

Striving in the way of God

Friday Sermon September 3rd 2010



NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

SUMMARY

Hudhur (aba) gave a discourse on striving in the way of God in his Friday Sermon today.

Success is attained in this striving by consistently and resolutely trying in a manner as taught by God

God reveals Himself to the person when God sees that man has tried his very best and has assumed a kind of death on himself to seek God

If one did not strive in the way of God and did not pray after *bai'at*, one in fact dishonours the *bai'at*.

Hudhur(aba) gave the sad news of another terrorists attack on our mosque during Friday Prayers in Mardan leading to many injuries and one martyrdom

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وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا
وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Chapter 29 , Verse 70

And *as for* those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. And verily Allah is with those who do good.

Last ten days of Ramadan *have LaytulQadr* and Friday has a particular moment which is blessed with a high level of acceptance of prayer

Striving in the way of God

All these combined blessings draw our attention to God's favours. Such attention should not be temporary, rather, as the aforementioned verse states that we should be constantly striving in God's way.

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Striving in the way of God

Success is attained in striving for Allah by

It is indeed Allah's favour that He facilitates an environment during Ramadan to promote spiritual development.

Trying consistently and resolutely

Keeping in view God's commandments

Fasting and worship in Ramadan are also a particular 'striving', if carried out thoughtfully.

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Hudhur (aba) said that he would explain with the help of the writings of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) about the aforementioned verse

1. The ways and manners focussing on which one can attain Allah's nearness
2. And would be regarded as *Mohsineen*, people who do good deeds and Allah is with them.

Striving in the way of God

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Striving in the way of God

The commandment is to seek God in accordance to one's capacity and ability.

- When a concerted effort is made in this regard, God shows the way that leads to Him

However one can not attain Allah if

- Selfish thoughts and excuses get in the way of effort and a trivial effort is assumed as 'striving'

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said one who is careless and indolent cannot attain the same degree of Divine grace as one who makes an effort with all one's might and with sincerity to search for God.

Hudhur (aba) said there are different degrees of Divine nearness which can be attained by continuous striving according to the means taught by God

Belief in the unseen and perfect faith in God's attributes inclines one to strive towards Allah.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that God states He would show the way to whoever strives in His way, this is His promise.

God can not be found by pure intellect.

God has not left man in dark for as regards this search.

Striving in the way of God

God manifests signs through His Prophets to prove His existence. From the advent of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) till the Day of Judgement we have the Holy Qur'an as the guidance.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that one should say this prayer during Salat with the supplication and aspiration to be counted among those who have been granted spiritual advancement and insight.

إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

guide us in the right path'

Chapter 1, Verse 6

Striving in the way of God

Hudhur (aba) said if this prayer, which is read in each *rakah* (unit) of Salat, is uttered with due care and compassion with an aim to seek guidance, God grants it.

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Striving in the way of God

Hudhur(aba) said it is important to understand this point, it leads to success.

When a wise person
derives benefit
through someone's
advice,

He/she is
grateful for the
advice

And tries to
forge a bond
with the advisor.

When Prophets
guide to the ways of
seeking God,
it is essential
to follow them and
stay connected to
them.

The Holy Prophet
(pbuh) foretold about
the coming of the
Messiah in this age

It is important to
pay attention to
one who is sent
to connect man
with God rather
than mindlessly
rejecting him

Striving in the way of God

Hadhrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) would tell non-Muslims that although they would not say the Quranic prayer of '**guide us in the right path**'

but if they simply prayed for the straight path with an open mind, God would guide them. Many told him that the truth of Islam was unfolded to them.

How important it is then for Muslims to try this formula!

It is also important for us Ahmadis, who have accepted the Imam of the age, to not simply sit back but try and constantly strive in the way of finding God, especially during these days.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that God is well aware of what is in hearts. If one is righteous He is Ghafur (the Most Forgiving) for those who turn to Him.

Striving in the way of God

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that just as in our worldly life each action has an outcome, similar is the law of religion.



'And as for those who strive in Our path –

We will surely guide them in Our ways.'

Chapter 29 , Verse 70

'So when they deviated from the right course,

Allah caused their hearts to deviate'.

Chapter 61 , Verse 6

Hudhur (aba) remarked that it is man's misfortune that he distances himself from God.

Hudhur (aba) was asked by a Pakistani friend about the reason for what is happening in Pakistan and when and how will it get better?

Hudhur told him there were only two things to keep in view. God states come to Me, make an effort, endeavour. God states make your utmost effort and I will show the way.

Hudhur asked the person, was the state of affairs so? He replied it was quite the contrary.

Hudhur responded to him that when the situation is thus, God's second action comes into play.

