



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Tawheed and How It Affects Our Lives

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْخَبِيرِ الْحَكِيمِ ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ
الْقَوِيُّ الْمَتِينُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ صَادِقُ
الْوَعْدِ الْأَمِينِ ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ
وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ اتَّبَعَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ .
أَمَّا بَعْدُ ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ ، أُوصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ ، فَقَدْ
فَازَ مَنْ اتَّقَى وَخَابَ مَنْ عَصَى .

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

I would like to remind myself, as well as all of you present here today, to strive towards achieving the highest level of taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Hopefully, by fulfilling all of Allah's commands and abstaining from what He has prohibited upon us, we will be able to attain success in this world and the hereafter. Amin.

Jemaah,

Iman, or faith, is the most valuable gift for every Muslim. It is with iman that our lives are guided and focused, because iman helps us to be conscious of the reason for our existence, and

our ultimate objective in life. Iman provides a straight and clear path for us, ensuring that we do not drown in darkness, lost without a certain direction. Iman injects tranquillity in a heart that is facing various challenges in this life that is full of tests and trials. For it is iman that affirms the heart that there is a God that watches over us and continues to protect us in our every step and breath.

As true believers, our most basic belief is that “There is No God, but Allah, the One God. There is no God other than Allah. And He has no partners. There is none like Allah. Only Allah is The Creator, and only He can Create. Only Allah is The Owner of all, and Commands Over Every Single Thing in This Universe”. No one can defy Allah’s decrees. Allah is The Sustainer, He determines, and it is Allah who provides sustenance to His creations. He is the All-Knowing of everything in the heavens and earth. Allah says in Surah al-Baqarah, verses 21 and 22:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ
مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ

تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

Meaning: *“O humankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous - [He] who made for you the earth a bed [spread out] and the sky a ceiling and sent down from the sky, rain and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for you. So do not attribute to Allah equals while you know [that there is nothing similar to Him].”*

That is the gist of what is contained in the verse لا إله إلا الله which serves as the foundation of our faith. Allah’s Oneness is the pillar of our belief. No Muslim can ever dispute Allah’s Oneness. There is also no room for differences or khilaf in this matter, and thus every Muslim embraces the fact that Allah is One.

Therefore jemaah, let us hold true to this very basic principle of tawheed. Strive to know Allah by seeking true knowledge about our faith, to ensure that our iman will be pure and not tainted. Iman that has been bestowed by Allah in our heart needs to be strengthened by obeying Allah. If we choose to disobey Allah, our iman will weaken and eventually, become fragile. When this happens, we will not be able to taste the sweetness nor experience the beauty of iman.

Therefore, it is imperative upon us to realise that one’s iman is like a garden that has to be worked on with care, to ensure that one can enjoy the fruits of the garden. We will reap what we sow. One of the fruits of iman is humility that will then affect one’s personality and character, and drive a person to be a true believer or mukmin. Faith that fills a mukmin’s heart will keep

him conscious of the fact that he is simply a servant, a slave of Allah, and that it is Allah who is the Most Powerful, the Exalted and in whose hands all riches come from and belong to. A person who has iman will feel uneasy if he were to be arrogant to His Lord.

And even with the knowledge and confidence that Allah is The Most Generous, a mukmin will be embarrassed if he were to simply raise his hands and ask, without putting in any effort to attain what he desires for. And when he has achieved what he wanted, a mukmin will be embarrassed to be arrogant about his achievements, and instead will be grateful and offer his deepest gratitude to Allah, for he is aware that it is by Allah's mercy and generosity that he has succeeded. The same applies when he fails. A mukmin will not whine and blame his fate. His iman has taught him to be tawadhu' towards the will of the Almighty. It is his humility that drives him to rise and continue to try to gain Allah's redha.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

There are many other benefits of a strong iman that we can reap. However, even if we were to only focus on one aspect, which is humility and tawadhu', we will realise that its positive effect on a believer is wide-reaching. Hence, do not let our iman to take a step back, when it should be the guiding principle of our lives. One way our iman can weaken is when we let it be the reason for divisions and factions.

Jemaah,

The foundation of tawheed is found in the verse:

(لا إله إلا الله)

This does not simply lead us to the one belief that Allah is the One and Only. It actually calls upon us to hold on tight to the belief that all of us who utter the verse لا إله إلا الله belong to the same ummah. This is because the Messenger of Allah was sent to us as our Prophet to lead us, and that is Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Likewise, Allah s.w.t. had revealed one Book or *Kitab* to guide us all, and that is the Noble Quran. The same applies to the qiblah, for Allah has determined that we pray facing one direction. The way of life that He has set for us to abide by is the same - and that is Islam. And all of these is because all of us pray to one God and that is Allah, the One and Only God, Lord of the Universe. This is hence what we truly declare when we utter لا إله إلا الله.

Therefore jemaah, it is not appropriate for us to use our beliefs as the reason for us to be hostile, to be divisive and to hate one another. We may have differences in opinion when it comes to the details of the religion, and it may have stemmed from the fact that we have learnt from different teachers and scholars, but we must not allow these differences in opinion to cause us to ignore the foundation that binds us all to the same faith.

As a community, we should focus on the similarities that strengthen the ties that bind us together. Leave the detailed scholarly debates and discussions that involve differences in opinions to the scholars who are well-versed to discuss about them. If we have experienced a time when we are daunted by the crisis of labelling each other based on our own inclinations, then let that phase pass. The situation that the world and humanity is in today does not make sense for us to continue to be trapped in this debate. Our aqidah that focuses on believing and upholding the Oneness of Allah should demand upon us to unite as one.

Let us reflect upon a hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w. that clearly indicates how critical it is to guard unity, and in fact it is more pertinent to do so then chasing rewards by gathering and reading the Quran. Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim reported that the Prophet s.a.w. said :

اقْرَءُوا الْقُرْآنَ مَا اِتَّفَقَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ فَاِذَا اِخْتَلَفْتُمْ فَمُومُوا عَنْهُ

Meaning: *“Recite (and study) the Qur'an as long as your hearts are in agreement as to its meanings, but if you have differences as regards its meaning, then stop reading it.”*

May Allah always protect the purity of our faith. And may the iman that fill our hearts reaffirms our sense of tawadhu' and humility, and abstains us from being divisive in matters that

should instead serve to strengthen the ties that bind us together.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.