

Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ﴾

"For those who believe and work deeds of righteousness is a reward that will never fail."  
(Qur'an, 41: 8)

Time in Islam is more than gold or any precious material thing in this world. Of all religions, only Islam guides mankind not only to the importance of time but also how to value it. Allah ﷻ and His Messenger, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ very clearly tell us the value of time, why we must not waste it and how we can make use of our time wisely to increase our Iman (faith) and thus attain success, especially eternal success in the life hereafter.

Hazrat Ibn Abbas ؓ narrates that Prophet ﷺ said; "There are two blessings which many people lose: (They are) health and free time for doing good." (Bukhari)

Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ud ؓ narrated, I asked the Prophet ﷺ; which deed is the dearest to Allah ﷻ? He ﷺ replied, "To offer Salah (Prayers) at their early fixed times." I asked what is the next (in goodness)? He ﷺ replied, "To be good and dutiful to your parents." I again asked what is the next (in goodness)? He ﷺ replied, "To participate in jihad in Allah's Cause." (Bukhari)

Hazrat Abu Qatada bin Rab'i ؓ narrates that Prophet ﷺ said; "Allah ﷻ the Exalted said: I made five times (daily) Prayers obligatory on your people. And I took a guarantee that if anyone observes them regularly at their times, I shall admit him to Paradise. If anyone does not offer them regularly, there is no such guarantee

of Mine for him." (Abu-Dawud)

If we fear Allah ﷻ for His wrath and hope for His rewards in the eternal world to come, time has come for us to give due value to the importance of time. We should try not to waste most of our time seeking worldly pleasures. It is for our guidance that we must take admonition from the following authentic Hadith;

Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said; "Be prompt in doing good deeds (before you are overtaken) by turbulence which would be like a part of the dark night. During (that stormy period) a man would be a Muslim in the morning and an unbeliever in the evening or he would be a believer in the evening and an unbeliever in the morning, and would sell his faith for worldly goods." (Muslim)

﴿فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

"Call then upon Allah with sincere devotion to Him even though the Unbelievers may detest it."  
(Qur'an, 40: 14)

We request you to make du'a for the Ummah as much as possible as we all need guidance. We Pray Allah ﷻ increases our patience, taqwa, truthfulness and pure intentions. And we also Pray that Allah ﷻ blesses us with many opportunities to increase our knowledge in everything that is beneficial to us.

O Allah ﷻ! Guard our actions. O Allah ﷻ! Forgive us our sins against You and ease the hearts of those we have harmed so that they too will forgive us. "Aameen"

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Increasing our Iman (Faith)

Signs of weak Iman

Carrying out good Deeds

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said; "Faith wears out in the heart of any one of you just as clothes wear out, so ask Allah ﷻ to renew the faith in your hearts." (Mustadrak al-Haakim)

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﴿ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ

وَجَلَّتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ

آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ ﴿٢﴾

﴿ ٢ ٠ ٢ ﴾

"For believers are those who when Allah is mentioned feel a tremor in their hearts and when they hear His signs rehearsed find their faith strengthened and put (all) their trust in their Lord." (Qur'an, 8: 2)

Hazrat Abu Umamah ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "If anyone loves for Allah's sake, hates for Allah's sake, gives for Allah's sake and withholds for Allah's sake, he will have perfect faith." (Abu Dawud)

Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "The most perfect believer in respect of faith is he who is best of them in manners." (Abu Dawud)

Hazrat Abu Dharr ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "He has been successful whose heart Allah ﷻ has made sincere towards faith, whose heart He has made free from unbelief, his tongue truthful, his soul calm, his nature straight, whose ear He has made attentive and his eye observant. The ear is a funnel and the eye is a repository for what the heart learns. He is successful whose heart is made retentive." (Tirmidhi)

Hazrat Anas ؓ narrates the Rasulullah ﷺ said; "None of you will have faith till he wishes for his (Muslim) brother what he likes for himself." (Bukhari)

Our Iman is not always as sound and strong as we want it to be as it often fluctuates according to life circumstances. There are several causes for weakening Iman such as deficiencies in our Prayers or the insinuating whispers from the Shaitaan. Regardless of the cause, it is crucial for all of us to keep a check on our Iman and if we feel it is faltering in any way then we should take measures to restore it. It is our responsibility to know which things decrease our Iman and how to avoid them and those that increase our Iman and how to embrace them.

## Signs of weak Iman:

- Committing sins and not feeling any guilt.
- Having a hard heart and no desire to read the Qur'an.
- Feeling too lazy to do good deeds, e.g. being late for Salah.
- Neglecting the Sunnah.
- Not feeling anything when hearing verses from the Qur'an, for example when Allah ﷻ warns us of punishments and His promise of glad tidings.
- Not feeling bad when things are done against the Shariah.
- Desiring status and wealth.
- Being mean and miserly, i.e. not wanting to part with wealth.
- Ordering others to do good deeds when not practising them ourselves.

- Feeling pleased when things are not progressing for others.
- Being concerned with whether something is Haram or Halal only; and not avoiding Makrooh (odious) things.
- Not feeling the responsibility to do some thing to promote Islam.
- Being unable to deal with calamities, for instance crying and yelling in funerals.
- Liking to argue just for the sake of arguing without any proof.
- Becoming engrossed and very involved with Dunya (worldly) things, i.e. feeling bad only when losing something in terms of material wealth.
- Becoming engrossed and obsessive about ourselves.

## Carrying out good Deeds:

Doing good deeds for others can be like switching on a light bulb in a darkened room. No matter how awful we are feeling there is just something about offering a helping hand to someone in need that lifts our spirits and brightens our Iman. We should get to the stage where we crave to do good deeds! Because our good deeds are our eternal investment which will benefit us for the rest of eternity rather than investment into this life which is very temporary indeed! So what investment sounds better? Eternal investment, which will give us eternal bliss or temporary investment, which has a chance of failing even though we spend our whole lives investing in it! You choose!