

Being Grateful....

From the Resident Aalima at Hujjat KSIMC London, Dr Masuma Jaffer

Email address: aalima@hujjat.org



Shia Ithna'asheri Madressa

Objective



..... لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ

Surah Ibrahim:

...If you are grateful, I would certainly increase you...

For the next few weeks we will be looking at Surah Luqman and the advice that Luqman

But before we look at these verses and how to live them – let us look at why we should pay attention to the advice of Luqman - Allah knew we would ask this and so the verse before the verses where Luqman advises his son tells us why; according to most hadith Luqman was not a Prophet but he was given wisdom by Allah:

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا لُقْمَانَ الْحِكْمَةَ أَنْ اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ ۚ وَمَنْ يَشْكُرْ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ ۖ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ

[31:12] And certainly We gave wisdom to Luqman, saying: Be grateful to Allah. And whoever is grateful, he is only grateful for his own soul; and whoever is ungrateful, then surely Allah is Self-sufficient, Praised.

The verse mentions that when Allah gave Luqman wisdom, He told him to be grateful and that being grateful is only for ourselves NOT for Allah. The verse finishes with two of the attributes of Allah showing that He has no need for our gratefulness:

- غَنِيٌّ - Self Sufficient; not in need of anything. We are in need not Him.
- حَمِيدٌ - Praised; when we are grateful to someone, they are praised – Allah uses this attribute to show He is not in need of being praised as He is already Praised:

تُسَبِّحُ لَهُ السَّمَاوَاتُ السَّبْعُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَنْ فِيهِنَّ وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِ...

[17:44] The seven heavens declare His glory and the earth (too), and those who are in them; and there is not a single thing but glorifies Him with His praise...

In fact, the gratefulness that we show only helps us to grow:

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِن شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ ۖ وَلَئِن كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ

Surah Ibrahim [14:7] And when your Lord made it known: **If you are grateful, I would certainly increase you**, and if you are ungrateful, My chastisement is truly severe.

In this verse Allah tells us the benefit to us for being Grateful – in that He will increase us, not necessarily increase the thing we are grateful for but increase us, make us grow, grow towards Allah, grow to our potential, grow to our perfection, so as to enter paradise.

Practical steps:

To be grateful – I need to appreciate God's bounties with my:

- Tongue - by saying Alhamdulillah
- Action - by using the bounty properly, the way Allah wants me to use it.
- Heart – by knowing nothing belongs to me, inculcating Tawakkul Allah.

In this way I role model being grateful, this will bring about love, unity and spiritual progression.

It is important to think of specific bounties/blessings that we are grateful for – Practically:

- Thinking of specific bounties, I am saying Alhamdulillah for during my Tasbih
- Before dinner each family mentions what specific thing they are grateful for

Feedback & Contact



- If you have any suggestions on content to cover or queries relating to any materials within these slides please email admin@madressa.net
- Alternatively, to contact Dr Masuma Jaffer directly please email aalima@hujjat.org