

اخلاص کی اہمیت، علامات اور فوائد و ثمرات



SINCERITY

ITS IMPORTANCE, SIGNS AND BENEFITS

SHAYKH ZUBAIR MARJALVI



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INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him and seek His forgiveness. Whoever Allah guides, none can misguide him. And whoever He misguides, none can guide him. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah, who has no partners. And I testify that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is His servant and Messenger.

To proceed:

I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaytan. In the name of Allah, the Most-Merciful, Ever-Merciful:

﴿وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ
وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ ﴿٥﴾﴾

“They were commanded only to worship Allah with sincere devotion to Him, being inclined to true faith, and to establish prayer and give Zakah; that is the true religion.”

[Surah Al-Bayinnah 98:5]

My respected brethren in Islam!

Sincerity is the soul of all deeds; the deed which has no sincerity in it is like a body without a soul. Sincerity is to deeds what the soul is to one's body. Every person's aim should be to worship Allah so they can enter Paradise and attain His Pleasure. To achieve this goal, the presence of sincerity in a person's deeds is

essential. Allah does not take into account how well or how much good deeds a person performs, as He said:

﴿الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ﴾

“Who created death and life to test you as to which of you is best in deeds, and He is the All-Mighty, the Most Forgiving.”

[Surah Al-Mulk 67:2]

In this Ayah, Allah has mentioned that He will assess who is the best in deeds. He did not say who performed the most deeds. Hence, one should develop sincerity in his good deeds to have them accepted by Allah and become worthy of receiving its rewards, and should not focus on increasing or decreasing his deeds.

THE MEANING OF SINCERITY IN ISLAM

Linguistic Definition:

The root word of sincerity means to show evidence on something being purified and organized.

[Mufradat of Al-Raghib 154]

Terminological Definition:

Sincerity is to have the intention of singling out Allah in worship. Some say that intention refers to purifying one's speech and actions.

[Al-Kuliyat of Al-Kafawi 64]

THE IMPORTANCE OF SINCERITY

1. Allah only looks at your Sincerity:

The origin of every deed is sincerity. This is why when someone performs a deed, Allah does not look at the deed he performed, but at the sincerity present in it.

Allah said:

﴿لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهَ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ﴾

“It is neither their flesh nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is your piety that reaches Him.”

[Surah Al-Hajj 22:37]

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَىٰ صُورِكُمْ وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ إِلَىٰ قُلُوبِكُمْ وَأَعْمَالِكُمْ.

“Verily Allah does not look to your faces and your wealth but He looks to your heart and to your deeds.”

[Sahih Muslim 2564]

2. Islam is the religion of Sincerity:

Allah deems worthless every single deed which isn't free of insincerity, as His religion is based on sincerity.

Allah said:

﴿فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ ﴿٢﴾ أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ﴾

“So worship Allah with sincere devotion to Him. Indeed, sincere devotion is due to Allah alone.”

[Surah Al-Zumur 39:2-3]

This means that the religion containing sincerity is the religion accepted by Allah. The religion which does not contain sincerity in it is rejected by Allah.

Abu Umamah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) said:

A man came to the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and said: “What do you think of a man who fights seeking reward and fame – what will he have?” The Messenger of Allah said: “He will not have anything.” He repeated it three times, and the Prophet said to him: “He will not have anything.”

Then he (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبَلُ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ إِلَّا مَا كَانَ لَهُ خَالِصًا وَابْتِغَى بِهِ وَجْهَهُ.

“Allah does not accept any deed, except that which is purely for Him, and seeking His Face.”

[Sunan Al-Nasa'i 3140; Sahih]

This proves that performing one's deeds sincerely for Allah should be the utmost priority of every Muslim.

3. The one who has no Sincerity has no Islam:

Allah said:

﴿وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ
وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ ﴿٥﴾﴾

“They were commanded only to worship Allah with sincere devotion to Him, being inclined to true faith, and to establish prayer and give Zakah; that is the true religion.”

[Surah Al-Bayinnah 98:5]

Pay attention to this Ayah; Allah has given five commands to His Servants:

- a) Single out Allah for worship.
- b) Worship Him with sincere devotion i.e. do not associate any partners with him. This proves that sincerity is important in every single act of worship.
- c) Be inclined to true faith, which is an emphasis on the previous two commands i.e. turn away from that worshipped besides Allah and turn towards Him to attain His Closeness by worshipping him.
- d) Establish the prayers i.e. always pray them at their appointed times keeping in mind their conditions, obligations and manners.
- e) Pay the Zakah.

After these five commands, Allah said that this is the true religion i.e. these five commands are correct and to be acted upon. This proves that sincerity is a condition for one's Islam. Condition here means that if one is sincere, Islam recognizes him. If he isn't sincere, Islam doesn't recognize or acknowledge him.

4. Live with Sincerity, even if the disbelievers hate it:

Allah said:

﴿فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾^(١٤)

“So call upon Allah with sincere devotion to Him, even if the disbelievers hate it.”

[Surah Ghafir 40:14]

This means that we should spend every moment of our lives with sincerity, irrespective of how much opposition we face throughout our lives for this.

