

Q. 11. Is a man's faith proved simply by his customary attendance in the Masjid, as it has been mentioned in the Hadith?

A. Yes, there is no doubt that the attendance of one who comes to prayers in the Masjid is an evidence of his faith, because nothing persuades him to leave his house and undertake the walk to the Masjid, except belief (faith) in Allâh, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

As for the saying of the questioner: as it was mentioned in the Hadith, it refers to what was reported from the Prophet ﷺ:

«إِذَا رَأَيْتُمُ الرَّجُلَ يَعْتَادُ الْمَسَاجِدَ فَاشْهَدُوا لَهُ بِالْإِيمَانِ»

"If you see a man who regularly attends the mosques, then testify to his faith."^[1]

But this Hadith is weak and is not authentically reported from the Prophet ﷺ.

Q.12. There is a man who suffers from the whispering of Satan. He whispers things to him that are great sins concerning Allâh, the Almighty, the All-Powerful and he is very much afraid of this; what is the advice of Your Eminence?

A. Regarding what has been mentioned concerning the problem of the questioner, which is that he fears the result of it, I say to him: Rejoice at the good news that there will be no result from it except a good result. This is whispering by which Satan assails the believers in order to upset the sound belief in their hearts and to cause them spiritual and mental agitation and disturb the serenity of their faith, indeed the serenity of their lives, if they are believers.

^[1] Reported by At-Tirmithi in the Book of Faith, in the Chapter: What Has Been Related Regarding the Sanctity of Prayer (2617).

He is not the first among the people of faith to be confronted by this situation, nor is he the last, for it will continue as long as there is a believer in the world; and this same situation confronted the Companions, may Allâh be pleased with them, for it has been reported on the authority of Abu Hurairah, may Allâh be pleased with him, that he said: Some people from among the Companions of the Messenger of Allâh came to the Prophet ﷺ and said to him: "Verily we perceive in our minds that which every one of us considers too grave to express." He said:

«أَوْ قَدْ وَجَدْتُمُوهُ؟»

"Do you really perceive it?"

They said: "Yes." Upon this he remarked:

«ذَٰكَ صَرِيحُ الْإِيمَانِ»

"That is true faith."^[1]

In the *Two Sahihs*, it is also narrated from Abu Hurairah, may Allâh be pleased with him, that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«يَأْتِي الشَّيْطَانُ أَحَدَكُمْ فَيَقُولُ: مَنْ خَلَقَ كَذَا؟ مَنْ خَلَقَ كَذَا؟ حَتَّى يَقُولَ: مَنْ خَلَقَ رَبَّكَ؟ فَإِذَا بَلَغَهُ فَلْيَسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ وَلْيَنْتَهْ»

"Satan may come to anyone of you and say: 'Who created such and such? Who created such and such?' until he says: 'Who created your Lord?' So, when he inspires such a question, one should seek refuge with Allâh and give up such thoughts."^[2]

^[1] It was reported by Muslim in the Book of Faith, in the Chapter: Explanation of the (Evil) Whispering Regarding Faith (132).

^[2] Reported by Al-Bukhari in the Book of the Beginning of Creation, in the Chapter: The Description of *Iblis* and His Legions (3276) and it was reported by Muslim in the Book of Faith, in the Chapter on the Description of the (Evil) Whispering Regarding Faith (134).

It is reported on the authority of Ibn 'Abbas, may Allâh be pleased with him, that a man came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: "Oh, Messenger of Allâh! One of us has thoughts of such a nature that he would rather be reduced to charcoal than speak about them." The Prophet ﷺ said:

«الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي رَدَّ أَمْرَهُ إِلَى الْوَسْوَسَةِ»

"All praise and thanks be to Allâh Who has reduced his matter (i.e. Satan's guile) to (evil) whispering."^[1]

Shaikhul-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah, may Allâh have mercy on him, said in the Book of Faith: The believer is put to trial by the whispering of Satan, the whispering of disbelief which causes him distress, as the Companions, may Allâh be pleased with them, said: "Oh, Messenger of Allâh! One of us has thoughts within himself of such a nature that he would rather fall down from the heaven than speak of them." The Prophet ﷺ said:

«ذَٰكَ صَرِيحُ الْإِيمَانِ»

"That is true faith."

And in another narration: 'he considers it too grave to express.' He said:

«الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي رَدَّ كَيْدَهُ إِلَى الْوَسْوَسَةِ»

"All praise and thanks are Allâh's Who has reduced his (i.e. Satan's) intrigue to (evil) whispering."

