

Characteristics of Faith & Belief and the sweet feeling of faith BS Foad, MD 2018

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Three things, whoever has them will find the sweet taste of faith: That Allah & His messenger is more beloved to him than anyone else; and that he loves someone only for the sake of Allah; and that he hates to return to unfaith, as he hates to be thrown in Hell Fire)

Narrated in Bokhari & Muslim

(1)Loving Allah & Allah's messenger: Allah created us, provides for us, guides us, forgives our sins and showers us with His mercy and blessings: "Whatever mercy Allah opens for mankind no one can withhold, and whatever Allah withholds no one can provide it after Him, for Allah is mighty and wise. O mankind remember Allah's blessings over you: is there another creator apart from Allah who can provide for you from the heavens and earth? There is no god but He, how are you then deluded?" Fatir (Originator) 35: 3 & 4. "And He gave you of all that you asked for. If you count the blessings of Allah you cannot enumerate them, for mankind is prone to wrongdoing and is ungrateful" Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 34. **Loving Allah's messenger, obeying his orders and following his example is part of faith:** "Say: "If you claim that you love Allah then follow me, Allah will then love you and forgive your sins, for Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful" Al-Imran (Family of Imran) 3: 31. **The Prophet (PBUH) taught us how to pray, and serves as our example of morals and noble character:** "You have indeed in the messenger of Allah a good example of conduct" Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 21. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (None of you will truly believe until I become more beloved to him than his parents and children and anyone else in this world) Bokhari. **Loving Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) means obeying his orders & following his example:** "O you who believe obey Allah, and obey the messenger, and those charged with authority among you" An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 59.

(2)We should love other human beings for the sake of Allah, not for material benefit: Helping the poor and needy, and those who need our help is for the sake of Allah: "We feed you for the sake of Allah alone; no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks" Al-Insan (Man) 76: 9. Among those shaded and protected by Allah are: Two persons who love one another for the sake of Allah) Bokhari. The Prophet (PBUH) also said: (None of you will attain real faith till he loves for his brother what he loves for himself) Bokhari. The Ansars favored the immigrants over themselves, even though they were poor (Al-Hashr (The Gathering) 59: 9.

(3)We should be happy that we found faith, after God has guided us to the truth, and hate to return to unfaith: "Those who believe and their hearts find satisfaction and peace in the remembrance of Allah" Ar-Ra'D (Thunder) 13: 28. "We should indeed forge a lie against Allah if we returned to your religion after Allah has rescued us therefrom" Al-Araf 7: 89. **A person guided by Allah can see his way in life clearly,** in contrast to someone who is in darkness: "Can he who was dead, to whom We gave life, and a light whereby he can walk amongst mankind, be like him who is in the depths of darkness, from which he can never come out? Thus to those without faith their own deeds seem pleasing" Al-An'am (The Cattle) 6: 122.

(4)Knowing, understanding and feeling the true meaning of faith in Allah gives us a sensation that cannot be equaled with any joy or material success in this worldly life: An example is **the joy and happiness a fasting person experiences** when he obeys Allah and completes his fast in Ramadan. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (A fasting person has two joys: once when he breaks his fast, and the second when he meets his Lord) Bokhari. **The enjoyment in this life is transient** compared to Allah's reward: "The Material things which you are given are but the conveniences of this life and its glitter, but that which is with Allah is better and more enduring: will not then be wise?" Al-Qasas (The Stories) 28: 60. A similar feeling is that of **sincere repentance**, when Allah accepts our repentance and forgives our sins we are overwhelmed with thanks and gratitude. Another example is **when Allah guides someone dear to us**, after he was lost in his/her wrong ways, and we failed in our attempts to help him: "You cannot guide those whom you love most, but it is Allah who can guide whom He wills, and He knows who is ready to receive guidance" Al-Qasas (The Stories) 28: 56