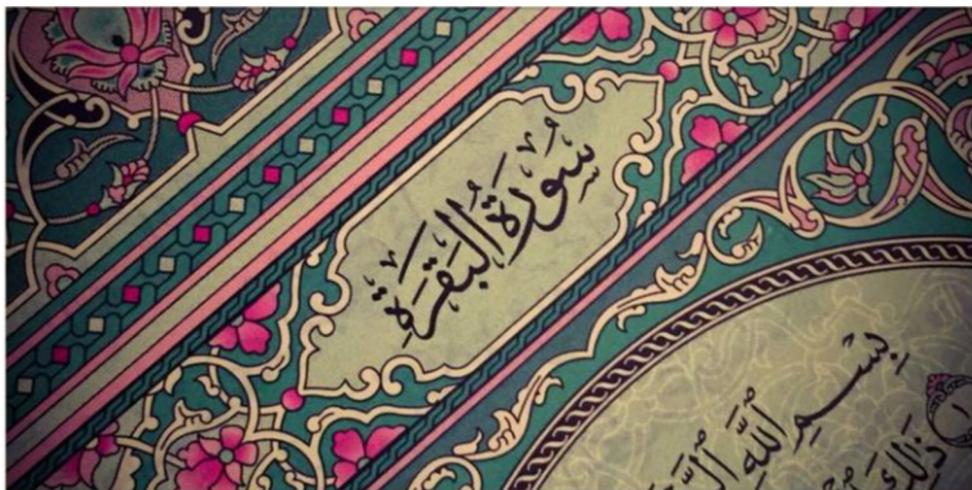


# Al-Baqarah

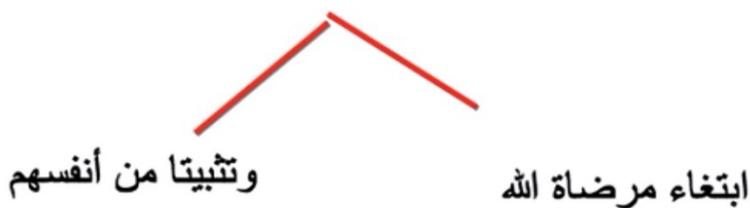
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When a person has internal motivation, he does not need anyone to encourage him. He will have the will power and inner resolve to go on.

و مثل الذين ينفقون أموالهم



The one who spends to achieve the pleasure of Allah is on a higher scale than the one who spends in the way of Allah. Efficient people have a specific target. This is not a small goal, it is a high intensity inner struggle. To control the nafs is more difficult than to control the outer actions.

There are two goals mentioned here.

**ابتغاء مرضاة الله**

The person is giving whatever he has, as sadaqah, and in his heart, he is focused on achieving the pleasure of Allah by his sadaqah. He is very precise with his goal, he is seeking the pleasure of Allah, with love. He desires it intensely.

The word Allah uses is not يريد, to want, but ابتغاء, seeking and desiring. It is in noun form, showing determination. The focus comes with knowledge and belief. The human being is a very complicated creation; he has been given an inner strength. If you focus, you can achieve anything with the help of Allah. If something becomes your desire, and you love it, then you will pursue it to the end.

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرَ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

Allah has promised the believing men and believing women gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally, and pleasant dwellings in gardens of perpetual residence; but the pleasure of Allah is greater. It is that which is the great attainment

سورة التوبة  
9:72

The word مرضات is also in noun form. The person is very precise about what he wants. The pleasure of Allah is the highest level of achievement for the slave, it is more than Jannah. These are the muhsineen, they want not only Jannah, but also the pleasure of Allah. Human beings appreciate emotions more than material gifts, a smile and a hug makes them feel warm and happy.

