

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Trust In GOD

[3:160] If GOD supports you, none can defeat you. And if He abandons you, who else can support you? In GOD the believers shall trust.

[42:36] Whatever you are given is no more than temporary material of this life. What GOD possesses is far better and everlasting, for those who believe and trust in their Lord.

[11:123] To GOD belongs the future of the heavens and the earth, and all matters are controlled by Him. You shall worship Him and trust in Him. Your Lord is never unaware of anything you do.

As a submitter, I must implore God regularly. Thereafter, I must trust in God. From the above verses, I'd like to point out three observations.

First, as God says in 3:160, if God supports me, none can defeat me. And if God abandons me, none can support me. Trust in God.

Imagine if you were involved in a sporting event, let's just say basketball. The team you are about to compete against consisted of the top five ranked players in the world. Your team consisted of you and four other people that were not basketball pro-

fessionals. If God supported you and wanted you to win the game, there is nothing your five opponents could do to stop your team. The same is true if you had all the top players on your team and God wanted you to lose the game.

Second, we have to realize that we do not always know what is best for us on this earth and we have to focus on the bigger picture. As it says in 42:36 above, the earthly things we desire—for example, doing well on a test to get a promotion—are only temporary materials of this life. The bigger picture is to worship and please God. What God possesses is far better and everlasting. Trust in God.

In my case, I was working toward getting a promotion—studying, imploring. I wanted the outcome to be to get the promotion, but I got a rejection letter. I need to trust God that I didn't get that promotion because it was not the best for me at that time.

Third, 11:123 tells us that to God belongs the future, and everything is controlled by Him. God is never unaware of anything. Trust in God.

So, no matter what happens to us we

must recognize that it is by God's leave. We need to remember to work to get God on our side. This world is an illusion. And God is controlling everything. In all three verses, the commonality is that God tells us to trust God.

The scientific ways of defining trust show that the term has many meanings. It can be defined as beliefs one has in others, or it can be defined by the actual choices people make in their dealings with others. Trust is also the willingness to make one's self vulnerable to another person in order to achieve some potential benefit. It is the willingness to run the risk of exploitation by another person in the hope that the other person will honor that trust rather than abuse it. This is "expectation" trust. People may act in a selfless way to another individual to create an expectation that the other individual will return the favor sometime in the future. They may act in ways to establish a reputation as kind and generous people who are deserving of reciprocal favors. By helping another person—even one who cannot reciprocate—an individual signals to others that he or she can be trusted in mutually beneficial interactions. In most, if

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not all, human societies, people are surrounded by others who are eager to reward altruistic acts and to punish selfish ones.

In considering trust, one may approach it analytically, consciously considering the payoffs associated with various choices. Or it may be an automatic emotional response to a situation, a gut reaction to the choices in front of you.

Trust helps build and maintain harmonious and beneficial social relationships. Trust is an essential behavior for humanity to survive.

That's the scientific approach. Let's look at what God say about trust. In 2:283, God says a trusted person can hold onto someone's property as a bond and return it upon repayment. This is expectation trust. In 3:75, God makes it clear being trustworthy and honest is for everyone not just trusting other Submitters (Muslims). This is emotional trust.

Essentially we have to trust God. It is mentioned over and over again that the believers trust in God (e.g. 3:159, 5:23, 8:61, 10:85, 33:3).

Other examples of trust:

- Taking care of property: *[4:5] Do not give immature orphans the properties that GOD has entrusted with you as guardians. You shall provide for them therefrom, and clothe them, and treat them kindly.*
- Returning anything you borrowed: *[4:58] GOD commands you to give back anything the people have entrusted to you. If you judge among the people, you shall judge equitably. The best enlightenment indeed is what GOD recommends for you. GOD is Hearer, Seer.*
- Not betraying a trust: *[8:27] O you who believe, do not betray GOD and the messenger, and do not betray those who trust you, now that you know.*
- Keeping your word: *[70:32] And the believers keep their word; they are trustworthy.*

- Honoring agreements *[23:8] When it comes to deposits entrusted to them, as well as any agreements they make, they are trustworthy.*
- Not harboring doubt: *[8:49] The hypocrites and those who harbored doubt in their hearts said, "These people are deceived by their religion." However, if one puts his trust in GOD, then GOD is Almighty, Most Wise.*
- Being steadfast: *[16:42] This is because they steadfastly persevere, and in their Lord they trust.*
- Knowing that God is in control: *[11:56] "I have put my trust in GOD, my Lord and your Lord. There is not a creature that He does not control. My Lord is on the right path.*
- Trusting that God will protect us from Satan: *[16:99] He has no power over those who believe and trust in their Lord.*
- The logical consequence of belief in God. *[10:84] Moses said, "O my people, if you have really believed in GOD, then put your trust in Him, if you are really submitters."*

[25:58] You shall put your trust in the One who is Alive—the One who never dies—and praise Him and glorify Him. He is fully Cognizant of His creatures' sins.