5. The entire world is cursed except that which has Sincerity in it:

The significance of sincerity can be comprehended with the fact that everything on earth is cursed except that which is done sincerely for Allah.

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

الدُّنْيَا مَلْعُونَةٌ، مَلْعُونٌ مَا فِيهَا إِلَّا مَا ابْتِغِيَ بِهِ وَجْهُ اللَّهِ.

“The world and everything in it is cursed, except that with which the pleasure of Allah is sought.”

[Musnad Al-Shami'een 612]

6. Sincerity makes one value the importance of his deeds:

If we pay attention to this point, we'll see that so many people pray behind one Imam, yet the difference between their prayers is greater than the distance between the Heavens and the Earth. Allah loves and values the prayer of the one who prays sincerely and according to the Prophetic Sunnah. But He does not care about the prayer of the one who prays with insincerity. The same can be said for every other deed.

And it is sincerity that convinces an individual to rectify his deeds. Hence:

- a) Sincerity convinces a judge to not issue a ruling until and unless he has reviewed the case with deep research.
- b) Sincerity convinces a teacher to teach his students with a lot of effort, teaching them manners in the process as well.
- c) Sincerity convinces a trader to trade properly, making him abandon deception, fraud, dishonesty and lying.
- d) Sincerity convinces a writer to write the truth and not alter his words to please any person or to receive some favor.

- e) Sincerity convinces a rich person to please Allah by spending his wealth to take care of the needy in secret.
- f) Sincerity convinces a laborer to fulfill his duty with honesty without wasting any time.
- g) Sincerity convinces a servant to be a well-wisher for his master, taking care of his wealth and honor.
- h) Sincerity convinces every person to support and defend the truth and the people of truth.
- i) Sincerity convinces every person to oppose falsehood and oppression and the people of falsehood and oppression.

The point of mentioning this is that sincerity rectifies everyone and makes a person tread upon the path of fulfilling the rights of Allah and His creation, stopping him from slacking in fulfilling these rights.

THE SIGNS OF SINCERITY

My respected brothers and sisters!

How do we know if we are sincere or not?

The people of knowledge mentioned some signs on the basis of which we can find out if we are sincere or not. Let us take a look at these signs:

1. He responds to praise and criticism indifferently:

The sincere person considers praise and criticism directed towards him equal in relevance, because his only concern is to attain the pleasure and rewards of Allah; so he does not care if someone praises him or criticizes him for this.

Allah said:

﴿إِنَّمَا نَطْعُمُكُمْ لِرِجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكْرًا﴾

“We feed you only for the sake of Allah; we seek from you neither reward nor gratitude.”

[Surah Al-Insan 76:9]

2. He hopes for the rewards of his good deeds in the Hereafter:

Allah said:

﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الْآخِرَةِ نَزِدْ لَهُ فِي حَرْثِهِ ۗ وَمَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ نَصِيبٍ﴾ ﴿٥٠﴾

“Whosoever desires (by his deeds) the reward of the Hereafter, We give him increase in his reward, and whosoever desires the reward of this world (by his deeds), We give him thereof (what is decreed for him), and he has no portion in the Hereafter.”

[Surah Al-Shoora 2:112]

3. He performs good deeds secretly:

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْعَبْدَ التَّقِيَّ الْغَنِيِّ الْخَفِيِّ.

“Allah loves a servant who is pious, free of all wants and the unnoticed.”

[Sahih Muslim 2965]

4. He does not possess hypocrisy:

He should be the same inside and outside. It shouldn't be that he shows something which opposes that which he conceals, as this is hypocrisy, and hypocrisy is a nullifier of sincerity.

Allah said:

﴿يَقُولُونَ بِالسِّنْتِهِمْ مَا لَيْسَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ﴾

“They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts.”

[Surah Al-Fath 48:11]

5. He fears that Allah will not accept his good deeds:

This is a testimony of his sincerity.

Allah said:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوْا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ وَجِلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ يُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَهُمْ لَهَا سَابِقُونَ ﴿٦١﴾﴾

“And those who do whatever [good] they do with their hearts fearful (whether their deeds have been accepted or not), because they are sure to return to their Rabb (for reckoning). it is they who hasten to do good deeds, and they are foremost in them.”

[Surah Al-Mu'minun 23:60-61]

6. He is free from self-praise, arrogance and pride:

The one who does not have sincerity becomes prey to self-praise, arrogance and pride.

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ أَخْوَفَ مَا أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمُ الشَّرْكَ الْأَصْعَرُ الرِّيَاءُ يَقُولُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِذَا جَزَى النَّاسَ بِأَعْمَالِهِمْ اذْهَبُوا إِلَى الَّذِينَ كُنْتُمْ تُرَاوُونَ فِي الدُّنْيَا فَاَنْظُرُوا هَلْ تَجِدُونَ عِنْدَهُمْ جَزَاءً.

“The worst thing I fear upon you is minor Shirk and that is showing-off. When people will be recompensed for their deeds on the Day of Judgment, Allah will say: Go to those people for whom you used to show-off your deeds in the worldly life and see if you find any rewards (for you) with them.”

