

## The Strength of Willpower

### Friday Khutbah (22-06-07)

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God/Allah.

Whilst the Shaykh's reminder has general application for us all, the Shaykh made special mention of our dear brothers and sisters:

- who have finished their study for the year;
- those who will be graduating this year - by the Divine help of God, having reached a high level of academic success;
- those who are starting out in the world of work
- And those who will be returning to their countries after having come here in pursuit of knowledge.

You have been given the secret of success from God, which has helped you achieve your goals and fulfil your dreams!

This secret is reliance upon God and turning to Him, and thereafter, to have strong intention and firm determination.

1. Trusting and relying on God is half of the Religion (Deen)
2. the second half is to turn to God and ask from Him.

We can see that the religion is comprised of these two from the verse in Surah Fatiha that mentions:

"To you alone we worship and to You alone we seek help"

Because

1. turning to Him (in repentance) and asking from Him, is worship; and
2. reliance upon God and trusting in God is seeking His help.

Prophet Shu'aib said to his people:

"I only desire improvement to the best of my power. And my guidance cannot come except from God, in Him I trust and to Him I repent."  
(Surah Hud: 88)

O Muslim, you want to improve the faith you have, to make better: the condition of our soul, your livelihood, your relationships with your spouse and your family, to make better your society, your country, your government, your worldwide community- therefore utter the words of Shu'aib. Have trust in God, do good deeds, say word of goodness, encourage the doing of good and discourage the

doing of bad acts and worship your Lord until you reach certainty (of His promise).

By trusting alone in God the Most High, you are relying on the power of the unseen, support from Heavens above to help you in your affairs and to fulfil your needs.

Having true reliance on God is vital for achieving success and achieving your goals. Trust in God should be like a companion through life, a good friend that accompanied you wherever you go:

"And why should we not put our trust in God while he has indeed guided us in our ways?..." (Surah Ibrahim: 12)

It is narrated that the Prophet (SAW) was judging case between two men. When the case had been settled against one of the men, he said (in frustration) 'I have trust in God and He is the Best of Protectors'. The Prophet (SAW) said: "God will blame you for your weak ability! It is up to you to use your intellect [because he had the ability to change his affairs and act in a different way]. If an affair overwhelms you then you should say: 'I trust in God and He is the best of protectors.'"

So a person is responsible for putting to good use the strong determination and willpower, which God Almighty has given him. A person must utilize his or her capability (that God has gifted them with) to overcome problems and obstacles which may have prevented him or her to reach their goals and ambitions.

O Muslims- The religion of Islam loves and encourages people to be people of determination and motivation. It encourages us to be people of intention and direction, people who persevere in achieving their ambitions and use correct and lawful means to do so.

We should be people who do the very best we can to reach our goals and not leave ourselves to our whims and desires, nor should we sit and wait for luck to come to us and give us what we wanted. The religion of Islam does like us to be indecisive in our affairs- so choose that which is the most beneficial and good for your life and future.

The Prophet (SAW) advised his companions:

"The strong believer amongst you is more beloved to God than the weak believer, but in both there is goodness [Muslim]. Seek that which benefits you, seek help in God and do not become weak or lazy in this if something afflicts you do not say: 'If only I had done this then this would be different', instead say 'This is the decree of God and He does as He wills'. Indeed, the word 'if' opens the way for the acts of Satan [Tirmidhi]"

One of the acts of Satan is to look at your past and focus only on these things in your life, which you failed in, the dreams, which you did not achieve, and the goals you did not succeed in. Hopelessness and despair at that which has already passed are from the works of Satan.

God Almighty says in Surah Aale-Imran: 156:

"You who believe, do not be like those who disbelieved and said of their brothers who went out on a journey, 'If only they had stayed with us they would not have died or been killed' - God will make such thoughts a source of anguish in their hearts. It is God who gives life and death. God sees everything that you do."

God wants for us not to say 'if only' or 'what if...'" This is not from the nature of a Muslim, instead, the Muslim deals with his or her affairs and the events in their lives, with a positive outlook.

The nature of true faith- O youngsters among us- is that when it enters the hearts and affects it, it gives you strength, which is manifest through your behaviour. When you speak, your speech is trusted, when you do an action, you are firm and steadfast in it and when you aim to do something, you are clear in his goal.

Likewise, true faith in a Muslim makes you distinguished in your nature- your manners, your behaviour and in your goals in life. You follow the laws of the religion and you will be seen dealing with people with great wisdom. If you see people who are on the right path, you will join them but if you find them in error, you keep away from them and invite them to that which is better.

He follows the guidance of the Prophet (SAW) who said:

"Do not be a blind-follower who says I am with the people and if the people do good I do good and if they do bad I do bad. Instead make yourself get used to following the people when they do good and avoid following them when they do bad" (Tirmidhi)

The weak is he who is a slave to the dominant customs and traditions even if they go against the Shariah (the Qur'an and Hadith). The weak person makes culture his leader even if it means to deviate (from the straight path). This brings nothing with it except difficulties and troubles in this life and the next.

So as Shoaib asked, we ask of God -

"I only desire improvement to the best of my power. And my guidance cannot come except from God, in Him I trust and to Him I repent." (Surah Hud:88)