Hudhur said collectively the Pakistani nation has to change its train of thought. The Pakistani media is raising a hue and cry, by making certain statements it has gone to extremes and Yet no one is trying to make concerted effort to stop the instances of barbarity. May God have mercy.

'And as for those who strive in Our path – We will surely guide them in Our ways.'

Explaining how God treats good-natured people, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said

God removes the shortcomings of good-natured people and gives them strength for piety. They find all that is unpleasant in God's sight as unpleasant. God blesses all efforts made by them

The ways that are dear to God become dear to them. They are granted strength which does not weaken, fervour which does not wear out and *taqwa* (righteousness) which is not followed by sin and God's pleasure is thus attained

but this grace takes time. Man stumbles a lot in the beginning due to his weaknesses but as his striving continues and God sees the resoluteness, God draws man to Him

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا
فِيْنَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا

Striving in the way of God

Elucidating the verse
'And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways.' in another place, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says that the entire matter rests on striving, without which nothing can be attained.

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِيْنَا
 لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا

Some people erroneously cite that Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (may Allah have mercy on him) turned a thief in a chief in one look. It is all misconception

Those who rush in matters with God are destroyed.

Like any progress in the world, spiritual development is gradual and is attained by striving in the cause of Allah in accordance with His commandments

Striving in the way of God

Striving is required for the door of spiritual knowledge to open, but the efforts have to be carried out in the ways taught by God and in the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

Guidance comes from God alone. He opens the ways of spiritual knowledge to those who search for Him with sincerity of heart and earnestness.

However, anyone who uses derision in such matters is left deprived and invites Allah's wrath.

Striving in the way of God

Many people visit *Pirs* and *Faqirs* (ascetics) to seek their 'blowing'. **This is a sin.**

Guidance comes from God alone.

Such people consider themselves as the source of guidance rather than Allah, **this is a great sin**

Some ascetics also presume they can give guidance and tell people that they have become pious by simply giving them an amulet.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said that God created Adam in His form.

صِبْغَةَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ
مِنَ اللَّهِ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ عِبْدُونَ

Chapter 2, Verse 139

Say, 'We will adopt the religion of Allah; and who is better than Allah in teaching religion, and Him alone do we worship.'

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that God wishes to imbue everyone in the colour of His knowledge.

This verse signifies that man has the capacity to espouse Divine attributes.

Striving in the way of God

Hudhur (aba) explained the application of Divine attributes of *Sattar* (Coverer of faults), *Shakur* (Most Appreciating), and *Rabbul Alameen* (Lord of all the worlds) as well as *Rahman* (Most Gracious) and *Raheem* (Ever Merciful) at human level.

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How can those who commit barbarity in His name find His way

- Hudhur (aba) said today we have received sad news. Terrorists attacked our mosque during Friday Prayers in Mardan [Pakistan]. However, due to timely action of the Khuddam on duty they were not successful in coming inside the mosque.

- They threw grenades, one suicide attacker was injured and then blew himself up. Because of this the gate of the mosque and some walls fell.

What sort of people are these who perpetrate these acts in the name of God? They can never be called godly, for they attack those who worship God in the name of God.

Those who help them or those who have power but do nothing about it are also culpable.

May God soon rid the country and the world of these oppressors.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that those who endeavour ultimately find guidance.

Just as a seed grows with water supply and even destroys itself in order to grow into a plant, unless one supplicates God daily for help,

His grace will not come and change cannot come without Divine help.

The Companions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) did not reach their elevated stations through ordinary worship

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) spent extended, arduous hours in the Hira cave in worship of God after which he received Divine grace.

Striving in the way of God

Unless one annihilates oneself in God's way, there is no success. However, when God sees that man has tried his very best and has assumed a kind of death on himself to seek God, this is when God reveals Himself to the person.

