



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Appreciating the meaning of Zikrullah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّدِيدِ، اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us increase our taqwa to Allah s.w.t., fulfil His commands, and abstain from His prohibitions. May the deeds and prayers that we have performed in a bid to earn Allah's pleasure secure us a place in His paradise, Amin.

Beloved Jemaah,

The sermons throughout this month have been focusing on the meaning of worship, the spirit of legal rulings in Islam, and the importance of having precise understanding on matters related to faith. These sermons seek to increase our understanding and

appreciation of this noble religion. In conclusion, today's sermon will discuss the meaning of zikrullah (which is the remembrance of Allah s.w.t), with hopes that we may better comprehend this important concept in Islam. Allah s.w.t. mentions in surah Al-Ra'd verse 28:

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

Which means: *“Those who believe, and whose hearts find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah hearts are assured.”*

Imam Ibn Kathir, in his tafsir of this verse, stated that: *“The heart that is at peace when remembering Allah, is a heart that is contented knowing that Allah is his guardian and saviour.”*

Based on the exegesis of the aforementioned verse, it is evident that zikrullah instils calmness and tranquillity in a person's heart. The need for calmness and tranquillity in our lives has been ever more prevalent in today's fast-paced and busy life. Particularly so since we are living in a modern country like Singapore, where we often hear people lamenting on the demands and stresses of everyday life. These stresses have even lead to cases where individuals suffer from bouts of depression and anxiety. If the matter does not receive proper

attention, it will further complicate problems for the individual and his family.

Respected Jemaah,

The aforementioned Quranic verse reminds us that one who remembers Allah s.w.t. will achieve calmness and tranquillity in his heart. However, the question remains, what is meant by zikrullah?

The concept of zikrullah extends beyond the recitation of zikr and supplications to Allah s.w.t. It is a holistic and comprehensive concept that shapes the life and character of a Muslim. Within this limited time, allow me to briefly explain the vastness of zikrullah in Islam.

First: Remembering Allah s.w.t. through His creations

A person can perform zikrullah by observing and studying Allah's creations. Take some time and immerse yourself in nature, appreciate how nature has been created with such precision. If we reflect upon all of Allah's creations, we will feel miniscule in comparison to His might and find ourselves in awe of His greatness. Allah s.w.t. mentions in surah Ali-Imran verse 190 -191:

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لآيَاتٍ
لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ



الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَمًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ
فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَطْلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا
عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿١٩١﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding. Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], “Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.”*

Second: Remembering Allah s.w.t. by undertaking good deeds and contributing to others.

A Muslim who constantly remembers Allah s.w.t. will most definitely distance himself from arrogance, boastfulness and pride. Even if he is blessed with wealth, knowledge or physical strength, he will never be arrogant. Rather, he will channel those resources towards charity and prosperity by helping others and improving their welfare. He realises that every blessing from Allah s.w.t. is also an *amanah* (responsibility) from Allah s.w.t. bestowed upon His servants. If you are blessed with knowledge, utilize it to benefit and educate others. If Allah s.w.t. has given you an abundance of wealth, then seek to donate and offer charity to those who are in need. If you have

been bestowed with good health, then strive towards social and volunteer work. By doing so, it reflects the character of a person whose heart is filled with zikrullah. A believer who constantly extends aid to help others will surely receive Allah's assistance.

Third: We can remember Allah s.w.t. in all of our actions

This was described by Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. as the concept of ihsan, in a hadith reported by Imam Muslim when the Prophet s.a.w. was asked about the meaning of ihsan by the angel Jibril, and the Prophet s.a.w. responded: *"It is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, know that He sees you."*

Therefore, a Muslim who is conscious of Allah's presence in his life will always be wary of his speech and actions wherever he is, not only when he is in public or when he is performing an act of worship. He will always strive to be an agent of good and radiate blessings to his surrounding, spreading peace wherever he goes and to whomever he encounters regardless of race or religion.

Beloved Jemaah,

The guidelines which I have mentioned earlier are just some of the efforts that we can undertake to better comprehend the concept of zikrullah. If we train our hearts and minds to be in constant remembrance of Allah s.w.t. in our daily activities, we

will insyaAllah be able to enjoy a sense of peace and tranquillity in our hearts.

It is undeniable that each and every one of us here is only human, flawed with imperfections, shortcomings and limitations. Hence, let us not ever allow our hearts to be void of remembering Allah s.w.t., a heart that is empty and void will be occupied with matters which distract us from Allah s.w.t. If such a state is left unchecked, it is feared that the taqwa in one's heart will slowly erode. Thus, let us train ourselves to be in constant remembrance of Allah s.w.t. and optimise our time on this earth by doing good and spreading kindness.

Imam Al-Hassan Al-Basri once said: *"Are you not ashamed, if tomorrow when you meet with God, and find that most of your time was not filled with remembrance of Allah?"*

May Allah s.w.t. grant us the highest level of taqwa in our hearts, and bless us with tranquillity in our lives which we can then share with the world. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ 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.