

God Fearing

23 Jumada Al-Awal 1431
07 May 2010

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Slaves of Allah,

Allah may He be exulted says: **{but this who feared to stand before his God, and restrained his soul from Lust. Then Paradise will be his home}** 79:40-42. Fear is Allah's whip keeping the strayed off His path. Do fear Allah alone dear brothers and sisters, and do not fear anyone else other than He. Allah says: **{and do not fear people and fear Me}**. Allah also says: **{Do not be afraid of them, and fear Me if you have faith}**. Allah also says: **{Therefore flee unto Allah; lo! I am barely warn you from him}** 51:49. One scholar (Tho-Noon Al-MAsri) said: **"People are on the right track as long as they have not lost fear. If they loose fear then they go astray"**.

The true good fear is that fear which keeps the individual from what Allah forbids. A scholar said: **"Truth in fear is piety against all sins public and private"**.

What made me (the Imam) talk about fear of Allah this Friday is the reality of Muslims today. Going far away from Allah, and daring against Allah with all types of sins and acts of disobedience, without any shame or shyness or timidity. That is due to the weakness of God fearing in the hearts of those disobedient individuals. As the saying goes: **"Do not look at how small the disobedience act is, but look at how big this whom you defied"**. People only commit sins and become disobedient because the inattention and forgetfulness about Allah and about the next life.

God fearing is the safety valve in the face of falling into disobedience and sinful lust and desires. God fearing is what ignites the sense of piety in the heart which pushes the individual to do good deeds and give up deeds of evil. And the more the faith increases within the heart of a believer the more

piety and fear will increase in that heart. Faith increases with obedience and faith decreases with disobedience.

The messenger ppbu was the most God fearing of all people and when he stood praying at night his tear drops used to be heard just like the drops of rain. When ever the wind blew differently his face would change in fear from Allah's anger. He used to be fearful about his nation from Allah's torment. The messenger ppbu said: **{Each and every time Gabriel came to me; he was shivering in fear of the Almighty}**. Fear of Allah is directly proportional with the faith into Allah and with the knowledge of Allah. Allah says: **{for certain, the scholars (or scientists) of his slaves fear Allah}**. Fearing is a higher and a special state of being frightened. The messenger ppbu said: **{I am more knowledgeable about Allah than any of you, and I am the most fearing of Him than any of you}**. The messenger ppbu said: **{If you knew what I know then you would've laughed a little and cried a lot, and you wouldn't have spent time enjoying women on mattresses, and you would have gone out to roads screaming and crying to Allah}**. Imam Ahmed said: "Those who know Allah more fear Him more".

Prophet Abraham ppu used to cry a lot. When he stood to pray a sound like the sound of a boiling large saucepan used to be heard off his heart. This is the level of fear prophets and messengers used to have, those who were infallible against committing sins and against temptations. Muhammad ppbu all his sins past and future were forgiven yet he still stood the nights in prayer till his feet swelled, and used to cry till his tears wetted the earth beneath him. When he was reminded that all his sins were already forgiven; he used to answer: **{and would I not be a thankful slave}**.

Allah says: **{the (true) believers whose hearts fill with fear when Allah is mentioned, and when revelations of Allah are recited unto them they increase their faith, and who trust in their Lord}**8:2. The faithful has the characteristics of being

God fearing when Allah is mentioned, and humble when hearing verses from the Allah's book. Also trusting in Allah, and always obeying Him, and being generous with what Allah has given him. The messenger ppbu said: **{No one who ever cried out of fear of Allah shall go into hell fire. Not until the milk goes back into the udder}**.

God fearing in the heart of a slave will stop him or her from falling into the forbidden. Fear will stop the slave from committing sins, the slave would not feed from money came through wrong, and would not bare false testimony, and would not backbite nor slander, and would not make an oath lying, and would not break a promise, and would not betray a covenant or an agreement or a treaty, and would not cheat in an interaction or a transaction, and would not con a partner, and would not betray a trust, and would not commit adultery, and would not use or abuse a forbidden material, and would not drink alcohol and all that drug the body or the mind, and would not abandon mosques of Allah and would not abandon praying in congregation. And would not waste his time messing and in negligence. On the contrary, you would find him active and diligent in the obedience of Allah. The messenger ppbu said: **{who has feared then will be vigorous and energetic, and who ever has been energetic will reach the target. Remember Allah's commodity or good is expensive. Allah's good is Paradise}**.

The messenger ppbu said on behalf of Allah: {I make an oath with my honor I shall not put two fears or two forms of security on to a slave of mine: if my slave fears me in the first life I will give him security on the day of resurrection. And if my slave felt secure from me in this life I will give him fear in the day of resurrection}. The messenger ppbu said: {if the faithful knew what punishment Allah has, then no one ever would dare expect his paradise}. And he said describing hell fire: {Fire in the first life is one part of seventy parts of the fire in hell}. The early Muslims used to have fear of that; to the point that Al-Ahnaf used to put his finger over the flame of the lamp and used to say to himself: “waw, Hunayef, what made you do such and such today”. He was brining himself to account. Omar Ebn Al-Khattab used to put his hand close to the fire and say: “Could you stand this Ebn-Al-Khattab?”

Bring your self to an account before you are brought to it, and weight your deeds before they are weighed against you. And remember that prophet Muhammad used to preach his followers and warns them from fire, and puts the fear into their hearts, and to keep judgment day right in front of their eyes. He said once to his companions: {I see what you do not see, and I hear what you do not hear. A sound fills the skies and the heavens of all the angels putting their heads down prostrating to Allah. For the heavens has the right to have that sound, for there isn't enough place for a foot between one angel and the next in prostration to Allah. O if you knew what I know you would laugh a little and cry a lot. And you would have given up

enjoying women in beds and you would have gone out into the streets crying to Allah. By God, I wish if I were a tree which is being cut and removed}. The companions had never had a worst day than that day when he told them that. Many of them cried. Imagine the difficulty of that day when the messenger ppbu himself wishes he was a tree to be cut and used and seizes to exist, then how should we feel? I am only surprised from the lack of fear we show, and we forget or we are ignorant that death comes sudden. And grave is the box of deeds.

The messenger ppbu said: {**I have never seen anything like hell fire and the one escaping it falls asleep, nor anything like paradise and the one seeking it falls asleep**}. Reason for that is lack in fear of Allah with us. Aesha asked the messenger ppbu about the verse in the Koran which says: {**and those who would commit what they commit and their hearts are shy and shamed, that they will return to their Lord**} she asked: “does that refer to the adulterer, and the thief and one who drinks alcohol? The messenger ppbu said: {**no, daughter of Siddiq, it refers to the man who would fast and pray and pays charity and fear that it may not be accepted from him**}. The believer has deeds of perfection combined with fear of Allah, while the hypocrite has evil deeds combined with lack of fear or security of Allah’s side. I ask Allah to make us with those who fear Him and obey Him and those who stay away from deeds of disobedience.