

Az-Zubair Ibn Al Awwam (2)

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 30th October 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 (peace and blessings be upon him) said that Allah described a people of dhikr/remembrance as: "Those are such a group that anyone who sits with them - no matter for what reason -- that person will also have his sins forgiven" [hadith qudsi] and so we continue our journey sitting in the company with those people who already left to Allah with good conduct and truthful intentions and pray that Allah may gather us with them.

We renew our journey with Az-Zubair Ibn Al Awwam today – the cousin of the prophet (pbuh) whom the news of his courage, heroism, courage and magnanimity has filled the books of biographies. Today we will reflect upon one important aspect of this noble personality which is very important in the building and shaping of the Muslim personality. This aspect is resolute trust in and reliance on Allah (Tawakkul).

In the case of Az-Zubair Ibn Al Awwam, his true trust in and reliance on Allah was indeed the source of his generosity, courage and heroism . When he generously gave up his soul, he asked his son to pay his debt. "If you are unable to pay it, then seek my Master's help." Abdullah asked him, "Which master do you mean?" He answered, "Allah. He is the best Guardian, the best Helper." Abd Allah said afterwards, "By Allah I never fell into trouble because of his debt. I only said, 'O Master of Zubair, pay his debt,' so He did."

Oh Muslims,

The order of having resolute trust in and reliance on Allah (Tawakkul) came in Quran in different aspects, contexts and events. Indeed, Allah has put it as a pre-condition and to test the extent of our surrendering to Him (SW) and an indication for the strength of our belief.

- He says "if you have **believed** in Allāh, then rely upon Him, if you should be **Muslims**." [Yunis 10:84] and "And upon Allāh rely, if you should be **believers**" [Al-Maidah 5:23].
- He also says about his prophets and messengers "And why should we not rely upon Allāh while He has guided us to our [good] ways" [Ibraheem 14:12]
- and to the prophet (pbuh) "So rely upon Allāh; indeed, you are upon the clear truth" [Al-Naml 27:79]
- and about his companions (may Allah be pleased with them) [after the battle of Uhud] "Those to whom hypocrites said, "Indeed, the people have gathered against you, so fear them." But **it [merely] increased them in faith**, and they said, "Sufficient for us is Allāh, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs" [Al-Imran 3:173].
- Allah says about his allies "Our Lord, upon You we have relied, and to You we have returned, and to You is the destination." [Al-Mumtahinah 60:4]
- and describing the believers "The believers are only those who, when Allāh is mentioned, their hearts become fearful, and when His verses are recited to them, it increases them in faith; and upon their Lord they rely" [Al-Anfal 8:2]
- and stating the reward for those who rely on him "And whoever relies upon Allāh – then He is sufficient for him. Indeed, Allāh will accomplish His purpose. Allāh has already set for everything a [decreed] extent" [Al-Talaq 65:3].

If we take a pause and reflect upon these verses then we will belittle many of our desires thta distract us from true reliance.

- Having resolute trust in and reliance on Allah is a sense of certainty of Allah's Lordship, greatness and dominion over: life, existence, the universes and whatever they contain as all of that is controlled by His power and might.
- Reliance upon Allah is the severance by the servant of all hopes and expectations from the creatures and the declaration of his need to Allah.
- It is the true reliance of the heart on Allah in the pursuit of acquiring that which benefits and avoiding that which harms along with the true belief that no one gives, withholds, harms or benefits except Allah; none can withhold what He gives nor can anyone give what He withholds.
- Nor will the wealth of someone with wealth help him against Him. True reliance on Allah is sincerity, serenity and tranquillity. It is a total trust in Allah, hope combined with action and continues determination regardless of the troubles that might be faced.
- The one who truly relies on Allah is one with Intellectual vigilance and a confident and secure soul. Some righteous people said: 'as long as I accept Allah as my trustee then I will find a way to all good' and some others said: 'it is enough that when you implore Allah it teaches your heart how to rightly depend on Him'.
- True reliance upon Allah is a total belief of the unseen after following all lawful means and a complete surrender to Allah after fulfilling all duties. The reliance upon Allah which strengthens the human is a form of trusting in Allah that revives him when facing difficult circumstances with no hope or anyone to help is around.

Oh Muslims,

Having resolute trust in and reliance on Allah does not contradict with **following the means at all**. Following the means by limbs is obedience to Allah and depending upon Allah is an indication of our believing in Him. In the Quran, the ones who rely on Allah are those who are righteous workers as Allah says "Excellent is the reward of the [righteous] workers. Who have been patient and upon their Lord rely" [Al-Ankaboot 29:58-59]. The conduct of the leader of those who rely upon Allah was to always **follow the means** throughout his life. He (pbuh)

- hid in the cave from the disbelievers,
- chose to use two shields in some battles,
- took medicine,
- said: "who will guard us tonight?",
- ordered to close the door and put out the fire before going to sleep
- and said to the man with the camel "Tie it and rely upon Allah".

In the Qur'an, Allah said to his prophet Lot "So set out with your family during a portion of the night" [Hud 11:81] and he called the people of belief by "O you who have believed, take your precaution" [Al-Nisa 4:71]. Allah gave the order to rely on him after following the means and putting the effort like the verse states "and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allāh. Indeed, Allāh loves those who rely [upon Him]" [Al-Imran 3:159].

The true Muslim is the one who combines between **following the means** and **holding to the reliance and trust in Allah**. He is the one who does not accept his weak condition as reliance on Allah or practice his reliance on Allah as a weakness. If anything becomes difficult for him then it is by the will of Allah and if anything is easy for him then it is also by the will of Allah. The Muslims who relies on Allah leaves his house heading to his work and starts with saying:

'I depart with Allah's name, relying on Him. It is Allah who saves us from sins with His guidance. O Allah, I seek refuge in You from misleading or being misled or oppressing or being oppressed or from being ignorant or bearing the result of ignorance'.

This was amongst the remembrance practiced by the prophet (pbuh) and also:

'oh Allah, to you I submit, in you I believe, on you I rely, to you I repent, by you I argue, I seek refuge with your honour, there is no god but you, you are the Ever living and the jinn and mankind die'.

Whoever says:

'I depart with Allah's name, relying on Him. It is Allah who saves us from sins with His guidance'

then it is said to him: you are protected and guided and shaytan departs from him. Allah says

"Indeed, there is for him no authority over those who have believed and rely upon their Lord" [Al-Nahl 16:99].

Oh Muslims,

- There is an amazing joy for the true reliance on Allah, a joy that can only be tasted by the sincere servants of Allah.
- It is a joy which Ibrahim (AS) experienced when he was thrown in fire when he relied on Allah so the fire turned into coolness and safety upon him.
- Yusuf (AS) experienced that joy when he was thrown into the bottom of the well and in the prison.
- Yunus (AS) found it in the belly of the whale
- and the people of the cave found it within the cave itself after they missed it in houses and palaces.
- Our prophet (pbuh) found it along with his companion (Abu Bakr) in the cave when they were chased by disbelievers "Do not grieve; indeed Allāh is with us" [Al-Tawbah 9:40].

This joy can be experienced by every sincere one who is bound to the door of Allah's reliance only. If this fact was settled rightly in the heart of a Muslim then he will be steadfast in front of all events, people, values and considerations even if Mankind and jinn were to combine against him.

Oh Muslims,

We mentioned this issue at this difficult stage experienced by Muslims everywhere. The Muslim nation needs to renew its covenant with Allah, relies upon Him and seeks His help and support in all of its affairs.