

Ramadan (1430 H - 2009 m) - Patience, the lost treasure (3)

8 Sep. 2009
18 Ramadan 1430 H

(The most difficult type of Patience)

Patience is one of the most important qualities demanded of those who claim to Love Allah, as the degree of patience determines those who are sincere in their claim and those who are not.

Over the last 2 weeks we learned about (1) Patience (Sabr) from the verses of the Holy Quran and from the Hadith of Prophet Mohammed (S.A.W) - also we learned (2) The three types of patience in details and also we learned that (3) patience is half the eman (faith).

Today, insha Allah, we will learn.

(1) The practice of patience in our daily life.

(2) The most difficult types of patience.

(3) The Patience of the noble and the patience of the ignoble () people. (4) The beautiful patience.

Patience is needed in every step of the way

(Practice of Patience in our daily life)

(C) Patience in adversity.

A. Patience in worship

B. Patience in abstaining from sins

(A) Patience (Sabr) in worship:-

In Every step of the way, man needs patience in carrying out ^{every} acts of worship, like Salat

2 Before starting to do it e.g Salat, he must make sure that his intentions are correct. He should check his sincerity and seek to avoid showing off in performing it. And while he is performing the act of worship (e.g prayer), he must try to perfect it, to keep his intentions pure and his mind focused on the purpose of performing that act of worship which is the obedience of Allah. After completing the act of worship (e.g salat) - he must abstain from doing anything that could corrupt his worship i.e he should exercise patience i.e refraining from feeling proud of his performance and refraining from telling others about his acts of worship.

Q - Patience in abstaining from committing wrong actions :-

The best way to help oneself abstain from wrong action is to ^{exercise} patience and abstain in the first place/believing that the reward will be great.

3 We must realize that 1- Habits.

2- Desires

Both are the 2 soldiers of Shaytan which he (Shaytan) is using to fight the belief and guidance.

So the question is how to win this battle with Shaytan i.e the battle of bad habits and desires which are prohibited by Allah.

The answer is through Patience on staying away from these desires and bad habits in the first place so that they never have any influence on the spirit. This patience is built on the Love

of the obedience of Allah, and the trust in Allah's reward which is the Paradise

4 We must always remember that we can start any of the wrong actions e.g to try some wine or a relation out of marriage) under the influence of the desires which is controlled by Shaytan, but the problem is that; final ^(results) consequences are beyond a person's control.

Life is a battle with the Shaytan who is trying by all means to deviate the believers (away) from the right Path.

So it is always the Patience ⁱⁿ at the first place which will always makes the believer to stay ^(abstain) away from any prohibited actions i.e away from the Shaytan whispers.

∴ It is the patience in obeying Allah's commands regarding Islamic rules of Halal and Haram.

2- abstaining from the sins and bad actions, That can save you from the Shaitan whispers.

That patience is the way to follow the right

Path which is the path of the believers, the

winners in this life and hereafter.

The Third type is Patience in adversity and in situations

beyond man's control

Trials in life are of 2 types

→ adversity beyond one's control
→ adversity that befall a person at the hands of others.

adversity beyond one's control type I

e.g death of a beloved one, i.e Loss of the parents, husband or kid

sickness, Loss of wealth, big accident etc

In facing these situations, people are different in their response. We may have any of the following reactions:

1- Feeling helpless, discontented, panick and complaining.

2- response with patience, either for the sake of Allah or as a sign of human strength.

3- accepting and being contented with the situation, this

is actually of a higher status than patience.

4- Accepting the situation with thanks and gratitude.

This is even higher than acceptance, because in this case a person sees the adversity as a blessing.

All these reactions are based on the belief of (1) the reality of the worldly life which is less than the wing of the mosquito.

(2) The great reward of patience, gratitude and acceptance.

(3) The greatness of the eternal life in Paradise ^{blessings}.

(4) The great punishment of the eternal life in Hell Fire.

So it is again, the Patience (Sabr) which will remind the believer to say "To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return, O Allah reward me for my affliction and compensate me with something better

② Patience on adversity

Type 2: Problems and adversity that befall a person at the hands of others

These problems can be faced with any of the following reactions :-

1- He may choose to take revenge as Allah said in Surat 42 (V. 41 -- 42)

This means that a wronged person who repays an evil act, making sure not to transgress his limits is simply exercising his legitimate right. Hence no blame attaches him. No one should prevent him from exacting justice. The ones to be stopped are those who oppress and encroach on others.

Human life cannot be set on a right basis while injustice continues unchecked

2 - He may choose to be patient and to forgive.

