

DeenSahih Lecture Summary
Selected Chapters from Kitāb al-Tawḥīd
Lecture 7 – Showing Off (Chapter 35)
Saturday, 14 December 2024
Speaker: Shaykh Hasan Somali

Taken from the book 'Kitaab At-Tawheed' by Shaykh Al Islam Mohammed Ibn Abdul Wahab
(May Allāh have mercy upon him)

1. The reason this chapter of *Ar-Riya* (showing off) is included in the book Kitaab At-Tawheed, is because '*Ar-Riya*' harms and damages At-Tawheed. And it nullifies the action within which showing off has occurred. Therefore, it is befitting for the author to mention this chapter in Kitaab At-Tawheed, showing the understanding and insight of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahab, *rahimahullah*.
2. The author mentions in this chapter, Ayah 110 from Surah Al-Kahf:

...فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا

So whoever hopes for the Meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord"

as in this verse is a command to purify the action from all forms of *Ash-Shirk* (associating partners with Allah). And *Ar-Riya* is a form of *Shirk*.

3. It is understood from the same verse that the foundation of the religion is to single out Allah, *Azza wa Jal*, in all forms of worship. And that the *Shirk* that is practiced by the polytheists is of associating partners with Allah in worship.
4. Furthermore, it is not allowed to worship anything along with Allah, *Azza wa Jal*, whether it be idols, or Prophets, or righteous people or otherwise:
5. It comes in a Hadith Qudsi that Allah, *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*, said, "I am free from having any partners. If anyone performs an action in which he associates anyone else with me, I shall abandon him and his *Shirk*" (Sahih Muslim). This hadith proves that Allah will not accept an action corrupted by *Ar-Riya* (Showing Off), or other than it from the types of *Shirk*. Allah, *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*, only accepts an action done with sincerity, and in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

6. Shaykh Salih Al-Fawzan states that this hadith contains a warning against *Shirk* in all its forms and manifestations. *Shirk* prevents the action from being accepted, because Allah only accepts actions that are done for His sake alone.
7. Likewise, the hadith also shows the obligation to perform actions sincerely for Allah, pure from any impurities of *Shirk*:
8. Shaykh Hasan Somali advises the brothers and sisters to memorize these evidences, since to memorize and understand them correctly is beneficial knowledge to be implemented by us in our lives.
9. The author Shaykh Al-Islam Al-Mujaddid Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahab, *rahimahullah*, then brings a hadith from Abu Sa'eed, that the Prophet ﷺ said: "Shall I not inform you that which I fear for you even more than the Dajjaal (False Messiah)?" So, they said, "Indeed O Messenger of Allah!" So, he said, "It is the **hidden shirk**, such that a man stands and prays, and he beautifies his prayer so as to be seen by another man." Shaykh Salih Al-Fawzan states that the relationship between this hadith and the chapter is that it contains an explanation of what *Ar-Riya* is and a warning against it. The Prophet ﷺ explained *Ar-Riya* to be a person beautifying an act of worship because of people looking at him; desiring the praise of the people.
10. We find in the hadith, an example of the compassion of the Prophet ﷺ towards his nation with his advising them sincerely.
11. It is also understood from the hadith that *Ar-Riya* or showing off is more feared for the righteous than the *fitna* (trial) of the Dajjaal. So, it is important to be cautious and wary of showing off, and all forms of *shirk* in general.
12. This chapter altogether highlights the danger of showing off our worship. We should implement what we learn and stay away from filming ourselves Praying, making Dua, performing Hajj or Umrah, or doing any act of worship; and then placing it on the Internet looking for the praise of the people, or desiring fame.
13. The Prophet ﷺ feared for us *Ar-Riya*. So, every person must purify their intention and fight off this temptation of desiring praise and attention from the people. Because performing acts of worship for the sake of human praise warrants punishment from Allah. And such actions will be rendered null, and void, and rejected.

14. Regarding Al Kahf, Ayah 110:

....فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا

So whoever hopes for the Meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord"

Righteousness is deeds that are done with sincerity, seeking the Face of Allah alone, and in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. And this is emphasized further in the Ayah "...and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord." So, a person should not show off their actions to anyone. Shaykh Salih Al-Fawzan explained that the word 'أَحَدًا' (*Ahadan*) in the Ayah is an indefinite term in the context of negation. Therefore, it is general and refers to not associating anyone or anything in worship of his Lord.

15. The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, taught us a Du'aa for fear of Shirk:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَشْرِكَ بِكَ وَأَنَا أَعْلَمُ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُكَ لِمَا لَا أَعْلَمُ

(Oh Allah, I seek refuge with You from associating partners with You and I know. And I seek Your forgiveness for that which I do not know.)

16. The speaker Shaykh Hasan Somali ends the lecture by making du'aa that Allah, *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* purifies our intentions, and protects us all from Shirk, the major and the minor, that which is apparent and that which is hidden.