In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Being Appreciative: A Trait of the Believers

By Emily K. Sterrett

The appreciative person is appreciative of his own good as stated in Sura 27:40 of the Quran. A believer is appreciative of God and follow the command in Sura 2:152, "You shall remember Me, that I may remember you. Be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative." We cannot thank God enough. There are endless things to be thankful for.

God created the heavens and the earth, the humans, the animals, and all provisions in exact measure. He sent messengers, previous scripture, and the Quran with its built in mathematical miracle. He knows everything we need for He knows all things. The Almighty states in Sura 6:59, "With Him are the keys to all secrets; none knows them except He. He knows everything on land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls without His knowledge. Nor is there a grain in the depths of the soil, but it wet or dry, that is not recorded in a profound record." He gave us a variety of food (6:59). He is the Forgive and He who protects the believers. He protects the believers, rewards them for their steadfastness, causes the truth to prevail (88, 34-35).

Being appreciative of God is important because when we have that attitude we reflect on God's qualities. We think about His awesome power and control over everything. When we are appreciative of God then God is on our minds most of the day. God is so merciful that He gives us endless opportunities to commemorate Him: before we eat, plan something, the contact prayers, the beauty of the world around us. How many times did you commemorate God today? How many times did you thank Him? How often did you really think about God? The remembrance of God is very important and we are told to do this in the Quran in 7:205, "You shall remember your Lord within yourselves, publicly, privately, and quietly, day and night; do not be unawares.

God rewards the human for being appreciative. He rewarded Abraham in Sura 16:130-132, "Abraham was indeed an exemplary vanguard in his submission to God, a monolith who never worshiped idols. Because he was appreciative of His blessing, He chose him and guided him in a straight path. And we granted him happiness in this life, and in the Hereafter he will be with the righteous." God punishes people when they are unappreciative as He did to the community mentioned in 3:112-114, "God cites the example of a community that used to be secure and prosperous, with provisions coming to it from everywhere. But then, it turned unappreciative of God's blessings. Consequently, God permitted them to taste the affliction of starvation and insecurity. That was the result for what they did. A messenger had come to them from among them but they rejected him. Consequently, the retribution struck them as they transgressed Therefore, you shall eat from God's provisions every- thing that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of God's blessings. Consequently, God permitted them to taste the affliction of starvation and insecurity. That was the result for what they did. A messenger had come to them from among them but they rejected him. Consequently, the retribution struck them as they transgressed Therefore, you shall eat from God's provisions everything that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of God's blessings, if you do worship Him alone. Most people are unappreciative and will not believe. We cannot afford to be unappreciative. God gave us one last chance to redeem our soul. We must heed the message that all of the messengers brought: worship God alone. And we must never take that message for granted.

PRAISE BE TO GOD

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CHARITIES

"Surely, the charitable men and women, have loaned God a loan of goodness. They will receive their reward multiplied manifold; they have deserved a generous recompense" (57:18).

"You who believe, you shall give to charity from the good things you earn, and from the products we provide for you from the earth. Do not pick out that which is bad to give away, until you yourselves would not accept it unless your eyes were closed. You should know that God is Rich, Praiseworthy" (2:267).

"You shall give from our provisions to you before death comes to you, then you say, 'My Lord, if only You could delay this for a short while! I would then be charitable and join the righteous!" (65:10).

"Therefore, you shall reverence God as much as you can; and listen and obey, and give (to charity) for your own good. Anyone who is protected from his own stinginess, these are the successful ones" (64:16).

Unacceptable Charities

"Do not think that those who boast about what they give, and wish to be praised for something they have not really done, do not think that they can evade the retribution; they have incurred a painful retribution" (3:188).

"They are stingy, and exhort the people to be stingy, and they conceal what God has bestowed upon them from His bounty. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)"
Charities Continued....

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We have prepared for the disbelievers an awful punishment. They give their money only to show off, while disbelieving in God and the Last Day. If one's believe in God and the Last Day, and his companion is the devil, that is the worst companion. Why should they not desist from what they are doing? He has told them: "You are truly wicked" (41:26).

"God is fully aware of them" (43:7). Hypocrite women belong with each other—they advocate evil and prohibit what is good. Believers say to those who believed, "When we are told, 'Give from the possessions you love to those who are poor, the travelers in the way of God, and to free the slaves, and to support your relatives, the poor, and to those burdened by sudden expenses, in the new converts, to exhort one another to be kind, and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and exhorting one another to be kind" (2:294).

The Best Investment

"The example of those who spend their money in the cause of God is that of a grain that produces seven spikes, with a hundred grains in each spike. And God multiplies this manifold for whomsoever He wills. Those who give their money to show off, while disbelieving in God and the Last Day. If one's believe in God and the Last Day, and his companion is the devil, that is the worst companion. Why should they not desist from what they are doing? He has told them: "You are truly wicked" (41:26)." (4:27).

Importance of Giving Charity

"Any charity you give, or a charitable pledge you fulfill, God is fully aware thereof. As for the wicked, they have no supporters. If you declare your charities, they are still good. But if you keep them anonymous, and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and remits more of your sins. God is fully Cognizant of everything you do" (2:270-271).

GLORY BE TO GOD