

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

For each one amongst us it is imperative that we reflect about how our life is going and ask ourselves whether we are improving, static or regressing. For a believer who understands even partially the objectives of his life, such questions are important every now and then. A Muslim believer does not just live his life as others do. Our life is quite different. We have learnt from the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) that we should remember Allah under all circumstances. He has taught us prayers to read before going to sleep, if we wake up during the night, when we wake up in the morning, on proceeding to the toilet and on coming out of it. During the day we are expected to pray at particular times. In brief, for the Muslim who understands the objectives of his life, his days and nights are punctuated with prayers.

So, when we reflect on the verse of the Holy Quran while seeking the path that will lead us to Allah, we understand that there is no other way to take but that of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). Allah says to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw)

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

### Translation:

**Say, ‘If you love Allah, follow me: *then* will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.’ (3:32)**

No one can follow the noble path of the Holy Prophet (saw) on his own. He needs help. This help is sought through prayer, especially through the words

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

**Thee alone do we worship and Thee alone do we implore for help.**

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

**Guide us in the right path**

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

**The path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed *Thy* blessings, those who have not incurred *Thy* displeasure, and those who have not gone astray.**

In this *Surah Fateha*, properly understood and humbly repeated is everything that we need to be able to tread this path of the Holy prophet Muhammad (saw). Eventually Allah will remove our laziness, our negligence, our indifference, our love for this world and all that it contains and we will start treading the path that will indeed lead us to Allah. We are all

quite weak people. But if we make some efforts, eventually Allah will lead us to His Path as He says in the Holy Quran:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

**And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways.  
And verily Allah is with those who do good. (29:70)**

There is a hadith in both Bukhari and Muslim which is as follows:

**“On the authority of Abu Hurayrah Abdur’Rahman ibn Sakhr (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: “I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying”: “What I have forbidden you, stay away from. What I have ordered you to do, do as much of it as you can. Verily, the people before you were destroyed only because of their excessive questioning and their disagreeing with their prophets”. [Reported in Bukhari and Muslim].**

Similarly, we should try to do what we can. And we must not do the things that we cannot do. However, we should seek Allah’s Help to try to do them so that we might not fall short on anything that has been asked of us.

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has told us several times in his writings or discourses that he has come to help people to establish a connection with Allah. Jamaat Ahmadiyya has been established for this purpose. As a member, we should do our best to follow his instructions which we try to impart through the Jummah Sermon. Speaking about the importance of *bai’at* he said:

“Dear ones! No way can be opened without sincerity and truth; a pure drop is needed so that a pearl may be born. O my friends, who have entered into the covenant of *Bai’at* with me, may God enable us all to do that which pleases Him. Today, you are small in number and are treated with contempt. You are passing through a time of trial. In accordance with the eternal law of God, efforts will be made that you should stumble. You will be persecuted in every way and you will have to hear all sorts of disagreeable things. Everyone who hurts you by word or deed will imagine that he is helping Islam and you will have to pass through some heavenly trials so that you may be tried in every way.

Therefore, listen carefully that your way to victory and supremacy will not be through dry logic or returning abuse for abuse, for if you adopt these ways, your hearts will become hardened and you will be left with nothing but words, which God Almighty hates and looks upon with aversion. So do not behave in a manner whereby you would become subject to two curses, the curse of God and the curse of man. Remember well that if the curse of man is not accompanied by the curse of God Almighty, it amounts to nothing. If God does not wish to destroy us, we cannot be destroyed by anyone; but if He should become our enemy, no one can afford us shelter. How shall we please God Almighty and how shall we win His

