

4 – Promises of Allah ﷻ

Allah ﷻ made four promises. Each is conditional upon our actions. Let us see what they are and what we need to do to invoke their blessing. The first one is:

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرُكُمْ

Al Baqara [2:152] - So remember Me; I will remember you....

I remind myself and you to reflect on the meaning of the Ayaat of Allah ﷻ. By 'meaning' I don't mean the translation. I mean, let us ask, "What does Allah ﷻ mean to me?" Not what is the meaning of Dhikrullah? But what does Dhikrullah mean to me? What is the effect of the Dhikr of Allah ﷻ on my heart? What should be the effect and what is the meaning of that?

Allah ﷻ mentioned this specifically and said:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ
آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

Anfal 8: 2. The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, their hearts shiver with His Awe and Majesty and when His Ayaat are recited unto them, their Faith increases; and they put their trust in their Rabb (Alone).

Let us monitor what happens when we hear the name of Allah ﷻ and when we hear or read His Ayaat or see them in the world around us? Allah ﷻ told us what the effect of Dhikrullah is. But does it happen to us?

There are two effects of Dhikrullah; safety from sin and freedom from fear and anxiety. When we remember Allah ﷻ, we can't possibly commit a sin. And when we remember Allah ﷻ, all fear of anyone else and all anxiety about everything in the Dunya disappears. These are the physical and emotional effects of Dhikr. Do we feel these.

Then Allah ﷻ in His Mercy and Generosity and Grace tells us that when we remember Him, He remembers us. Try to get your mind around this. Here we are, sitting in this little masjid, remembering Allah ﷻ and He is remembering us by name on His Arsh.

Abu Hurairahؓ reported that Rasoolullahﷺ said, "Allahﷻ says: 'I am as my slave expects me to be, and I am with him when he remembers Me. If he remembers Me inwardly, I will remember him inwardly, and if he remembers Me in an assembly, I will remember him in a better assembly (i.e., in the assembly of angels).'"

[Bukhari and Muslim].

What does this do to us? What is the feeling in our hearts? What does it do to our cares of this world, our worries and our sadness and depression? Light and darkness are mutually exclusive. They can't be in the same place together. Darkness has no identity of its own. It is the name given to the absence of light. When light shines in a dark place, darkness vanishes. When guidance comes, ignorance and misguidance vanish. Allahﷻ said about this:

وَقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا

Isra 17: 81. *And say: "Truth (Islam) has come and Baatil (evil, falsehood) has vanished. Surely! Baatil is ever bound to vanish."*

This is a metric to apply in our lives to see if indeed we have guidance. If there is disobedience and rebelliousness and selective obedience in our lives, then we are only fooling ourselves, imagining that we are guided. Light banishes darkness. If there is darkness, then it means only one thing; light is still to shine into our hearts. The Dhikr of Allahﷻ is that light. Let us open the windows of our hearts to the light of the Noor of Allahﷻ's guidance so that the darkness of Shaytaan and his whispering will disappear from our hearts.

Please note that Allahﷻ told us that He will remember us IF and WHEN we remember Him. The promises of Allahﷻ are all true and are all conditional. Allahﷻ gave us the power to decide if we want to be honored or not. The King doesn't go chasing you around to honor you. He honors those who come to His Court. Those who don't want to come and want to hang around with the enemies of the King are also making their own choice. This is a world and a life of cause and effect. If you want an effect, you must address the cause. Do we want tranquility, honor, safety, dua that is accepted and closeness to Allahﷻ? Choose wisely because we will have to live with our choice.