

## Setting Goals for the Hereafter

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 31 July 2009. 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.

The prophet (pbuh) said: “Whoever makes the Hereafter his preoccupation, then God gathers together his affairs, and places freedom from want in his heart, and the material world (Dunyaa) comes to him despite being reluctant to do so. And whoever makes the material world (Dunyaa) his preoccupation, then God breaks up his affairs, and places his poverty before his eyes, and nothing of the material world (Dunyaa) comes to him except that which has been decreed for him” and in another narration by Zayd bin Thabit, I heard the prophet (pbuh) saying: “Whoever makes the worldly life his major concern, then God will scatter his situation for him (i.e. make it difficult) and his poverty will be placed between his eyes. He will not get from this world anything except that which has already been written for him”

Oh Muslims,

When reflecting upon those who are successful amongst people it is well noticed that they plan before starting any thing and prepare a study to determine the feasibility of any work. After planning and studying, they keep checking that the work is helping them achieve and fulfil their goals. The success of that work becomes their first and last concern.

Has anyone of us planned or gave a serious consideration for his Hereafter so his concern became:

- reaching it without traces of sins,
- having a sound heart
- bringing a heavy scale of good deeds
- being among the winners and the victorious and
- using this worldly life simply as the vehicle to achieve his goals for the Hereafter?

These kind of goals should always be the main concerns in our heart. How much space, time, energy and motivation is spent thinking about this? Oh God, do not make the life of this world our greatest concern; and remove from us difficulty in attaining knowledge.

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: ‘a believer always blames himself; he says: what was the intention behind the word I said? What was the intention behind the food I ate? What was my intention behind my soul whispers? Whereas the disbeliever never blames himself’. It was narrated that whenever that prophet (pbuh) came across these verses “And [by] the soul and He who proportioned it. And inspired it [with discernment of] its wickedness and its righteousness, He has succeeded who purifies it, And he has failed who instills it [with corruption].” He (pbuh) use to stop and say “Oh God! Grant me the sense of piety and purify my soul as You are its Guardian and its Master and You are the best to purify it” in another hadith, it was among his supplication “Oh God! Grant me the sense of piety and purify my soul as You are the best to purify it, You are its Guardian and its Master” [Muslim].

The prophet (pbuh) said: "None can enter Paradise through his good deeds.) They (the Prophet's companions) said, "Not even you, O God's Apostle?" He said, "Not even myself, unless God bestows His favor and mercy on me. So be moderate in your religious deeds and do the deeds that are within your ability and you will reach your goal". Work and putting effort is needed but without neglecting or exaggeration, seek the help of God over your own self and its desires, follow the lawful means and rely on God The Self Sufficient and The Bestower. A man from the poor people of the masjid (Ahl us-Suffah) called Rabi'ah bin Ka'ab narrated: "I was with God's Messenger (pbuh) one night, and I brought him water and what he required. He said to me: 'Ask (anything you like)'. I said: 'I ask for your company in Paradise.' He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'or anything else besides it.' I said: 'That is all (what I require)'. He said: 'Then help me to achieve this for you by devoting yourself often to prostration' [Sahih Muslim]. A person will reach the highest of ranks by true humbly submissive prayer which he feels its joy and pleasure. The prophet (pbuh) said: "do much prostration as no slave prostrates to God without God raising him a degree and wiping out one of his sins due to it"

Oh Muslim,

Have a pause with yourself as we are reaching the season of all goods, the month of Ramadan and reflect [as Hassan al Basri decribed a believer reflects]. How do you see yourself now? What are your present shortcomings towards God? Are you satisfied that your prayer and extra worships [are establishing a good connection with God]? How is your preparation for the hereafter? Is your concern for the hereafter genuine?