

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mankind's Greatest Need: Tawheed

Indeed, the affirmation of the Tawheed of Allaah is something that mankind – whether they have accepted Islaam or not – are more in need of than food and drink.

This article provides a detailed explanation of the three categories of Tawheed, along with its two types. Additionally, it explores what distinguishes the Tawheed of the muwahhid (true monotheist) from that of the mushrik (one who associates partners with Allaah).



Tawheed, in its essence, is to single out Allaah in worship, with love, lowliness, and submissiveness to Him, by complying with His commands and submitting to them. It is the foundation upon which the entire religion is built, and without it, no act of worship is valid.

The Excellence of Tawheed

Ibn Abil-'Izz (d. 792H) رحمه الله said: "Knowledge of Usoolud-Deen (the fundamentals of the Religion) is the most noble branch of knowledge since the excellence of a certain type of knowledge depends upon what it is concerned with. This is the greatest fiqh (understanding), which is why Imaam Aboo Haneefah (d. 150H) رحمه الله called that which he compiled concerning Usoolud-Deen: 'al-Fiqhul-Akbar' (the Greatest Fiqh)."

The need of the servants for this knowledge is greater than every other need, and it is the most necessary of all things for them. There is no life for the hearts, nor any delight or tranquility, except through knowing their Lord—the One to be worshipped—their Creator, through His Names, His

Attributes, and His Actions. True Tawheed fills the heart with awe and love for Allaah, making all other concerns secondary.

The Role of the Messengers in Calling to Tawheed

It is impossible for human minds to comprehend all aspects of Tawheed in detail without divine guidance. Hence, the Most Merciful, the Most Majestic, sent Messengers to teach mankind about Tawheed and to call them to it. These Messengers gave glad tidings to those who accepted their call and warned those who rejected it. The essence of their message was to bring people closer to Allaah through knowing His Names, Attributes, and Actions, upon which everything else in the religion is built.

This foundation is followed by two great principles:

1. Knowing the path that leads to Allaah - This is the Sharee'ah, which consists of His commands and prohibitions.
2. Knowing the consequences of following or rejecting this path - This includes the eternal bliss for those who accept Tawheed and the punishment for those who reject it.

Firmness Upon the Religion:

Firmness upon the Religion of Allaah, excellence in this world, and salvation in the Hereafter depend on two crucial matters:

1. Knowledge of Allaah through His Beautiful Names and Lofty Attributes. This leads to reverence, fear, love, reliance, and complete submission to Him.
2. Knowledge of what pleases and displeases Him in terms of beliefs, statements, and actions. This necessitates striving to perform what He loves and avoid what He hates.

Sufyaan Ibn 'Uyaynah (d.197H) رحمه الله said: "There are three types of Scholars: one who knows Allaah and knows Allaah's commands; and one who knows Allaah, but does not know His commands; and one who knows Allaah's commands, but does not know Allaah. And the most complete of them is the first - and that is the one who fears Allaah and knows His rulings."

The Essence of Islam: Tawheed

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Islam is built upon five: Testifying that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, establishing the Salaah, paying the Zakaah, making pilgrimage to the House, and fasting in Ramadaan."

Thus, the testimony of Tawheed is the foundation upon which the entire religion stands. Without it, no act of worship is valid, and no good deed is accepted.

The Three Categories of Tawheed

The scholars of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah have categorized Tawheed into three types:

1. **Tawheed ar-Ruboobiyyah** - The Oneness of Allaah in His Lordship: This means affirming that Allaah alone is the Creator, Sustainer, and Controller of all affairs.
2. **Tawheed al-Uloohiyyah** - Singling out Allaah alone for all worship: This is the true essence of Tawheed, which differentiates a believer from a disbeliever.
3. **Tawheed al-Asmaa' wa Sifaat** - The uniqueness of Allaah in His Names and Attributes: This entails affirming the Names and Attributes of Allaah as He has revealed them without distorting, denying, or comparing them to His creation.

Allaah says: "Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, so worship Him alone and be constant and patient in the worship of Him. Do you know of any who is similar to Him?"¹

The Importance of Tawheed in the Qur'an

The entire Qur'an revolves around Tawheed, whether it is:

- Informing us about Allaah (Tawheed of knowledge and affirmation).

¹ Surah Maryam 19:65

- Calling us to worship Allaah alone (Tawheed of action and intention).
- Commanding obedience to Him (a right of Tawheed and its completion).
- Describing the rewards of the people of Tawheed and their ultimate success.
- Warning against shirk and its consequences.

Ibn Abil-'Izz رحمه الله said: “The Qur’an – all of it – is about Tawheed, its rights, and its rewards; and about Shirk, its people, and their punishments.”

Even the greatest verse in the Qur’an, Aayatul-Kursee (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:255), is entirely about Tawheed, detailing Allaah’s Names, Attributes, and Sovereignty. Similarly, Suratul-Ikhlaas is dedicated to Tawheed al-Asmaa’ wa Sifaat, while Suratul-Kaafiroon emphasizes Tawheed al-Uloohiyyah.

The Benefits of Tawheed

1. Tawheed is the foundation of success – No one enters Jannah without it.
2. It purifies the soul – True Tawheed fills the heart with peace and contentment.
3. It removes fear and anxiety – Trusting in Allaah alone leads to tranquillity.
4. It strengthens character and willpower – A person of Tawheed is firm in their beliefs and actions.
5. It guarantees forgiveness – Sincere Tawheed erases sins, as mentioned in the hadith of the card (Sahih Muslim).
6. It unites the Muslim Ummah – Tawheed is the strongest bond that unites believers across time and place.
7. It is the key to true freedom – Worshipping Allaah alone liberates one from servitude to creation.

Conclusion

Tawheed is the greatest necessity of mankind. It is the foundation of faith, the essence of worship, and the means to eternal success. The Qur'an, the teachings of the Prophets, and the entire purpose of human existence revolve around the establishment of Tawheed. Therefore, every Muslim must strive to understand, implement, and call others to Tawheed, for it is the very reason for our creation.

May Allaah keep us firm upon His Tawheed until we meet Him. Ameen.

