

Understanding Faith Br. Osama Iqbal

What is Iman?

- Testimony of faith
- Belief in Allah (s.w.t)
- Connecting with Allah (s.w.t)
- Reliance on Allah (s.w.t)
- It is composed of statement and actions
- It increases and decrease

Virtues/ benefits of Iman:

- It is the single greatest blessing that Allah (s.w.t) bestows on anyone
- It has a taste and provides spiritual nutrition
- As mentioned in Surah Ibrahim (23-25):
 - Have you not considered how Allah (s.w.t.) presents an example, [making] a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches [high] in the sky?
 - It produces its fruit all the time, by permission of its Lord. And Allah (s.w.t) presents examples for the people that perhaps they will be reminded.
- Iman is like a good tree; firmly fixed in the ground with branches high and it produces fruits all year long.

Pillars of Iman:

- Belief in the heart
 - a) Knowledge and affirmation
 - b) Actions of the heart such as love, trust, hope, fear, reliance
- Admitting with the tongue while making sure that the intentions are pure
- Actions of the limbs

Differences between Iman and Islam:

- 1st opinion: They are the same
- 2nd opinion: Islam signifies the shahada and Iman signifies the action.
- 3rd opinion: Sometimes they are the same and other times they are different. If mentioned by the messenger (SAW) or in the quran in the same sentence they mean something different but if only one of them is mention, they mean the same thing.

Levels of Iman:

- 1st level: The bare minimum. Also called *al-iman almujmāl* and *mutlaq al-iman*. This levels is believing that Allah (s.w.t) and His messenger (SAW) are the truthful in all they say and then wishing and tempting to implement their commandments. However, people at this level can still taste hellfire.
- 2nd level: Minimal level required by Allah (s.w.t). Also called *al-iman al-wajib*, *al-iman al-kamil alwajib* and *iman al-mutlaq* level. A person must fulfill all of the obligatory deeds and avoid all major sins. Thus, they will be guaranteed to be protected from the fire even if they are punished in other ways.

- Brother Osama recommended this book regarding major sins by Imam Shamsu ed-Deen Dhahbi. Just follow the link below:
 - <http://www.islamguiden.com/arkiv/majorsins.pdf>
- 3rd level: This also called *al-iman al-kamil al-mustahab*. Must stay away from any sins and try to do more voluntary actions of worship. These are the closest people to Allah (s.w.t) and will have increased protection for this life and the next.

Takfir-which is throwing people out of the fold of Islam. Must be avoided.

Hadith of the prophet (SAW): he mention that iman is here (pointed to the heart) indicating that we cannot judge what level of iman others are at, except ourselves. These levels are there to help guide us.

Tips to increase our iman:

- Increase your knowledge- weekly halaqaahs, online lectures or series of lectures.
- Understand the Quran- for our souls are from Allah (s.w.t) lets feed them with the words of Allah (s.w.t)
- Understand the names and attributes of Allah (s.w.t) - helps us to connect better with Allah.
- Renew your intentions all the time so all your actions can become a form of worship.
- Make dua to Allah (s.w.t) regularly. Quick Dua for remembering Allah (s.w.t):
 - O Allah, help me in remembering You, in offering thanks to You, and in worshipping You properly.
- Keep yourself in good company/ friends

References:

1. Ibn Taymiyyah, *Kitab Al-Iman*
2. Jamaal al-Din Zarabozo, *Commentary on the Forty Hadith of Al-Nawawi*
3. Abdur-Razzaak al-Abbaad, *Causes Behind the Increase and Decrease of Eemaan*
4. Shamsu ed-Deen Dhahabi, *Major Sins*