Allah clarified in Surat 42, V 43 - that

This attitude requires the exercise of a truly

strong resolve.

Patience and forgiveness in personal cases will be rewarded by Allah, as they need self struggle which can be done only for Allah's sake

So it is clear that we believers are in need of patience in every event of our life.

8 Different degrees of patience:

A. Patience for the sake of Allah: hoping for His rewards and fearing His punishment (act of worship)

B. Patience by the help of Allah, as man (knows), realises that: he has no patience himself and has no power to acquire patience. Rather he knows^r there is no power and strength except by the help of Allah

We must know that as true believers, you must have ^{patience} patience for Allah's sake and by the help of Allah.

What is the most difficult type of patience?

- 1- The degree of difficulty in abstaining from some things depends on (1) the strength of one's motive and (2) One's ability to do the action.

So There are 2 possibilities

9

The one who

(1) has strong motive to.

Commit a wrong action
(out of weak faith)

(2) has the means to do so,



will face great difficulty
in exercising enough patience
to abstain

e.g a young man who has
a strong desire and has the means
to do it, needs a lot of patience
to abstain from any haram desire

The one who

(1) has no motive

(2) not able to do it



will find it very easy
in
to abstaining from
those things.

e.g an old man who has
little
no motive for haram desire
(adultery), will find
it more easy to stay
away from it.

10 In the hadith of prophet Mohamed (S.A.W), which he (S.A.W) referred to those who will be shaded in the shade of Allah's throne for their perfect patience - such as (1) The patience of an absolute ruler in being just in all situations, regardless of his own feelings and in spite of the fact that he has the power to do whatever he likes whether it is justice or oppression.

(2) The patience of a young man in worshipping and obeying Allah, trying to suppress his own desires

(3) The patience of the man who gives the Sadaqa, keeping it in ^{deep} secret, avoiding the showing off to the extent that his left arm doesn't know how much his right hand has spent.
For Allah's sake.

(4) The patience of the man who resists the temptation of a woman of beauty and high status

in spite of the fact that he has strong motive and is able.

(5) The patience of two men who meet for the sake of Allah and part for the sake of Allah, in keeping their relation for the sake of Allah and (6) The patience of one who weeps out of fear of Allah, in keeping a secret and not telling others about it (a secret concerning other people).

11 All of these are among the most ^{difficult} types of patience as the factors are available either the ability to do or the motive, but those believers experience the patience for the sake of Allah and by the help of Allah and so they deserve the shade of Allah on the Day of Judgement (a day when there is no shade except for Allah's throne).

Another type of the difficult patience: Patience in abstaining from wrong actions of speech

Also Amongst the most difficult types of patience is patience in refraining from committing wrong actions of speech, such as backbiting and slander, telling lies to create problems between people, insulting whom one does not like while praising those whom one does like.

For These bad actions there are 2 factors available

- 1- The strong motive to commit (Shaytan whisper)
- 2- It is so easy to move one's tongue and speak.

∴ So the patience required to abstain from these wrong actions is particularly difficult.

One of the Prophet Mohamed (S.A.W) ^{Companion} asked:

Are we accountable for what we say?

The Prophet (S.A.W) answered: Is there anything other than wrong actions of speech that cause people to be thrown in Hell on their faces?

We must realize that: once the wrong actions

of speech have become a habit, patience becomes even more difficult.

So, you might see a man who stays up all night praying, fasts all day and would refrain from any minor sin, yet he gives his tongue all the freedom in backbiting, slandering and causing trouble between people. This man will be punished for his bad speech so strongly that he may lose all his good deeds.

So it is again, the patience ^{AL} (Sabr), the quality of the believer which will always protect his good deeds and lead him to Paradise.

The Patience of noble people and the patience of the ignoble people

Rule Every person has to exercise patience in order to face difficulties whether he does so willingly or unwillingly.

Let's compare the patience of the noble people and the ignoble people so that we can evaluate our patience and improve it.

Patience of 2 types of People

Noble people

(Patience for Allah's sake)

- 1- Practice patience because they obey Allah's commands in the Quran e.g. in Surah An-Nahl (16) - V. 127

"And endure you patiently"

- 2- Their patience is for Allah's sake

i.e. obeying the command of Allah regarding patience with Allah's commands and Decree. Looking for pleasing Allah and to have the reward for their patience only from Allah

i.e. Their patience is an act of worship to Allah.

∴ They are willing to be patient as they are appreciating its benefit in their worldly life and its reward in the Hereafter.

