulations in his life.

- The Holy Prophet (saw) used to say:

"For a Muslim, life is all full of good and nobody but a true believer finds himself in that position; for, if he meets with success he is grateful to God and becomes the recipient of greater favours from Him. On the other hand, if he suffers pain or tribulation he endures it with patience and thus again makes himself deserving of God's favours."

- (pg 364 Life of Mohammad saw by Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad) (Bukhari, Kitabut Tibb)



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- Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah said in his speech at the USA West Coast Jalsa :-

“The lack of gratitude is what distresses us today true gratitude is composed of love and humility.

We have to reach inside and remember that there is a greater source that created us and is All-Knowing and All-Hearing. What we cannot see or reach our creator can. What we don't know our creator does so like the Holy Prophet (saw) said, endure with great patience.”



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- In the Holy Quran it states:-

“And Allah will certainly reward the grateful”. (Qur'an 3:145).

- Therefore Allah has expressed his love for those who are grateful to him but on the other hand, Allah also warns us of the outcome of being ungrateful.

“The ungrateful never prosper” (Qur'an 28:83).



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- In an Hadith, Hadrat No'man Bin Bashir (ra) narrates that the Holy prophet (SAW) said from his pulpit:-

“He who is not grateful for small favours cannot be grateful for the bigger ones. He who cannot be thankful to men cannot render thanks for the favours of Allah. To talk about the blessings of Allah the Almighty is Thankfulness: to not mention them is ingratitude.”

- (Musnadu Ahmadabni Hanbal vol 4 p278)



So what has Islam taught us ?



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- We have been taught that being grateful is the ability of being content with whatever Allah has provided for you as this will be rewarded and you will prosper in the heavens and on earth.
- So why is Gratitude said to be one of the secrets of happiness?
 - It makes man more grateful for what he has, not what he doesn't.

'...If you are grateful, I will, surely, bestow more favours on you...' (14:8)



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- During a Friday Sermon on the topic of 'How to become grateful servants of God', Hadhur (aba) said:-

“What is gratefulness of God’s grace and its expression? Indeed, it is perfect obedience. It is to practice what God enjoins and to avoid what He forbids. A true believer spends his/her life as Abd e Shakur in order to be a recipient of Divine grace. For this one has to remember God’s favours with all one’s heart and mind throughout the course of one’s day and to continually remember Him, be always mindful of the blessings of God and glorify His name. Hudhur further explained that mere verbal professing (confessing) is not sufficient, the expression of gratefulness of a true believer is from his/her every gesture and there is an effort to adopt humility and humility is inculcated when there is an awareness that all blessings are from God.”

- How to become grateful servants of God Friday sermon April 23rd, 2010
<http://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2010-04-23.html>



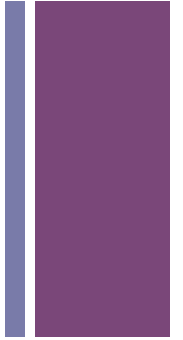
Gratitude of Allah



- The Holy Prophet (SAW) showed great gratitude to people too. Gratitude towards the people of Medina for providing him with a place of refuge, to Hadhrat Abu Bakr (ra) for his loyalty and devotion and also his wife, Hadhrat Khadija (ra) for being a loyal wife who had made many sacrifices for him.

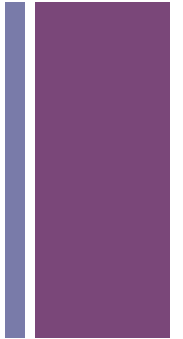


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- This takes us back to the third condition of Bait:-

“That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily Prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the tahajjud and invoking durud on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). That he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him.”



Happy moments, Praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God.

Quiet moments, worship God.

Painful moments, trust God.

Every moment, thank God.