



Tazkiyyah - Purification of the Heart (B)

Process of Purification of Heart

We need to discuss the process of how to purify the hearts. The process of purification of the heart is a continuous process till death. We cannot say that our hearts are purified and they do not need any more purification.

The Diseases of the Heart

Like our bodies, our hearts have diseases to fall prey to them. They may include desires, greed, lust, envy, love, anger, hypocrisy, debates and show off etc. Some of them are more severe than others. The path of Allah (SWT) is easy to follow and we will reach the ultimate success by following it. Every other path is full of problems. When we follow Allah (SWT)'s path, Allah (SWT) makes it easy for us to lead on it. We have no knowledge about the decree of Allah (SWT).

Allah (SWT) has distributed everything among people with His own wish. Human always desires to get everything for him without knowing the benefits and harmful effects of those things. People become envious of others if they do not get what they want while the others have it. Allah (SWT) mentioned the events of Prophet Musa (AS) and Prophet Khizar (AS) in Surah Al-Kahf. Prophet Khizar (AS) broke the plank of a boat in which they were sitting, later he killed a little boy without any major crime; and finally, he built a wall for the orphans.

Prophet Musa (AS) inquired about the reasons behind all these unexpected events to which Prophet Khizar (AS) replied one by one. Prophet Khizar (AS) replied that boat with broken plank would actually save them from the wrath of the king who would confiscate the boats and imprison the sailors. He said I killed the boy because he would become the most terrible man and serial killer in the world. He would probably take his family to kufr. Therefore, Allah (SWT) wanted he died. Allah (SWT) mentioned that every human being will be tested by fear, hunger, happiness, sorrows and with otherworldly problems. Allah (SWT) has a full picture of us all, but we see a small perspective.

Love of anything in this world other than Allah (SWT) is considered as a disease. People have feelings of love for each other and they usually transgress the limits of Allah (SWT). Allah (SWT) said, those who believe are extreme in the love of Allah (SWT). Therefore, liking someone may lead to disobeying Allah (SWT). At this, one needs to draw a line that my love for Allah (SWT) is more than this person.

Problems of Muslim Ummah

There are 1.8 billion among the total populations of the world. We have best forces, universities, wealth, atomic powers and natural resources. But we are in the very terrible conditions in the world.

Allah (SWT) mentioned:

“Verily! Allah (SWT) will not change the condition of a people as long as they do not change what is within themselves.” [Surah Ar-Rad:11]

There are categories of believers and the pious people, starting from Muslim, Momin, Muttaqqi and finally the Mohsin. The guidance lies in the Qur’an for those who have Taqwa (piety).

Types of Fear of Allah (SWT)

There are different types of fears of Allah (SWT). The first one is Khushu, standing before Allah (SWT) with complete attentiveness. The second one is Raha, it is like you get afraid of something so quickly and you easily get back to your normal condition. For example, Prophet Ibrahim (AS) felt Raha, when he cooked the best calf for two travelers who came to see him when he presented them food they did not eat it. At that moment, they said we are angels and sent by Allah (SWT). Another type is Khauf, Allah (SWT) mentioned that your hearts will be in your throats with fear on the Day of Judgment. There is another type of fear, you just know about it, but do not do anything against it. Similarly, Taqwa of Allah (SWT) is the type of fear that makes you change yourself. It makes us realize and prohibit ourselves from sins. Taqwa is for the change of the state of human beings.

Allah (SWT) said:

“O you who believe! Fear Allah (SWT) and be with those who are true”.

[Surah At-Taubah: 119]

It is mandatory for us to be muttaqis (pious) and strive hard up to our capacities to be muttaqis (pious). And also, we need to be with the true people because a company of pious people will have its effects on us. Imam Ghazali said, “A bad friend is worse than Satan”. Therefore, Taqwa is like a flame in the heart of the person, you live in the company of a muttaqi person (pious), will also be influenced by that flame.

“Our Lord! Let not our hearts deviate (from the truth) after You have guided us. And grant us mercy from You. Truly You are the Bestower”. [Surah Al-Imran: 8]