Allah will ask the dwellers of Jannah if they are pleased with all the delights they have been given. Imagine Allah talking to them in this way, when He is the One who made them enter Jannah by His mercy. He will

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ وَتَثْبِيتًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ كَمَثَلِ جَنَّةٍ بِرَبْوَةٍ أَصَابَهَا وَابِلٌ فَآتَتْ أُكْلَهَا ضِعْفَيْنِ فَإِن لَّمْ يُصِبْهَا وَابِلٌ فَطَلَّ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

And the example of those who spend their wealth seeking means to the approval of Allah and assuring [reward for] themselves is like a garden on high ground which is hit by a downpour - so it yields its fruits in double. And [even] if it is not hit by a downpour, then a drizzle [is sufficient]. And Allah, of what you do, is Seeing

2:265

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said : إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَقُولُ لِأَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ يَا أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ . فَيَقُولُونَ لَبَّيْكَ رَبَّنَا وَسَعْدَيْكَ وَالْخَيْرُ فِي يَدَيْكَ . فَيَقُولُ هَلْ رَضِيتُمْ فَيَقُولُونَ وَمَا لَنَا لَا نَرْضَىٰ يَا رَبُّ وَقَدْ أُعْطِينَا مَا لَمْ نَعْطُ أَحَدًا مِنْ خَلْقِكَ فَيَقُولُ أَلَا أُعْطِيكُمْ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ فَيَقُولُونَ يَا رَبُّ وَآيَ شَيْءٍ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ فَيَقُولُ أَحِلُّ عَلَيْكُمْ رِضْوَانِي فَلَا أَسْخَطُ عَلَيْكُمْ بَعْدَهُ أَبَدًا .

Allah would say to the inmates of Paradise : O, Dwellers of Paradise, and they would say in response: At thy service and pleasure, our Lord, the good is in Thy Hand. He (the Lord) would say: Are you well pleased now? They would say: Why should we not be pleased, O Lord, when Thou hast given us what Thou hast not given to any of Thy creatures? He would, however, say: May I not give you (something) even more excellent than that? And they would say: O Lord, what thing can be more excellent than this? And He would say: I shall cause My pleasure to alight upon you and I shall never be afterwards annoyed with you.

صحيح مسلم ، حديث #2829

heighten their expectations by saying I will give you more than all these delights, something better. I will be pleased with you, and never be angry with you. Imagine hearing this from Allah. Keep this picture in front of your eyes. Don't look at a people, look at the pleasure of Allah.

### وَتَثْبِيْتًا مِّنْ اَنْفُسِهِمْ

The self-motivated people don't need anyone to encourage them. They push themselves to seek the pleasure of Allah, firmly, without any hesitation. Your inner motivation is very valuable. This person is happy and excited, generous, producing so much, without any weakness or doubts. The self motivation makes them more responsible. They will be alert, and work with their heart present. You know what you want, and are productive through all the seasons of your life, be it spring and summer, or autumn and winter.

### كَمَثَلِ جَنَّةٍ بِرَبْوَةٍ اَصَابَهَا وَاِبِلٌ

The similitude of the person who spends to seek the pleasure of Allah, with self motivation, is like a garden, with abundant trees, close together. This garden is atop a hill, the best location. It will always get the best rain, fresh and unpolluted. It will ask get the sunlight all day, because there is nothing to block the rays. This garden is well planned, with mud thought given to the location.

You must plan where you place your sadaqah, because you can't 'move' your garden later.

### فَاَتَتْ اَكْلَهَا ضَعْفَيْنِ

This garden will produce the best produce, because it has the best resources. This is ihsan; use the best. With Allah, quality is more important than quantity.

The soil of this garden will be washed, it will get ample sunlight, and it is safe from foraging livestock, because it is high. It's roots are also stronger because of the location. Nothing can affect its productivity; it produces double the produce.

### فَاِنْ لَّمْ يَصِبْهَا وَاِبِلٌ فَطَلُّ

Even if once in a while the rainfall is less, it will still get some, it will not be deprived. It will be sufficient to produce fruits, it will never fail. This is the strategy of success.

When too much rain comes, a big calamity, it will not make this person collapse. This person will produce more during big trials. Usually, when faced with a trial, we tend to stop the production of good deeds. But the self motivated person will defeat the shaitan by doing extra during difficult times. He will never stop, never be demotivated.

If you stop, you will go into reverse. Push yourself forward, don't let anything break you. When faced with a big decree, don't stop doing good deeds and worship. Small trials will not even make you stumble. Plant your good deeds in the best location. Go on, whatever the circumstances. Strive to do more during difficulties.

### وَاللّٰهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُوْنَ بَصِيْرٌ

Allah is watching what you do, your heart, your determination. This makes you more motivated. Allah is looking, and will recompense you.

