Theme 39 - Working hard for the sake of Allah

المجاهدة

Learning objectives:

- To learn the benefits of working hard for the sake of Allah ﷻ .
- To understand how much Allah ﷻ values our hard work.
- To develop a habit of working hard.

In this theme, you will learn:

Working hard is to put extra effort in everything you do, to lead a successful life. Hard working is characterised by enthusiasm, commitment and determination. Working hard for the sake of Allah ﷻ is not just by reading the Quran and performing prayers but understanding the need to earn a living to provide for yourself, your family and those in need. Learning a skill and using time wisely will ensure that a productive society is created that will get rid of poverty and laziness. You must make use of good health and time and be amongst those that obey the command of Allah ﷻ.

قالَ الله تَعَالَى: ﴿ وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ [العنكبوت :69]. قالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْراً يَرَهُ﴾ [الزلزلة :7].

Allah ﷻ says: “Those who strive hard for Our sake, We shall guide them along on Our ways. Allah is with those who do good” (29:69). “So, anyone who did an atom’s weight of good will see it” (99:7).

[1] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُول الله: «إنَّ الله تَعَالَى قَالَ: مَنْ عادى لي وَلِيّاً فَقَدْ آذَنْتُهُ بالحَرْبِ، وَمَا تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ عَبْدي بشَيءٍ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا افْتَرَضْتُ عَلَيهِ، وَمَا يَزَالُ عَبْدِي يَتَقرَّبُ إِلَيَّ بالنَّوافِلِ حَتَّى أحِبَّهُ، فَإِذَا أَحبَبتُهُ كُنْتُ سَمعَهُ الَّذِي يَسْمَعُ بِهِ، وَبَصَرَهُ الَّذِي يُبْصِرُ بِهِ، ويَدَهُ الَّتي يَبْطِشُ بِهَا، وَرِجْلَهُ الَّتِي يَمْشي بِهَا ، وَإِنْ سَأَلَني لأُعْطِيَنَّهُ، وَلَئِنِ اسْتَعَاذَنِي لأُعِيذَنَّهُ» رواه البخاري.

1. Abu Hurairah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Allah ﷻ said: ‘I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshipper of mine and the most beloved thing with which my slave comes nearer to me is what I have enjoined upon him; and my slave keeps on coming closer to me through performing Nawafil (voluntary prayer) till I love him. When I love him, I become his hearing with which he hears, his seeing with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks something from me, I give him, and if he asks for my protection, I will protect him.”

[2] عن ابن عباس قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُول الله: نِعْمَتَانِ مَغبونٌ فيهما كَثيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ: الصِّحَّةُ، وَالفَرَاغُ» رواه البخاري.

2. Ibn Abbas ﷺ reported the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “There are two blessings that many people fail to benefit from; health and free time.”

[3] عن عائشة: أَنَّ النَّبيّ كَانَ يقُومُ مِنَ اللَّيلِ حَتَّى تَتَفَطَّرَ قَدَمَاهُ فَقُلْتُ لَهُ: لِمَ تَصنَعُ هَذَا يَا رسولَ الله، وَقدْ غَفَرَ الله لَكَ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ؟ قَالَ: « أَفَلا أُحِبُّ أَنْ أَكُونَ عَبْداً شَكُوراً » مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيهِ.

3. ‘Aisha ﷺ said: Sometimes the Prophet ﷺ would stand in prayer so long that his feet would swell. I asked him, “Why do you do this while your past and future sins have been forgiven?” He ﷺ said, “Should I not be a grateful slave of Allah?”

Commentary: This hadith serves as a timeless reminder for believers to never take the blessings of forgiveness and mercy for granted. It encourages us to express our gratitude through sincere acts of worship and devotion. By emulating the Prophet’s dedication, Muslims can draw closer to Allah, develop a stronger connection with Him, and deepen their understanding of the essence of being a grateful servant.

[4] عن ابن مسعود قَالَ: صَلَّيْتُ مَعَ النَّبيّ لَيلَةً، فَأَطَالَ القِيامَ حَتَّى هَمَمْتُ بأمْرِ سُوءٍ! قيل: وَمَا هَمَمْتَ بِهِ؟ قَالَ: هَمَمْتُ أَنْ أَجْلِسَ وَأَدَعَهُ. مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيهِ.

4. Ibn Mas’ud ﷺ said: One night I joined the Prophet ﷺ in his prayer. He prolonged the standing so much that I thought of doing something else. He was asked: “What did you intend to do?” He replied: “To sit down and leave.”

[5] عن أنس عن رَسُول الله، قَالَ: «يَتْبَعُ المَيتَ ثَلاَثَةٌ: أَهْلُهُ وَمَالُهُ وَعَملُهُ، فَيَرجِعُ اثنَانِ وَيَبْقَى وَاحِدٌ: يَرجِعُ أَهْلُهُ وَمَالُهُ، وَيَبقَى عَملُهُ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيهِ.

5. Anas ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Three things follow a dead body: His family, his possessions and his deeds. Two return and one remains with him. The family and possessions return but the deeds remain with him."

[6] عن ابن مسعود قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبيّ: «الجَنَّةُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَى أَحَدِكُمْ مِنْ شِرَاكِ نَعْلِهِ، وَالنَّارُ مِثلُ ذلِكَ » رواه البخاري.

6. Ibn Mas'ud ﷺ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, "Paradise is more closer to you than your shoe-lace, and so is Hell fire."

[7] عن أبي فِراسٍ ربيعةَ بنِ كعبٍ الأسلميِّ خادِمِ رَسُول الله ، ومن أهلِ الصُّفَّةِ، قَالَ: كُنْتُ أبيتُ مَعَ رسولِ فآتِيهِ بِوَضُوئِهِ وَحَاجَتِهِ فَقَالَ: «سَلْنِي» فقُلْتُ اسْأَلُكَ مُرَافَقَتَكَ في الجَنَّةِ. فَقَالَ : «أَوَ غَيرَ ذلِكَ»؟ قُلْتُ : هُوَ ذَاكَ، قَالَ: «فأَعِنِّي عَلَى نَفْسِكَ بِكَثْرَةِ السُّجُودِ» رواه مسلم.

7. Rabi'ah bin Ka'b Al-Aslami ﷺ said: I used to spend my night in the company of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and used to bring him water for ablution. One day he ﷺ said to me, "Ask something from me." I said: "I request for your companionship in Jannah."

He ﷺ replied, "Is there anything else?" I said, "That's all." He ﷺ said, "Then help me in your request by increasing your worship."

Commentary: This hadith serves as a profound reminder for Muslims to love the Prophet wholeheartedly, to long for his companionship, and to strive diligently in their worship and obedience to attain the ultimate reward of being in the company of the Prophet (peace be upon him) in the eternal abode of Paradise.

Activities:

- Discuss inspirational stories from Islamic history or the lives of the companions of the Prophet ﷺ who exemplified hard work and dedication in their pursuit of goodness.
- Set yourself goals to help identify your aspirations and ambitions. Set both short-term and long-term goals aligned with pleasing Allah ﷻ and helping others.
- Create a journal of your daily efforts in serving Allah ﷻ, such as prayer, reading Quran, acts of kindness, and maintaining good character.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Strive hard for a good cause.
- Not to be lazy and always work hard to achieve.
- Whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it.
- Many people fail to benefit fully from good health and free time.
- When someone dies only their deeds go with them.
- Muslims should encourage one another to work hard.