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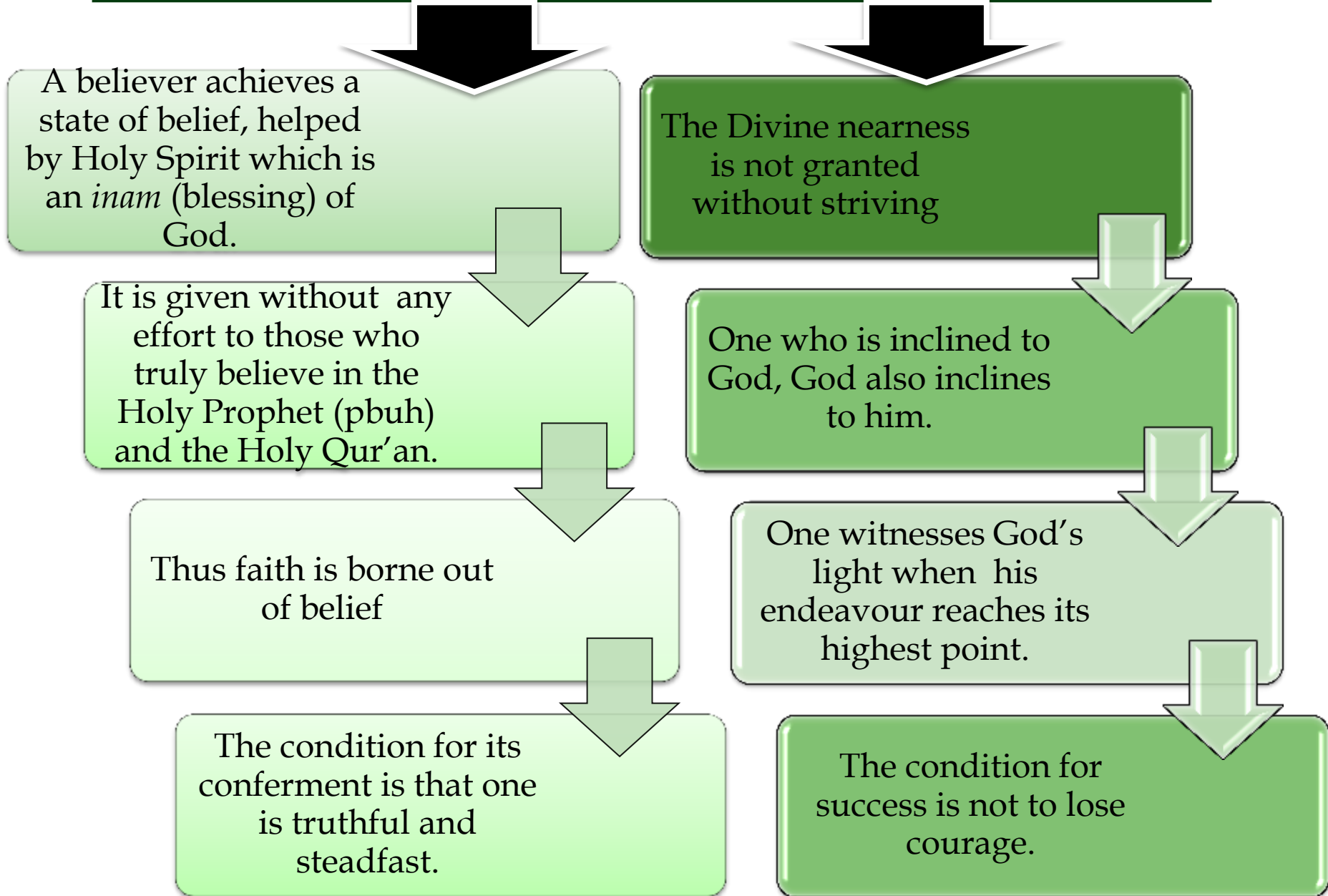
Striving in the way of God

One who
endeavours and
strives in God's way
is never unsuccessful

If we can feel
sympathy and
compassion for
someone staying up
late preparing for
exams, could God
let the hard work of
one wishing to seek
Him go to waste?

Most certainly,
never.

To achieve a state of belief & state of Divine nearness



Striving in the way of God

Islam grants true spiritual knowledge, which brings about a death to life of sin, which in turn gives a new lease of life.



The reason every person cannot attain this is because it is not achievable without striving, repentance and completely submitting to God



It is because of their striving in the way of God that the Companions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) were likened with stars by God. God stated that such was their brilliance that anyone who followed them would find guidance

The Promised Messiah
(on whom be peace)
said that

The real objective
of his *bai'at* is to
attain love of
God and a
loathing for sin

Not striving in the
way of God and not
praying after *bai'at*,
is in fact
dishonouring the
bai'at.

This is a matter of
great sin

Bai'at and
striving in the
way of Allah

Bai'at and striving in the way of Allah

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May each one of us understands the essence of this fact and may our efforts ever intensify and fulfil our pledge with the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and to attain God's pleasure.

May we never be embarrassed in front of God by showing weakness in our promise and deficiency in our effort.

May He continue to enable us to fulfil our promise and to seek His nearness and may we spend the remaining days [of Ramadan] in prayer more than before.

May God Himself become our Shield and may He bring about the chastisement of our enemies.

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**Shaikh
Amir
Razzaq**

His burial will InshaAllah
take place in Rabwah.

He was 40 years old and was
currently serving as a Waqfe
Jadid secretary

He leaves behind a widow
and two children.

He was badly injured in the
explosion during the
terrorist attack

Martyrs of Ahmadiyyat

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