[27:79] Therefore, put your trust in GOD; you are following the manifest truth.

[33:3] And put your trust in GOD. GOD suffices as an advocate.

Robert

* * * * *

[3:159] ... Once you make a decision, carry out your plan, and trust in GOD. GOD loves those who trust in Him.

[5:23] Two men who were reverent and blessed by GOD said, "Just enter the gate. If you just enter it, you will surely prevail. You must trust in GOD, if you are believers."

[14:12] "Why should we not trust in GOD, when He has guided us in our paths? We will steadfastly persevere in the face of your persecution. In GOD all the trusters shall trust."

Commemorate God

According to the Oxford dictionary; the word commemorate is to: "keep in memory by a celebration or memorial." The Merriam Webster's dictionary suggests: "to exist or be done in order to remind people (of an important event or person from the past); to do something special in order to remember and honor (an important event or person from the past); to call to remembrance; to mark by some ceremony or observation; to serve as a memorial of something."

Some synonyms of the word commemorate: to monumentalize, pay tribute to, pay homage to, honor, salute, toast, remember, recognize, acknowledge, memorialize, immortalize, keep alive the memory of, celebrate, observe, enshrine, exalt, glorify, bless, consecrate, sanctify, solemnize.

When God asks us to commemorate Him, one of the things He wants us to recall (not literally but in accordance with what the Quran says) is the mistake we made in our past lives when we were at God by presuming that Satan too can rule a kingdom. And to remember that God, who possesses all power, had immense mercy on us and pardoned our blasphemous decision, and He has given us this final chance to redeem our souls and be accepted back into God's kingdom. Is this not enough reason to commemorate God?

The Latin past participle of *commemoratus* is *commemorare* which means 'to remind of'. And from *memor* we derive the English word 'mindful' or 'aware.' And God tells us in *[7:205] You shall remember your Lord within yourself, publicly, privately, and quietly, day and night; do not be unaware.* "Do not be unaware" which clearly means that He wants us to be among the commemorators.

[76:25] And commemorate the name of

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your Lord day and night.

We know what the purpose of this life is. And that our first and foremost priority is to worship God alone (51:56). We must seek to please God, and live righteously. God wants us to commemorate Him under all circumstances, be ever conscious of His existence.

*[2:239] Under unusual circumstances, you may pray while walking or riding. Once you are safe, you shall commemorate **GOD** as He taught you what you never knew.*

*[8:45] O you who believe, when you encounter an army, you shall hold fast and commemorate **GOD** frequently, that you may succeed.*

As Moses appealed to his Lord in [20:31-35]: *“Strengthen me with him. Let him be my partner in this matter. That we may glorify You frequently. And commemorate You frequently. You are Seer of us.”*

So, who according to the Quran are the commemorators?

*[24:36] (God’s guidance is found) in houses exalted by **GOD**, for His name is commemorated therein. Glorifying Him therein, day and night—[24:37] People who are not distracted by business or trade from commemorating **GOD**; they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and they are conscious of the day when the minds and the eyes will be horrified.*

*[33:35] ... and the men who commemorate **GOD** frequently, and the commemorating women; **GOD** has prepared for them forgiveness and a great recompense.*

[62:9] O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu’ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of God, and drop all business. This is better for you, if you only knew.

[3:41] ... Commemorate your Lord frequently; and meditate night and day.”

[74:7] Steadfastly commemorate your Lord.

*[22:34] For each congregation we have decreed rites whereby they commemorate the name of **GOD** for providing them with the livestock. Your god is one and the same god; you shall all submit to Him. Give good news to the obedient.*

According to the Webster’s Dictionary, the opposite of commemorate is to break, transgress, violate, disgrace, dishonor. The Quran too describes those who fail to glorify God as stupid, ignorant, unjust and unappreciative. Thus, if we do not fall into the category of the commemorators then we will be identified at our Lord as the transgressors.

In Appendix 27, Dr. Rashad Khalifa writes: *“Your god is whoever or whatever occupies your mind most of the time. Your god can be your children (7:190), your spouse (9:24), your business (18:35), or your ego (25:43). This is why we note that one of the most important and most repeated commandments in the Quran is: O you who believe, you shall remember God frequently; glorify Him day and night. [33:41].”*

God knows who are commemorating Him sincerely and who are forgetting Him. *[4:142] The hypocrites think that they are deceiving **GOD**, but He is the One who leads them on. When they get up for the Contact Prayer (Salat), they get up lazily. That is because they only show off in front of the people, and rarely do they think of **GOD**.*

God knows the transgressors: *[4:30] Anyone who commits these transgressions, maliciously and deliberately, we will condemn him to Hell. This is easy for **GOD** to do.*

[5:62] You see many of them readily committing evil and transgression, and eating from illicit earnings. Miserable indeed is what they do.

