



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

6 November 2015 / 24 Muharram 1437

Developing Our Iman and Confidence

Through Knowledge

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْمَلِكِ الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ الَّذِي أَبَانَ لِعِبَادِهِ مِنْ آيَاتِهِ مَا
بِهِ عِبْرَةٌ لِلْمُعْتَبِرِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ
لَهُ إِلَهَ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَالْآخِرِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا . أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Respected jemaah,

Let's all increase our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. Renew our intention to bring ourselves closer to Allah s.w.t by obeying His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions.

Jemaah,

Last week, the khatib reminded us about the profound effect of loving the Prophet s.a.w. and the need to emulate the beauty of his character and the sincerity of his deeds. Today, I would like to highlight an example of the nobility of his character. In a

hadith reported by Abu Dawud, once Rasulullah s.a.w. took Mu'az ibn Jabal r.a. by the hand and said: *“Oh Mu'az, by Allah I love you, and I advise you, O Mu'az, to never forget to recite (this supplication), after every prayer”*:

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنِّي عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ.

Which means: *“O Allah! Assist me in remembering You, in thanking You, and in worshipping You in the best of manners.”*

This hadith, dear jemaah, teaches us several valuable lessons for us to reflect upon. First, look at how concerned Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was toward those around him, especially the youth and teenagers. Rasulullah s.a.w. spoke to them with such gentleness and ihsan (compassion) so that the young man will be open to listen to what he has to say.

At the same time, this hadith is a reminder that it is obligatory upon us not to take a nonchalant attitude in our efforts to guide and remind the youth to constantly be close to Allah s.w.t.

We need to follow the footsteps of Rasulullah s.a.w. who was diligent yet patient in ensuring that the younger generation was equipped with the knowledge and religious guidance necessary to become people with firm iman and reputable character.

We need to always ask ourselves how we can play a role in encouraging those who are close to us to increase their

knowledge and religious deeds. Realise that knowledge or ilm is the key to strengthening one's belief and iman. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Hajj verse 54, regarding the merit of a knowledgeable person:

وَلْيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَيُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ فَتُخْبِتَ لَهُ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَادٍ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿٥٤﴾

Which means: *“And so those who were given knowledge may know that it is the truth from your Lord and [therefore] believe in it, and their hearts humbly submit to it. And indeed is Allah the Guide of those who have believed to a straight path.”*

In this verse, Allah s.w.t. states that knowledge is one of the factors through which a person gains confidence and strengthens his iman. Knowledge also gives one the ability to evaluate the plethora of religious information found online or in books. A knowledgeable individual is able to identify the truth from falsehood, and sieve the truth from doubtful information. This is the significance of having religious knowledge, for every individual. Knowledge is the reason why a person is guided and not let astray. It ensures that our lives have purpose and direction, and guided by good values.

Friday jemaah,

Every Muslim must have a correct understanding of his religion. We cannot simply follow blindly in religious deeds. Alhamdulillah, today we can find numerous religious classes

held throughout the week, whether at the mosques or private centres. It will be a waste if, with the options available, there are still those among our family and friends who have yet to be able to attend these classes and learn the various religious knowledge shared at these classes.

Hence, if we have such family members and friends, take some time to ponder upon how we can encourage them to reap the benefits from these Islamic education programmes. Just as how we wish for goodness upon them in this life, we should strive to open the doors and present opportunities for our family and friends to achieve success in this world and the hereafter.

If we have family members or friends who are still too shy to attend religious classes, then try to introduce them to the asatizah who are accredited under the Asatizah Recognition Scheme. Or perhaps, we can gather our family and friends in our home and invite these asatizah to share their knowledge with us. Even if we have yet to become an alim, at least we have carved the path for our family and friends to know Allah and His Messenger s.a.w.

At the same time, if we already have basic religious knowledge, then work towards deepening and increasing our understanding. Do we not desire to be among those who Rasulullah s.a.w. mentioned in his hadith: *“Whomsoever that*

Allah s.w.t. wishes for goodness upon him, Allah will grant him religious understanding". [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

Let us work hard to be among this group of people. Those whose hearts are filled with knowledge, their minds guided by mature and deep understanding of Islam. Expand our religious knowledge by learning from various asatizah, and appreciate the wealth of Islamic knowledge and traditions. More importantly, strive to apply what we have learnt. It is such a waste if we, as parents, rush to send our children for religious classes, but at home we fail to create an environment that encourages them to apply what they have learnt.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us pray to Allah s.w.t. to bless us with a deep love for knowledge. May our families – including us - always be granted His guidance. May Allah protect our beloved community, and to guide us upon His Syariah, as brought by our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.