Theme 29 - Being pious and Allah Conscious

التَّقْوَى

Learning objectives:

- To learn the meaning of Taqwa.
- To understand the qualities of people of Taqwa.
- To list the benefits of Taqwa.

In this theme, you will learn:

Taqwa is the state of fearing Allah, being Allah-conscious at all times, it creates awareness of Allah ﷻ and His attributes. Taqwa makes one responsive to one's responsibility and purpose of life. A person with Taqwa is pious, he obeys Allah ﷻ and avoids committing sin. The importance of Taqwa lies in its ability to safeguard and guide believers towards righteousness, consciousness of Allah, and protection from wrongdoing. Taqwa is the key to attaining Allah's pleasure and achieving spiritual excellence.

قَالَ الله تَعَالَى: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ﴾ [آل عمران :102]. وَقالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلاً سَدِيداً﴾ [الأحزاب:70].وَقالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجاً * وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾ [الطلاق :2-3]

Allah ﷻ says: “Believers, fear Allah as He deserves to be feared, and do not die except in state of submission to Him” (3:102). “Believers, be mindful of Allah and speak straight to the point” (33:70). “Whoever is mindful of Allah, He shall make a way out for him and provide him sustenance from where he wouldn’t expect” (65:2-3).

[1] عن ابن مسعودٍ: أَنَّ النَّبيّ كَانَ يقول: «اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسأَلُكَ الهُدَى، وَالتُّقَى، وَالعَفَافَ، وَالغِنَى» رواه مسلم.

1.‘Abdullah bin Mas’ud ﷺ reported that the Prophet ﷺ used to say: “Allah, I ask you for guidance, piety, chastity and self-sufficiency.”

[2] عن أبي طريفٍ عدِيِّ بن حاتمٍ الطائيِّ، قَالَ: سمعتُ رسولَ الله يقول: «مَنْ حَلَفَ عَلَى يَمِينٍ ثُمَّ رَأَى أَتْقَى للهِ مِنْهَا فَليَأتِ التَّقْوَى» رواه مسلم.

2. ‘Adi bin Hatim At-Ta’i ﷺ said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: “He who has taken an oath (to do something) but found something else better than that (which brings him closer to Allah), then he should do that which is better in piety.”

Commentary: This Hadith illustrates the importance of prioritising acts of piety and righteousness over mere adherence to oaths or commitments, emphasising that one should choose the path that brings them closer to Allah and reflects a higher level of devotion, even if it means deviating from their initial intention. It encourages believers to seek Allah’s pleasure above all else and to be flexible in their actions to embrace opportunities for greater spiritual growth.

[3] عن أبي أُمَامَةَ صُدَيّ بنِ عجلانَ الباهِلِيِّ قَالَ: سَمِعتُ رسولَ الله يَخْطُبُ في حجةِ الوداعِ، فَقَالَ: «اتَّقُوا الله وَصلُّوا خَمْسَكُمْ، وَصُومُوا شَهْرَكُمْ، وَأَدُّوا زَكاةَ أَمْوَالِكُمْ، وَأَطِيعُوا أُمَرَاءَكُمْ تَدْخُلُوا جَنَّةَ رَبِّكُمْ» رواه الترمذي.

3. Abu Umamah ﷺ said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ during the sermon of the farewell pilgrimage saying, "Be mindful of your duty to Allah; perform your five daily Salah, observe Saum during the month (of Ramadan), pay the Zakat on your properties and obey your leaders; (if you do so) you will enter your Lord's paradise."

[4] عَنْ أَبِي ذَرٍّ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ « أُوصِيكَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فِي سِرِّ أَمْرِكَ وَعَلَانِيَتِهِ وَإِذَا أَسَأْتَ فَأَحْسِنْ وَلَا تَسْأَلَنَّ أَحَدًا شَيْئًا وَإِنْ سَقَطَ سَوْطُكَ وَلَا تَقْبِضْ أَمَانَةً وَلَا تَقْضِ بَيْنَ اثْنَيْنِ» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

4. Abu Dharr ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "I instruct you to fear Allah in your private and public affairs. If you do a bad deed, then do a good deed. Do not ask anyone for anything, even if you drop your whip. Do not violate what is entrusted, and do not take a position as judge between two people."

Commentary: This Hadith encompasses profound guidance for leading a virtuous and mindful life. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) advises believers to cultivate Taqwa in all aspects of their lives, whether private or public. The Hadith encourages a balanced approach to actions, where one counters a bad deed with a good one, emphasising the importance of self-correction and striving for righteousness.

Activities:

- Reflect on the existence of Allah ﷻ and why you need to be conscious of Him.
- Design a poster showing the different ways you can develop Taqwa.
- Write about how you can show Taqwa in everyday life.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Allah ﷻ sees everything.
- Remembering Allah ﷻ keeps you aware of reality, so you won't be deceived.
- Be mindful of Allah ﷻ and devote yourself to submission to the will of Allah ﷻ.
- Allah ﷻ will provide for those who are mindful of Him from an unexpected source.
- Put your trust in Allah ﷻ .