[Musnad Ahmad 23630]

THE FRUITS AND BENEFITS OF SINCERITY

1. You will receive a great rank in this life and the Hereafter:

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّكَ لَنْ تُخَلَّفَ فَتَعْمَلَ عَمَلًا تَبْتَغِي بِهِ وَجَهَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا أزدَدْتَ بِهِ دَرَجَةً وَرِفْعَةً.

“You will never perform a deed in which you sincerely seek the pleasure of Allah, but you would increase in your status (in religion) and prestige.”

[Sahih Al-Bukhari 3936]

2. You will be saved from fear and sadness:

Allah said:

﴿بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ ۖ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ﴾ ﴿١١٢﴾

“On the contrary, whoever submits himself to Allah and is a doer of good will have his reward with his Rabb. They will have no fear, nor will they grieve.”

[Surah Al-Baqarah 2:112]

3. You will be granted the strength to protect yourself from evil and wickedness:

Allah protects the sincere person from evil and wickedness in this world.

Allah mentions regarding Yusuf (عليه السلام):

﴿وَلَقَدْ هَمَّتْ بِهِ ۖ وَهَمَّ بِهَا لَوْلَا أَنْ رَأَىٰ بُرْهَانَ رَبِّهِ ۚ كَذَلِكَ لِنَصْرِفَ عَنْهُ السُّوءَ وَالْفَحْشَاءَ ۗ إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُخْلَصِينَ ﴿٢٤﴾﴾

“She advanced towards him, and he would have succumbed to her; were it not that he saw a sign from his Rabb. This is how We kept evil and shameful acts away from him. Indeed, he was one of Our sincere chosen servants.”

[Surah Yusuf 12:24]

4. You will be guarded from the evil of Shaytan:

Allah said:

﴿قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٣٩﴾ إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمْ الْمُخْلَصِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾﴾

“Iblis said: “My Rabb, since You have sent me astray, I will surely make [sins] alluring to them on earth and mislead them all, except Your sincere chosen servants among them.”

[Surah Al-Hijr 15:39-40]

5. Your heart will be purified:

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

ثَلَاثٌ لَا يُعَلُّ عَلَيْهِنَّ قَلْبُ مُسْلِمٍ إِخْلَاصُ الْعَمَلِ لِلَّهِ وَمُنَاصِحَةُ أَيْمَةِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ
وَلِزُومَ جَمَاعَتِهِمْ.

“There are three things because of which hatred does not enter the heart of a Muslim: Sincerity in doing an action for the sake of Allah; being sincere towards the rulers of the Muslims; and adhering to the the people upon the truth.”

[Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 2658]

6. You will be saved from Allah's punishment:

Allah said:

﴿وَلَقَدْ ضَلَّ قَبْلَهُمْ أَكْثَرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ ﴿٧١﴾ وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا فِيهِمْ مُنذِرِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾ فَأَنْظَرُوا كَيْفَ
كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُنذَرِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾ إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ ﴿٧٤﴾﴾

“Indeed, most of the earlier people went astray before them, even though We sent among them warners. Then see how was the end of those who were warned, except the sincere chosen servants of Allah.”

[Surah Al-Saffat 37:71-74]

7. You will be shaded by Allah's Throne:

The one who saves himself from showing-off and gives charity

in secret, solely intending to seek Allah's pleasure; he will be shaded by Allah's Throne on the Day of Judgment.

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ ... وَرَجُلٌ تَصَدَّقَ أَخْفَى حَتَّى لَا تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا تُنْفِقُ يَمِينُهُ.

“Seven people will be shaded by Allah under His Shade on the Day when there will be no Shade except His and a man who gives charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given.” (i.e. nobody knows how much he has given in charity).”

[Sahih Al-Bukhari 660]

8. You will be saved from the Hell-fire and entered into Paradise:

Allah said:

﴿إِنَّكُمْ لَذَائِقُوا الْعَذَابِ الْأَلِيمِ ﴿٣٨﴾ وَمَا تُحْزَنُونَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾ إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَعْلُومٌ ﴿٤١﴾ فَوَاكِهُ وَهُمْ مُكْرَمُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾ فِي جَنَّاتِ التَّعِيمِ ﴿٤٣﴾ عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ﴿٤٤﴾ يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ ﴿٤٥﴾ بَيضَاءَ لَدَّةٍ لِّلشَّرِبِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾ لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنزَفُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾ وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَصِيرَاتُ الْظَّرْفِ عِينٌ ﴿٤٨﴾ كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكْنُونٌ ﴿٤٩﴾﴾

“You will surely taste the painful punishment, and you will only

be recompensed for what you used to do, except the sincere chosen servants of Allah. They will have a known provision, fruits; and they will be honored in Gardens of Bliss, facing one another on couches. They will be served with a cup of wine from a flowing stream, white and delicious for those who drink. It will cause no harm, nor will they be intoxicated by it, and with them will be maidens of modest gaze and beautiful eyes, as if they were well-protected eggs.”

[Surah Al-Saffat 37:38-49]



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