



Towards the Top

Winter Series 2018 – Class #9

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Introduction

- The more we go to the top, the more we think of 'la hawla wa la quwata ila billah'. It's important to not feel demotivated or go backwards. It's important to keep our eyes on the goal, wear the right gear, have inner-drive but be cautious of the obstacles. Don't forget to refuel and start making the right move.
- Priorities in general are:
 1. Increase in faith
 2. Ease
 3. Actions of the heart
 4. Seek knowledge
- Second level of priorities are:
 1. Inner before outer
 2. Peace before conflict
 3. Hereafter before duniya
 4. Quick before delaying
 5. Seeking the best before something worse
 6. Urgent before less priority
 7. Big benefit before less reward
 8. General benefit before individual benefit
 9. Protection before benefit
 10. Good people before bad people
 11. Needy people before sufficient

Make the Right Move – Priorities in Rulings of the Quran

- **Gradual stages in forbidding something:** it's important to not make abrupt changes but take gradual steps in stopping something harmful. Alcohol is bad but it was prohibited in stages. **Surah Al Baqarah 219:** (**يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِثْمُهُمَا أَكْبَرُ مِن نَّفْعِهِمَا** وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا **يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِثْمُهُمَا أَكْبَرُ مِن نَّفْعِهِمَا**) **(They ask you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) concerning alcoholic drink and gambling. Say: "In them is a great sin, and (some) benefit for men, but the**

sin of them is greater than their benefit." And they ask you what they ought to spend. Say: "That which is beyond your needs." Thus Allah makes clear to you His Laws in order that you may give thought." – the sins are greater than the benefits, and this shows protection from sins and harm is a priority before benefits.

- **Priority in changing the munkar:**
 1. Ibrahim (عليه السلام) told his people of his plot to destroy the idols as preparation for them and he told them the result so they return back to Allah. When changing any munkar, there needs to be benefit to it. **Surah Al Anbiya 57:** (وَتَاللَّهِ لَأَكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَامَكُمْ بَعْدَ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا مُدْبِرِينَ) ("And by Allah, I shall plot a plan (to destroy) your idols after you have gone away and turned your backs.") (فَجَعَلَهُمْ جُودًا إِلَّا كَبِيرًا لَهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُونَ) (So he broke them to pieces, (all) except the biggest of them, that they might turn to it.).
 2. If changing a munkar is going to cause more harm than a person does not do it.
- **Priority in conflict:** when Musa (عليه السلام) returned, he saw his people worshipping a cow, so he pulled his brother's beard. But his brother said 'he left what they're doing in order to not cause separation between them', so he waited until Musa (عليه السلام) would return. To worship idols is harm for the person himself but to advise something which will cause conflict and separation then it's better to not say it. **Surah Ta Ha 94:** (قَالَ يَا ابْنَ أُمَّ لَا تَأْخُذْ بِلِحْيَتِي وَلَا بِرَأْسِي إِنِّي خَشِيتُ أَنْ تَقُولَ فَرَّقْتَ بَيْنَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَمْ تَرْقُبْ قَوْلِي) (He [Harun (Aaron)] said: "O son of my mother! Seize (me) not by my beard, nor by my head! Verily, I feared lest you should say: 'You have caused a division among the Children of Israel, and you have not respected my word!'")
- **Priority in deeds depending on the benefits and harms:** **Surah At Tawbah 19:** (أَجَعَلْتُمْ سِقَايَةَ الْحَاجِّ (وَعِمَارَةَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ كَمَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَجَاهَدَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَسْتَوُونَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ) (Do you consider the providing of drinking water to the pilgrims and the maintenance of Al-Masjid-al-Haram (at Makkah) as equal to the worth of those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah? They are not equal before Allah. And Allah guides not those people who are the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers).) – in this ayah are different good deeds but they're not equal to one another. The people of Quraish said they were giving water at the Masjid Al Haram and building it, but believing in Allah (ﷻ) and the Last Day and struggling is greater. It might look greater in the eyes of people for establishing the masjid, but believing in Allah (ﷻ) and struggling for the sake of Allah (ﷻ) such as acquiring knowledge, educating others or making books is greater.
- **Constant deeds are priority over one-off deeds:** **Hadith:** (عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ سُئِلَ أَىُّ (الْعَمَلِ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ قَالَ " أَدْوَمُهُ وَإِنْ قَلَّ " .) (A'isha is reported to have said that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) was asked about the act most pleasing to Allah. He replied: That which is done continuously, even if it is small.) - Sahih Muslim 782



- **Deeds which benefit more people are priority over deeds which benefit yourself:** for example you might have the option for the night prayer or you can prepare a class or work on a book. The priority is educating others. In the beginning we might be reciting more Quran or fasting and then Allah (ﷻ) will teach us knowledge and exchange our deeds with benefitting more people. **Hadith:** (أو تَكشِفُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً ، أو) **أَحَبُّ النَّاسِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَنْفَعُهُمْ ، وَأَحَبُّ الْأَعْمَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ سُرُورٌ تُدْخِلُهُ عَلَى مُسْلِمٍ ، أو تَقْضِي عَنْهُ دَيْنًا ، أو تَطْرُدَ عَنْهُ جُوعًا ، وَلَأَنَّ أُمَّشِيَّ مَعَ أَخِي الْمُسْلِمِ فِي حَاجَةٍ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ أَنْ أَعْتَكِفَ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ شَهْرًا (The most beloved people to Allah are those most beneficial to others and the most beloved deed to Allah is bringing happiness to a Muslim, or removing a distress or fulfilling a debt or driving away hunger. And to walk my Muslim brother who's in need of finding something is more beloved to me than itikaf in a masjid for a month) – Sahih Aj Jamie'e 176, Authenticated as Hasan**

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Seek and select deeds which benefit more people than deeds which benefit one
- Ask Allah for the guidance and tawfeeq

May Allah (ﷻ) guide us to the best of deeds and manners and keep us way from the worst of deeds and manners. Ameen.