

# TAQWA

**WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.**

The Arabic term **taqwa** is a central concept running through the passages of the Noble Quraan.

We read in Sura Al-Baqara (ch.2): verse 2:-

“This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, for the muttaqeen (those who have taqwa, i.e., those who fear Allah); ...”

There is not an English equivalent for the word **taqwa**.

The term **muttaqi** is derived from **waqa** which means, **the guarding of a thing from that which harms or injures it.**

It conveys the sense of **guarding, saving or preserving.**

Hence the word **taqwa** can be defined as an attitude **which combines the elements of guarding one’s tongue, hands and heart from evil; restraint; good conduct; righteousness; piety; Allah-consciousness; the fear of displeasing our Rabb.**

By **fear of Allah (S.W.T.)** is not meant **a fear devoid of love and respect --- such fear is akin to love --- such fear is the beginning of wisdom.**

The core of **taqwa** is to feel and know that our Rabb is absolutely aware of everything we feel, think, say or do.

To fear displeasing Allah (S.W.T.) is to love him so intensely that one will attempt to do anything and everything to please him. To fear displeasing him is to feel him intensely in one’s heart, though he cannot be seen.

Good deeds performed with such devotion are for the love of Allah (S.W.T.) and not for show.

Remember, many are those who display their ‘piety’ in public but few are really pious in private!

In Sura al-Imran (ch.3): verse 76 we are told that Allah (S.W.T.) loves those who possess taqwa:-

“Nay, --- those that keep their plighted faith and act aright, --- verily Allah loves the muttaqeen (i.e., those who act aright).”

## What is the proof of a believer's love for Allah (S.W.T.)?

The answer is in the Holy Quraan-- Sura al-Imran (ch.3): verse 31:-

"Say (O Muhammad (S.A.W.): 'If you love Allah, follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you your sins'. "

Since our Nabie (S.A.W.) was the Quraan in motion, our Rabb employs believers to follow his exemplary life-style.

Love for the divine being is manifested in the path prescribed by him.

It must be shown in practical terms and this requires resoluteness and commitment. It must not be shaken nor should it waver!

### The development of taqwa has numerous benefits:

#### Guidance

"This (Quraan) is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah (for the muttaqeen / for those who have taqwa)."

--- Sura al-Baqara (ch.2): verse 2

#### Criterion to judge

"O you who believe! If you have taqwa (fear Allah) He will grant you a criterion (to judge between right and wrong) ..."

--- Sura Anfal (ch. 8): verse 29

#### Removal of evil

"O you who believe! If you have taqwa (fear Allah) ... (He will) remove from you (all) evil (that may afflict) you ..."

--- Sura Anfal (ch. 8): verse 29

#### Forgiveness

O you who believe! If you have taqwa (fear Allah) He will ... and forgive you: for Allah is the Rabb of grace unbounded."

--- Sura Anfal (ch. 8): verse 29

#### Mercy

"And this is a Book which We have revealed as a blessing: so follow it and be righteous (have taqwa), that you may receive mercy."

--- Sura An'am (ch. 6): verse 155

#### Way out of difficulties

"...and those who fear Allah (have taqwa), He (ever) prepares a way out ..."

--- Sura Talaq (ch. 65): verse 2

Ultimate victory

“Those who believe and (constantly) guard against evil; --- for them are glad tidings, in the life of the present and in the hereafter: ...”  
--- Sura Yunus (ch. 10): verses 63 & 64

**Worksheet**

1) Whom should Muslims follow and why?

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2) Does the element of taqwa contain the vital ingredient called love? Explain.

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3) We are aware of the transference of physical energy from one state to another. Offer two examples of how taqwa can transfer spiritual energy.

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