[6:120] You shall avoid obvious sins, as well as the hidden ones. Those who have earned sins will surely pay for their trans-

gressions.

[7:41] They have incurred Hell as an abode; they will have barriers above them. We thus requite the transgressors.

In conclusion, striving to make God our priority, to commemorate Him frequently, is part of devoting our life to God. Strivers obey the commandments God has set out for us on how to live our lives, how to treat each other, what to forbid, and what to advocate. Strivers dedicate their lives and money to God. They do it because they want the higher ranks from God. They want the extra credit, and to be admitted an honorable admittance (17:80) back with God.

*[2:207] Then there are those who dedicate their lives to serving **GOD**; **GOD** is compassionate towards such worshipers.*

[94:5-8] With pain there is gain. Indeed, with pain there is gain. Whenever possible you shall strive. Seeking only your Lord.

*[29:6] Those who strive, strive for their own good. **GOD** is in no need for anyone.*

“Happiness is not by chance but by choice.” –Jim Rohn.

So, let’s choose God. God is *the King, the Most Sacred, the Peace, the Most Faithful, the Supreme, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the Most Dignified. Be He glorified—far above having partners. (59:23).* Who, among the righteous, wouldn’t want God leading and guiding their lives every moment of every day? Let us be among the commemorators of God and not the transgressors.

[3:194] “Our Lord, shower us with the blessings You promised us through Your messengers, and do not forsake us on the Day of Resurrection. You never break a promise.”

[73:8-9] You shall commemorate the name of your Lord, to come ever closer and closer to Him.

[73:9] Lord of the east and the west; there is no other god besides Him. You should choose Him as your advocate.

Shahrukh

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God's gift: the Tongue and sense of Taste

The tongue is one of the organs God blessed us with. We use it in tasting, swallowing, and speaking.

The taste buds are sensory taste receptors. They are located on the upper surface of the tongue, in the soft palate, the upper esophagus, the cheek and the throat. They detect chemicals dissolved in saliva from food, separating the five elements of taste perception: salty, sour, bitter, sweet and spicy. Then they send their sensory information through neurons to the gustatory center of the brain. And through the combination of these elements, we detect "flavors."

God has it set up for us to be able to know the difference in tastes. Even when you were a child, you knew what you wanted to eat and what you didn't like. The average person has around 10,000 taste buds in their mouth and throat, though some taste buds disappear as you age, so your appreciation of different flavors may change.

In addition to the art of tasting and detecting delicious flavors, the tongue is also instrumental in speech. People with defects of their tongue or lips will have trouble speaking. Even Moses knew that his speech was limited and he asked God to untie the knot from his

tongue (20:27, 26:13). In fact, "tongue" is synonymous with "language" (14:4, 16:103, 19:97, 26:195). God refers to the tongue many times in the Quran, and many times we see that humans use their tongues for evil, not good.

[3:78] Among them are those who twist their tongues to imitate the scripture, that you may think it is from the scripture, when it is not from the scripture, and they claim that it is from GOD, when it is not from GOD. Thus, they utter lies and attribute them to GOD, knowingly.

[16:62] They ascribe to GOD what they dislike for themselves, then utter the lie with their own tongues that they are righteous! Without any doubt, they have incurred Hell, for they have rebelled.

[16:116] You shall not utter lies with your own tongues stating: "This is lawful, and this is unlawful," to fabricate lies and attribute them to GOD. Surely, those who fabricate lies and attribute them to GOD will never succeed.

[24:15] You fabricated it with your own tongues, and the rest of you repeated it with your mouths without proof. You thought it was simple, when it was, according to GOD, gross.

[60:2] Whenever they encounter you, they treat you as enemies, and hurt you with their hands and tongues. They want you to disbelieve.

And all of that evil will come back to haunt them on the Day of Judgment.

[24:24] The day will come when their own tongues, hands, and feet will bear witness to everything they had done.

So, God gave us a tongue and two lips (90:9). Let's use them to say the good words and to spread the word of God and commemorate His name frequently.

[15:98-9] You shall sing the praises of your Lord, and be with the prostrators. And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.

[33:70] O you who believe, reverence GOD and utter only the correct utterances.

Taareq

* * * * *

Psalms and Quran

[Psalm 1:1-3] Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

[Quran 14:24] Do you not see that GOD has cited the example of the good word as a good tree whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches are high in the sky?