

FAITH EXALTS PEOPLE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ
الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حِوَلًا .
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
الْإِيمَانُ بِضْعٌ وَسَبْعُونَ شُعْبَةً أَفْضَلُهَا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَأَوْضَعُهَا إِمَاطَةُ الْأَدَى عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ وَالْحَيَاءُ شُعْبَةٌ مِنَ
الْإِيمَانِ .

Honorable Muslims!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) has bestowed upon us countless pleasant blessings. There is one such blessing among them that is more valuable and important than the others. This great blessing is faith. For faith exalts people. With faith, hearts are filled with peace. With faith, consciences become purified. With faith, minds are at ease. With faith, graves are illuminated. With faith, the place of resurrection finds serenity. With faith, al-Sirat is crossed. With faith, one enters the paradise.

Dear Believers!

Faith entails acknowledging through heart and testifying through tongue all the messages our Prophet (saw) conveyed to us from Allah the Almighty (swt). Upon Jibreel's (as) question, "What does faith mean?", the Messenger of Allah (saw)

replied as follows, "Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His prophets, the Resurrection, and destiny with all the good and bad things it entails."¹

Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - they will have the Gardens of Paradise as a lodging, wherein they abide eternally and they will not desire from it any transfer.² When it comes to those who disbelieve in the verses of their Lord and in [their] meeting Him, and ridicule the prophets, their deeds have become worthless. Hell is their destination in the Afterlife.³

Dear Muslims!

Let us endeavor to live up to and keep up the values we believe. Let us pay attention to ensuring that all living beings are safe from our hand and tongue. Let us protect and observe human and public rights, as well as the orphan's property and rights. Let us spread love and affection around us. Let us be happy and thankful when we do good, and be sad and repent when we do evil. Let us not forget that happiness in this world and in the Afterlife are enjoyed by believers who duly obey their Lord (swt), embrace the faith principles truly, continue their worships sincerely, and make no concessions on good morals.

¹ Ibn Hanbal, I, 28.

² Kahf, 18/107, 108.

³ Kahf, 18/103-106.