



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Khutbah

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The Importance of Having a Positive Attitude

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا، وَأَنْزَلَ الْقُرْآنَ
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ذِكْرًا، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
صَلَاةً وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ تَجِدُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَا عَمِلَتْ مُحْضَرًا. أَمَّا
بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jama'ah,

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. Let us express our utmost gratitude to Allah s.w.t. for blessing us with long life. May this longevity provide us with ample opportunities to increase our good deeds and spread goodness and compassion to all. Alhamdulillah.

Beloved brothers,

Allow me to begin today's sermon by sharing a hadith of the Prophet s.a.w. It was reported that a Bedouin had approached Rasulullah s.a.w. and asked him on the best form of *hijrah* (emigration) one may conduct. Rasulullah s.a.w. then replied:

أَنْ تَهْجُرَ مَا كَرِهَ رَبُّكَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ

Meaning: *"To emigrate from that which Allah disapproves."*

[Hadith reported by Imam An-Nasa'i]

The hadith which I have just shared describes the act of leaving behind bad habits, and refraining from actions which are disliked by Allah s.w.t., as noble efforts which are highly encouraged.

Every step that we take to better ourselves, develop our character as true believers, is seen as a noble deed in Islam. Let us reflect upon a verse in the Quran. Allah s.w.t. mentioned in Surah Asy-Syams, verse 9 and 10:

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا ﴿٩﴾ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا ﴿١٠﴾

Which means: *"He has succeeded who purifies it [his soul], And He has failed who instils it [his soul with corruption]."*

Respected jama'ah,

Let us take advantage of this new beginning and set a new resolution. Let us renew our intention to be better versions of ourselves. Let us leave behind bad habits that can be detrimental to us and our families. Let us forgive all who have wronged us, such that we may cleanse our hearts from vengeance and hatred. Let us instil in ourselves an unyielding and resilient attitude. May these efforts that we undertake bring us success in this world and the hereafter, Insha'Allah.

However, as we set a new vision and mission for ourselves, remember that the road to success will surely be riddled with various hurdles and challenges. As the year progresses, we may soon come to realise that the goals we have set at the beginning of the year, may not be fully attainable. In such instances, should we thus accept this harsh reality and simply give up, leaving our dreams to float away?

Of course not! Do not give up easily! Rather appreciate every step and every success that we have attained throughout the journey, no matter how small or insignificant they may be.

Let us embark on this journey with a positive attitude. Ensure that our spirit does not weaken easily. Remember what Allah s.w.t. advised us in surah Al-Insyirah from verses 5 to 7:

فَإِن مَّعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۖ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۖ فَإِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانصَبْ ۗ

Which means: “For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. So when you have finished [your immediate task], still strive hard.”

Remember my brothers, it is pointless to long for success without having the resilience and tenacity to endure challenges. Success is built upon countless efforts, experience and lessons learned from various failures. Do not get drawn into negative influences, as it will hold us back from developing ourselves. Let us learn from another hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w. which was reported by Imam Muslim:

إِحْرَصْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْجِزْ وَإِنِ أَصَابَكَ شَيْءٌ فَلَا تَقُلْ: لَوْ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ كَذَا وَكَذَا وَلَكِن قُلْ: قَدَّرَ اللَّهُ وَمَا شَاءَ فَعَلَ فَإِنَّ لَوْ تَفْتَحُ عَمَلَ الشَّيْطَانِ

Which means: “Work hard to attain what is beneficial for you and seek help from Allah (in all matters), and don’t ever feel weak. When a calamity befalls upon you, do not say: ‘If I had done as such, it will not be like this and that.’ But say: ‘This has been decreed by Allah, and Allah does what He wants.’ For such speech opens (the door) to Syaitan.”

Blessed Jama'ah,

As we strive to achieve our goals, let us look to Rasulullah s.a.w. as our role model. When Prophet Muhammad s.a.w sets out a goal, it will be followed with meticulous planning and hard work. Rasulullah s.a.w. would then support his actions with supplications (doa) and having tawakkul in Allah s.w.t. until Allah s.w.t. grants him success. This has been reflected in the sirah of Rasulullah s.a.w. from his early efforts to spread the message of Islam in Makkah, till the end of his life in Madinah.

Jama'ah, let us all make good resolutions, and heed what Allah s.w.t mentions in surah Ali 'Imran verse 159 which means: *“And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him]”*.

Have trust in Allah s.w.t. to determine the outcome of our efforts. Supplicate to Allah s.w.t. and seek His help every day. Ask Allah to make each new day better than yesterday.

May Allah s.w.t. increase our confidence as true believers, as we strive to develop good akhlak, and a beautiful character. May we be given the strength to face challenges that come our way with resilience, and not let them break our spirit as we aspire to achieve our goals. Amin. Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارِكِ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ يَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ يَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.