That is, the occurrence of this whispering along with this great hatred for it and repelling it from the heart is a part of true faith, like the warrior in Allâh's Cause who met the enemy and fought him until he overcame him, for that is a great Jihâd up to his words: This is why the seekers of knowledge and worship *

[1]. It was reported by Abu Dawud in the Book of Good Manners, in the Chapter: Regarding the Response to (Evil) Whispering (5112) and by Imam Ahmad in *Al-Musnad* (1:340).

are assailed by whispering and uncertainty which do not afflict another, because he (i.e. the other) does not follow the Law of Allâh and His way; rather, he follows his own desires, heedless of the remembrance of his Lord and this is the goal of Satan, as opposed to those who turn towards their Lord with knowledge and (acts of) worship, for he is their enemy and he seeks to prevent them from (worshipping) Allâh, the Most High. This was mentioned on page 147 of the Indian printing.

So, I say to this questioner: Once it is clear to you that this whispering is from Satan, then you must struggle and stand against it, and know that it will never harm you as long as you undertake the necessary struggle, reject it and cease thinking about it. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَجَاوَزَ عَنْ أُمَّتِي مَا وَسَّوَسَتْ بِهِ صُدُورُهَا مَا لَمْ تَعْمَلْ بِهِ أَوْ تَتَكَلَّمْ»

*|| *"Allâh has forgiven what is whispered in the hearts of my followers, unless they put it into action or utter it."*^[1]

And if it is said to you: Do you believe what is whispered to you? And do you think it is the truth? And is it possible to describe Allâh, the Most Glorified by it? You would say: It is not for us to speak of this; Glorified are You (Oh, Allâh), this is a great lie! You would reject it with your heart and by your words; and of the people, you would flee further than any of them from it. Then it is, only whispering and perils displayed to your heart, and a window to polytheism from Satan, who courses throughout the human body as blood courses through it, in order to destroy and to obscure your religion for you.

[1] Reported by Al-Bukhari in the Book of Manumission, in the Chapter: Error and Forgetfulness in Manumission and Divorce (2528) and by Muslim in the Book of Faith, in the Chapter: Allah Has Forgiven What is Whispered in the Heart (127).

This is why you find that Satan does not place doubt or rejection about trivial things in your heart, so you hear for example, of the existence of large and important cities filled with residents and buildings in the east and the west and yet doubt of their existence never once crosses your mind, nor regarding their faults, such as that their buildings are destroyed or are unfit for habitation or that there are no occupants in them and so on. There is no goal for Satan in making mankind doubt such things. But Satan's important great goal is destroying the faith of the believer, so he strives by his horse, and on foot, to extinguish the light of knowledge and guidance in one's heart and to cause him to fall into the darkness of doubt and uncertainty.

The Prophet ﷺ explained the beneficial medicine which contains a cure for this:

«فَلْيَسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ وَلْيَنْتَهَ»

"Then let him seek refuge with Allâh and cease doing it."

If a person ceases doing that and continues to worship Allâh, seeking and desiring that which is with Allâh, it will stop troubling him, by Allâh's Power. So, avoid all suppositions which pass through your heart on this subject and worship Allâh, supplicate to Him and glorify Him, and if you heard anyone describing Him with what was whispered to him, you would kill him if you could.

Therefore, what is whispered is not a fact; rather it is simply thoughts and whisperings which have no basis. Like in the case of someone wearing a clean garment which he has just washed, and then he is assailed by thoughts that maybe it is impure, and maybe it is not permissible to pray in it, but he should pay no heed to this.

And my advice may be summarized as follows:

1. Seek protection with Allâh and completely stop these suppositions as the Prophet ﷺ ordered us to do.
2. Mention Allâh, the Most High and restrain yourself from this whispering.
3. Wholehearted dedication to worship and acting in accordance with the Command of Allâh and seeking His Pleasure, for when you give worship your undivided attention with earnestness and striving, you will forget about occupying yourself with this whispering, if Allâh wills.
4. Seeking refuge with Allâh much and asking Him to protect you from this thing.

And I ask Allâh, the Most High for protection for you and safety from every evil and every detestable thing.

Q. 13. Is it an obligation upon the disbeliever to embrace Islam?

A. It is incumbent upon every disbeliever to embrace the religion of Islam, even if he is a Christian or a Jew, because Allâh, the Most High says in His Mighty Book:

﴿قُلْ يٰۤاَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اِنِّىۤ اِنۡرِىۤ رَسُوۡلَ اللّٰهِ اِلَيْكُمۡ جَمِيعَ الَّذِىۤ لَمْ تُكَلِّمُوۡا
السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالۡاَرْضِ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ يَحْيِىۤ وَيُمِيتُ فَتٰمِنُوۡا بِاللّٰهِ وَرَسُوۡلِهِۦ النَّبِىِّ
الَّذِىۤ اَنۡزَلَ عَلَیۡكُمُ اللّٰهَ وَرَسُوۡلَهُۥ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُوۡنَ﴾

“Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): ‘O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah — to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He). It is He Who gives life and causes death. So believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), the Prophet who can neither read nor write (i.e. Muhammad ﷺ), who believes in Allah and His Words [(this Qur’an), the Taurat (Torah) and the Injil (Gospel) and also Allah’s Word: ‘Be!’ — and he was, i.e. ‘Isa (Jesus) son of Maryam (Mary). عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَام