

Lesson-10: Competing with Good Intentions

Lesson Outcomes

- Doing quality work to please Allah
- Compete in doing good
- Intentions are very important to get reward and success from Allah

Recitation and Explanation

Recite with Tajweed and feelings, the way the Prophet ﷺ used to recite:

عَمَلًا ط

أَحْسَنُ

أَيُّكُمْ

(in) deeds	is better	Which of you
Which of you is better in deeds		

Surah Al-Mulk: 2

- Life is a test and Allah wants to see who amongst us would be better according to the deeds.
- Who is the best in offering Salah 5 times? Who is the best in obedience to parent?
- Who is the best in giving respect to elders? Who is the most faithful in friendship? And who is the best in Tadabbur and Tadhakkur in this Qur'an course?
- Who is the best in talk and in actions?

Story: A goat had three kids. She told them to build a house for themselves. Two of the kids were very lazy. They made their house with wood and grass. The third one was hardworking and worked skillfully. He made a brick house with great care and effort.

One day a fox came. First, the fox went to the first kid, broke his house and entered it. He ran to his next brother for help, but the fox broke his house too. Both ran to the third one for help. The fox tried to break that house but failed. Then the third brother said, "If you had built your house properly with hard work, the fox couldn't have broken it."

Moral of the story: We should always do our work skillfully and in a proper manner so that we are safe from any loss.

Tadabbur – Study, Imagine, and Feel

- If we observe successful people like doctors, engineers, teachers, etc., we will see that they always do a very high quality of work.
- Imagine that you secured first position in the school exam and you have been presented with various prizes for that. Your principal, teachers and parent are very happy with your success.
- Now imagine that you are successful in the Hereafter as well and Allah Almighty is very happy with you. Angels are standing before you and all the bounties of Heaven are presented before you. Feel the joy that Allah blessed you with such a great reward for your very little effort.

Tadhakkur – Du’aa, Evaluate, and Plan

- Suppose you participate in a race. Throughout the race, you think of winning it at any cost. Similarly, remember always that you have to return to Allah and have to show what you did here to succeed there. Now pray to Allah: O Allah! Make me a good at everything I do.
- Whenever you are doing your homework, taking care of your parent, or doing any other work, always plan to do your work in the best possible manner.

Let us now study a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ :

(بخارى)

بِالنِّيَّاتِ

إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ

on intentions	Actions (are based) only
The (reward of) deeds depend upon the intentions only.	

[Bukhari]

- نِيَّة: Intention of the heart. The reward of whatever we say and do depends only on the intentions. The intention should be true and sincere from the heart.
- Our actions will be accepted by Allah only if (1) we do them with the intention to please Him, and (2) follow the way shown by the Prophet ﷺ.

Always remember that Allah is fully aware of all our intentions and nothing is hidden from Him.

Hadith: The Prophet ﷺ narrated about his Lord and said, "Allah ordered (the appointed angels over you) that the good and the bad deeds be written, and He then showed (the way) how (to write). If somebody intends to do a good deed and he does not do it, then Allah will write for him a full good deed..." [Bukhari]. Is it not the mercy of Allah that we get reward just for good intention? If we act upon that good deed, we get even more.

Tadabbur – Study, Imagine, and Feel

- Suppose that you are praying to Allah with an intention that your friends may see you & consider you to be a virtuous person. Is it right to keep such an intention? No.
- Even if they praise you, it will be short lived, and you will feel empty after that. But if Allah is happy with you then you will be getting rewards and will be satisfied forever, InshaAllah.
- If you fasted to please Allah, think about the pleasure you will get at the time you break your fast.

Tadhakkur – Du’aa, Evaluate, and Plan

- Observe how people do good sometimes with wrong intentions. Such people will not get any reward from Allah.
- Plan to check every good deed to seek Allah’s pleasure.

Habit: InshaAllah I shall always do my work in a proper manner and I shall make the intention of seeking Allah’s pleasure before doing every good deed.

Practice Questions

1. What is the difference between good and bad intentions? Write down three examples for each.
2. List out your routine tasks in which you can improve the quality of your work.
3. Why is it important to have top quality in everything you do?