support? He has repeatedly given me the answer to this question: it can only be done through righteousness. So, my dear brethren! Make every effort that you may become righteous. Without action, everything is vain and without sincerity no action is acceptable. Righteousness means that, avoiding all these harmful ways, you should march forward towards God Almighty, and be mindful of the subtlest paths of piety. First, cultivate humility, straightforwardness and sincerity, and become truly meek and submissive and lowly, for every seed of good and ill first sprouts in the heart. If your heart is empty of evil, your tongue will also be empty of evil and so will be your eyes and all your limbs. Every light and darkness take birth initially in the heart and gradually envelops the whole body. So, keep your hearts under constant scrutiny. Just as an eater of betel leaves constantly rotates the leaves and snips off their rotten parts and throws them away, in the same way, you should keep rotating before your mind's eye the secret thoughts and habits and passions and hidden capacities of your hearts, and whenever you encounter a rotten thought or habit or capacity, snip it off and throw it out lest it should pollute your whole heart and you may then be cut off. Having done that, strive, and supplicate to God Almighty for strength and courage, that your limbs and all your faculties may become the means for the manifestation of pure intentions and thoughts and passions and your heart's desires, so that your good actions may attain perfection. For that which springs up in the heart and remains confined to the heart will not lead you to any worthy status. Establish the greatness of God Almighty in your hearts and keep His Glory before your eyes. Remember that there are approximately six hundred commandments in the Holy Qur'ān. God has prepared a spiritual banquet for you with reference to your every limb, faculty, form, age, every stage of your intelligence, your nature, your effort in His path, and your individual and collective conditions. Accept the invitation to this banquet with gratitude and eat of all the dishes that have been prepared for you and derive benefit from all. I tell you truly that he who evades a single one of these commandments will be accountable on the Day of Judgement. If you seek salvation, adopt the ways of the humble and carry the yoke of the Holy Qur'ān with meekness. The wicked will be ruined and the rebellious will be hurled into hell. But he who bends his neck humbly will be saved from death. Do not worship God Almighty on the condition of worldly benefits, for there is a pitfall in the way of such thinking. Worship Him in the conviction that it is an obligation which you owe to your Creator. Worship of God should become your very life, and the purpose of your good deeds should be that the true Beloved and the true Benefactor may be pleased with you, for anything less is a stumbling block. God is a great wealth. To find Him you should be ready to encounter misfortune. He is a great purpose. To achieve it, be ready to lay down your lives. Dear ones! Do not slight the commandments of God Almighty. Let not the poison of current philosophy affect you. Submit to His commandments like a child. Be constant in Prayer, be constant in Prayer, for Prayer is the key to all good fortune. Do not stand up in Prayer as if you are performing a ceremony. As you make *Wudu'* [physical ablution] in preparation for Prayer, so perform an inner ablution whereby you should wash out from your mind and body all thoughts beside that of Allah. (*Izāla-e-Auhām, Rūḥāni Khazā'in*, Vol. 3, pg. 546-549)

Here is another extract:

“Allāh desires to make all mankind like one being, this is called collective oneness in which many people as a whole become one being. The purpose of religion is also that people should become one like beads become one in a rosary. Our prayers that we offer with congregation are for this very purpose so that the worshippers are counted as one. This is why the worshippers are taught to stand close together so that the one who possesses greater spiritual light can pass it on to the lesser and empower him. In short, Allah desires that we grow in mutual love.”

He said further:

“O ye people who consider yourselves members of my Jamā’at! You will only be counted as such in heaven when you truly tread upon the path of righteousness. Therefore, offer the five daily prayers in such fear and with such complete attention as if you are actually beholding Allah. Observe your Fasts with full sincerity for the sake of Allah. Let everyone for whom Zakat is prescribed pay the Zakat. Let him upon whom the Pilgrimage is obligatory, and there is no obstruction in his way, perform the Pilgrimage. Do good in a handsome way and discard vice with disgust. Bear well in mind that no deed which is void of righteousness can reach Allah Almighty. Righteousness is the root of all goodness. No action that is rooted in righteousness will go in vain. Whenever harm befalls you, it will be through your own hands and not through your enemy. Even if you lose all honour on earth, Allah will bestow eternal honour upon you in heaven. So do not abandon Him. You are the last Jamaat of Allah, so practice virtue at its best. Every one of you who becomes lax will be cast out of the Jamaat like a foul thing and will die in regret and will be able to do no harm to Allah. Look, I happily give you the tidings that your Allah truly exists. All are His creatures, and yet He chooses the one who chooses Him, and moves towards the one who moves towards Him, and bestows honour upon him who honours Him.”

So, let no one amongst us forget the advice in these extracts. May Allah help us to put them into practice. Ameen.