

**The root of having consciousness of God is to know *what* to be conscious of and then *be* conscious of it!**

Friday Khutbah (28<sup>th</sup> September 2007) delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Taher

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.

God Almighty says in the verses regarding fasting: "O you who believe, fasting is prescribed upon you as it was for those that went before you, in order that you may become God-conscious"

[Surah Baqara 2:183]

God Almighty has taught us the wisdom of fasting; He has indicated what fruits a Muslim can expect for undertaking the obligation of fasting through the end of the verse where God says 'in order that you may become God-conscious'. He has encouraged us to strive more in this month of fasting than any other; fearing Him, being aware of Him, having hope and love for Him

O Muslims - In reality, being aware of God (having Taqwa) is not something which is unreal, it is a feeling that a true servant feels in his heart. Its traces can be found on his limbs when he does good deeds and when he or she feels fear and humility before God, and it is seen in his/her preparation for the day of Judgement. The root of having consciousness is to know *what* to be conscious of and then to *be* conscious of it!

O Muslims- how many times has 'Taqwa' being aware of **God** been mentioned (in our reading of the Qur'an)? How many times has it been linked to doing good and gaining lots of reward? How many times is it connected with success and happiness? God is indeed with those who are aware of Him, supporting and helping them succeed and guiding them. So how can harm come to such a person who has God with them?!

"Indeed God is with those who are conscious of Him and with those who do good/beautiful deeds"  
(Surah Nahl: 128)

Sincere faith coupled with awareness of God attracts goodness and blessings.

"If they had believed and led a righteous life, the reward from GOD would be far better, if they only knew." [Surah Baqara 2:103]

"And if the people of those towns had believed and been righteous, We would have surely opened for them blessings from heaven and earth; but they rejected, so We punished them for what they had earned" [Surah Al-A'raf: 96]

"This is to enlighten those who believe in God and the Last Day; and whoever is careful of (his duty to)/conscious/fears Allah, He will make for him an outlet.

And will provide for him from where he never expected; and whoever trusts in Allah, He is sufficient for him; surely God attains His purpose; God indeed has appointed a measure for everything. " Surah Talaq:2,3

Those who are conscious of God are people who fear him, whose hearts are pure, they are cautious of falling into error; they follow what is right and lawful in order to get closer to God.

"and whoever respects the signs of God, this surely is (the outcome) of the piety of hearts." (Surah Hajj: 32)

Those who have awareness of God are the furthest from (serving only) their own whims and the deceptions of the devil.

**When this awareness is settled in the heart it makes a person a true servant of God. If he leaves that which God forbidden, if he fears Him and is observant of Him in all aspects of his life; it becomes very easy for him or her to be from those who see Him.**

Thawban narrates that the Prophet (pbuh) said: "Know that some people from my community will come on the Day of Judgment with good deeds like the white mountains of Tihama, but God will make them scattered dust." Thawban said, 'O Messenger of Allah, describe them to us, so that we may not be one of them without knowing it!' He said, "They will be your brothers, and from your people, and they will take from the night as you do (meaning prayers, etc.), but they are a people who, when they were alone with the prohibitions of Allah, violated them."

Ali ibn Abi Talib (May God be pleased with him) described the characteristics of the people of faith and awareness of God by saying:

- "Their speech is truthful; their clothing is moderate; and they walk with utmost humility.
- They lower their gaze from everything God has forbidden.
- They allow their ears to listen only to that which is beneficial.
- Their souls accept exposure to trials and tribulations as easily as others accept luxurious living.
- Their basic needs are few; and their souls are chaste.
- They patiently endure the few days they spend in this world knowing that they will be followed by a long, peaceful rest—this is the profitable life-transaction which their Lord has allowed them to enter into.

- The world desired them; however, they had no desire for it. It imprisoned them, but they ransomed their souls from it [with their restraint and righteous deeds]. **Because the Creator is magnified in their souls, everything else is viewed as insignificant in their sight.**
- They are not satisfied with a minimal amount of righteous deeds, nor do they consider excessive amount of worship to be great.
- Their hearts are sober.
- He works righteousness all the while trembling, [fearing that his deeds won't be accepted]
- **And people are safe from any wickedness from them."**

Allah is sufficient for those who are aware of Him, they are satisfied with Islam as their religion, with Muhammad as their Prophet and Messenger (pbuh),

- they do not consume interest,
- they give food,
- they spread peace,
- they pray during the night when others are asleep,
- they join ties for the desire for paradise (the abode of peace).
- They encourage the doing of good and discourage the doing of bad,
- they advise fellow Muslims and prefer others over themselves.
- They do not belittle their mistakes and sins and
- they do not commit major sins or fall into error knowingly.

O Muslims

Many people think that having God-Consciousness is just being steadfast with the rights due to God and to keep away from sins. This is all good and well, but it is not correct for these people to neglect the **rights of people!** No, this is not the way! Being aware of God (Taqwa) is a complete state where one is steadfast with the rights and duties to God but also the duties towards fellow beings.

Today we are in the midst of the month of Ramadan. Get your selves used to obeying God and being patient in this and to fulfil your obligations with hope and faith that it will be accepted by God the Merciful. Make the most of this opportunity, strive to correct yourselves, be aware of God in all the actions you do and come nearer to your Lord and He will come closer to you.