

THEME 36 - VIRTUES OF STRONG CHARACTER

حُسْنُ الْخُلُقِ

Learning objectives:

- To learn that strong character is being unselfish and always wanting the best for others.
- To understand that strong character means developing qualities like forgiveness and controlling anger etc.
- To recognise that developing strong character is just as important as worship.

In this theme, you will learn:

Character is the distinctive personality of an individual, which can either be good or bad, it is shown in the manner of speech, behaviour and actions. Character reflects the values of a person. Strong character is exemplified by showing kindness, compassion, and honesty in all aspects of life. The most beloved to Allah ﷻ are those with the best character.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾ [القلم: 4] وَقَالَ تَعَالَى:
﴿وَالكَافِرِينَ الْغَيْظَ وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ [آل
عمران: 134].

Allah ﷻ says: “and you (Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) have a strong character” (68:4). “Those who spend in charity in good and bad times, can control their anger and pardon people” (3:134).

[1] عن أنس قال: كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ أَحْسَنَ النَّاسِ خُلُقًا. مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

1. Anas رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ had the best character of all people.

[2] عن عبد الله بن عمرو بن العاص قال: لَمْ يَكُنْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ فَاحِشًا وَلَا مُتَّفَحِّشًا، وَكَانَ يَقُولُ: «إِنَّ مِنْ خِيَارِكُمْ أَحْسَنَكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-’as رضي الله عنه reported: Messenger of Allah ﷺ did not indulge in gossip nor did he like to listen to it. He used to say, “The best of you is the one with strong character.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith emphasises the exemplary character of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his aversion to engaging in or entertaining gossip. By highlighting the Prophet’s noble behaviour, it serves as a timeless reminder for Muslims to avoid idle talk and to instead focus on cultivating good character.

[3] عن أنس قال: مَا مَسِسْتُ دِيْبَاجًا وَلَا حَرِيرًا أَلَيْنَ مِنْ كَفِّ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، وَلَا شَمَمْتُ رَائِحَةَ قَطِّ أُطْيَبٍ مِنْ رَائِحَةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، وَلَقَدْ خَدَمْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ، فَمَا قَالَ لِي قَطُّ أُفٌّ، وَلَا قَالَ لِشَيْءٍ فَعَلْتُهُ: لِمَ فَعَلْتُهُ؟ وَلَا لِشَيْءٍ لَمْ أَفْعَلْهُ: أَلَا فَعَلْتِ كَذَا؟ مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

3. Anas رضي الله عنه reported: I never felt any piece of velvet or silk softer than the palm of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, nor did I smell any fragrance more pleasant than the smell of Messenger of Allah ﷺ. I served him for ten years, and he never said ‘Uff’ (an expression of annoyance) to me. He never said ‘why did you do that?’ For something I had done, nor did he ever say ‘why did you not do such and such’ for something I had not done.

[4] عن أبي الدرداء أن النبي قال: « مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَثْقَلُ فِي مِيزَانِ الْعَبْدِ الْمُؤْمِنِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ حُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ، وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبْغِضُ الْفَاحِشَ الْبَدِيَّ »
رواه الترمذي.

4. Abu-Darda رضي الله عنه reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “Nothing will be heavier on the Day of Resurrection in the believer’s scale than strong character. Allah dislikes the one who uses foul or vulgar language.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith highlights the significance of good character and its weight in the scale of deeds on the Day of Resurrection. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasises that strong character is of utmost importance, indicating that it holds a special place in the sight of Allah. By emphasising the weight of good character, this hadith encourages believers to prioritise moral excellence in their daily lives. It also serves as a stern warning against using foul or coarse language, as such behaviour is detested by Allah.

[5] عن عائشة قالت: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ يَقُولُ: « إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لَيُدْرِكُ بِحُسْنِ خُلُقِهِ دَرَجَةَ الصَّائِمِ الْقَائِمِ. رواه أبو داود.

5. ‘Aisha رضي الله عنها reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم saying: “A believer with strong character gains the rank and reward of the one who prays during the night and fasts during the day.”

Activities:

- Discuss the importance of developing good character and why is it so important.
- Design a poster encouraging people to develop good character traits.
- Create a storytelling circle where you take turns sharing stories from your lives or from history that exemplify individuals with strong character.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم had excellent character.
- The best of you is the best among you in character.
- Do not indulge in gossip or listen to it.
- Nothing will be heavier on the Day of Resurrection on the scales of a believer than strong character.
- Be mindful of the words you use. Allah عز وجل hates the one who utters foul or vulgar language.