• Those are the winners of the reward of patience which Allah mentioned in Surah Al-Zumar (39) - V. 10

"Those who are patient will (shall) receive their reward in full."

∴ The goal of their Patience is the Hereafter reward.

Ignoble people

(Patience for the sake of desires, worldly life)

- 1- Practice patience in following their own whims and desires.

2- They will endure many difficulties in order to follow their own desires but cannot bear even the least difficulties in order to please their Lord.

3- They are not ready to practice patience in devoting themselves to Allah, but when it comes to devote themselves to Shaytan and their desires - then, they can exercise remarkable - patience

4- Those people do not like patience basically but can exercise it only for worldly issues and desires. Looking for their worldly enjoyments and they are never patient

5- Regarding Allah's command Prohibitions and Decree, so they have a lot of sins and they are never happy or satisfied with their life

They are the true losers

The beautiful patience (Surat AL-Ma'arij (70) - V.5)

It is the patience with no complaint as it is based on the following

1. It is the patience based on the belief that:

Waldly life is a test, full of trials which needs

patience to get the reward of these afflictions.

(2). It is the patience based on the belief of Hadith of Prophet Mohamed "know that what has befallen you, was not going to pass you by."

(3). It is the patient based on the belief of
"Allah burdens not a person beyond his scope"

(4). It is the patient based on the belief
Surat A - Taq (65) - V(7)

"Allah will grant after hardship, ease."

(5). It is the patient based on the belief
Surat (6) - V(17)

And if Allah touches you with harm, none can remove it but He"

(6). It is the patient based on the belief of the great reward of patience which is His love

Surat (3) AL-Imran V 146

"And Allah Loves As-Sabirun (the patient),

(7) It is the patient, which Allah explained on the tongue of Prophet Jacob in Surat Yusuf. 12 V(86)

"I only complain of my grief and sorrow to Allah"

∴ In summary we learn that:-

Patience is the most important traits that Quran

While emphasises upon:
(Eman) Sincere belief in Allah, Oneness and Taqwa (Fear and love of Allah)

are definitely that most important qualities to develop for a believer. However, patience is the foundation both of taqwa and eman (true faith in Allah), because unless we have patience we will not be able to obey all Allah's commands regarding do and not to do,

② We will not be able to accept Allah's decree with no complaint

and ③ We will not be able to bear adversities and commands for a reward which we will have it in the hereafter and not now.

And because of all the above - We must believe

that (A) patience (sabr) is the single best character trait that a person can have. When Allah mentioned the traits of the people of Paradise and what made them entitled to it, He mentions patience, Allah says:

"Peace unto you for that you persevered in patience, Now how excellent is the final abode

لَا يَنْفَعُ السَّابِقَ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَنْ يَصْبِرَ

n (let every one of us have a pause here and question him (her) self: what is better in this life than this reward !! The Paradise + greetings of the angels

(2 Allah describes the best of people as

"مَنْ صَبَرَ عَلَى مَا يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ حَتَّى يَخْرُجَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ"

"Those who are patient seeking the countenance of their Lord"

(3 More over, Allah described patience as the best of the possible behaviours. He says "But if you would show patience, for it is indeed the best (course)

For those who are patient.

• Patience is needed for the believer in every minute of his life in order to keep his emaan in practice.

• All acts of righteousness draw strength from this great quality as Prophet Mohamed (S.A.W) said: No one is granted a greater and more comprehensive gift than patience.

• Allah enjoins patience upon the best of His servants Prophet Mohamed (S.A.W), when Allah said in the Quran
وَابْتَغِ الْوَعْدَ بِالصَّبْرِ وَالْإِيمَانِ

" And be patient, for your patience is but from Allah "

• Patience is among the most serious and difficult achievements that a person can attain:
وَالصَّبْرُ مِنْ عَمَلِ الْإِيمَانِ

• Patience is an indication of faith and of a

good relation with Allah and its reward is without count.

Also in our worldly life responsibilities, it is the patience that helps us to achieve our goals as it lightens our spirits and our ways in life. Prophet Mohamed (S.A.W) said: Patience is light.

And because of ^{the} above, Allah has commanded Prophet Mohamed (S.A.W) to give glad tidings

to those who persevere patiently,

In Surah Al Baqara, He (Allah) says: But give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere who say when afflicted with calamity:

To Allah we belong and to Him is our return.

At the next week we learn the ways to strengthen our patience,

① Allah our Lord, We beg You to make us among those who observe patience when afflicted and tried - and among those who offer praise when granted good, and among those who seek forgiveness after committing sin. We seek Your forgiveness and mercy for You are All-Forgiving and Merciful.