

## Strength of the believer

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 6 June 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Oh Muslims, Abu hurairah narrated that the prophet (pbuh) said: "The strong believer is better and more beloved to God than the weak believer, although both are good. Strive to do that which will benefit you and seek the help of God, and do not feel helpless. If anything befalls you, do not say 'If only I had done (such and such),' rather say: 'God has decreed and what He wills, He does,' for 'if only' opens the door to the work of the Satan."

This saying is stating that there is good in both strong and weak Muslim as both of them have belief in their hearts. This is what meant by "although both are good" but strength is required from a Muslim to be among those who are most beloved to God (SWT), because a Muslim can be weak in his body but strong in his faith, he can be frail but strong in his objectives and determination.

Oh Muslims, **The first thing** that reflects your strength is your belief, true and right belief is a source of continued activity, sustained work and continual effort that never stop.

Our Community is in great need of Muslims who are strong in their belief, a belief that gives them a strength that is reflected in their actions. We need a Muslim who is assured when he talks, constant when he works and confident when he discusses. We need a Muslim who doesn't hesitate when he thinks, who applies his religion with the strength of right knowledge and accurate understanding and transfers it to others with the strength of wisdom and gentle advice and moves to benefit his community with the strength of constructive communication, doing all of that with no weakness while always remembering the saying of God almighty "Hold fast that which We have given you" [Al-baqara 2:63]

**Secondly**, the real strength loved by Allah and mentioned in this saying, is managing the self and will control. This means restraining your self from following desires and wishes as your strength of belief will be reflected in how much you hold your self back from ill manners.

So let your strength appear in your strong will, which stops you from falling into bad and evil deeds. And check you self against how frequently you fall into them or miss good to check the strength of your belief. There is no doubt that following desires and spending time in a bad environment will have a bad effect on any soul but having a strong will to remain upright should stop you from following your desires and wishes and will make you repent to God and to be even better than you were before you indulged in those bad deeds.

**Thirdly**, strength is in leaving comfort and a life without effort and not making the pursuit of a life without effort your priority. This also has a negative effect on the soul. Especially given that we live in a time when there are a lot of ways for a comfortable and easy life.

Loving comfort and prioritising desires destroy determinations and obliterate the will to act. Know that a nation with a lot of this kind of people will never move forward because there is no value in power if it is not combined with strong wills and great determinations. Also know that if the right wills and determinations were combined with firm trust in God then success will be the result "so when you have decided, then place your trust in God; surely God loves those who trust" [Al-Imran 3:159]

It is a strength for a Muslim when his will is directed by God's religion and his mind stops him from becoming a slave - to his desires.

**Fourthly**, strength is when your knowledge is combined with your actions. If you know a good thing then do it quickly and if you know a bad thing then do not indulge in it - not acting in this way will be a sign of weakness as you know the good things but your soul desires something else so you follow it. Take heed this is an indication of your weak will. God says "And say: Work; so God will see your work and (so will) His Messenger and the believers; and you shall be brought back to the Knower of the unseen and the seen, then He will inform you of what you did" [ Al-Tawbah 9:105 ]

A Muslim's personality will not be complete except if he acts with knowledge. Right knowledge and correct understanding will lighten your heart and correct your way so you can produce and leave a positive trace in this life.

"The strong believer is better and more beloved to God than the weak believer, although both are good. Strive to do that which will benefit you and seek the help of God, and do not feel helpless. If anything befalls you, do not say 'If only I had done (such and such),' rather say: 'God has decreed and what He wills He does,' for 'if only' opens the door for the work of Satan"