

SUMMER IMMERSION

ETTIQUETE WITH THE QURAN



Shaykh Abdul Aziz Waheed

SESSION 3

Importance of Listening to Elders

- Shaykh shares a personal story about obeying his mother at the border and how that led to ease and barakah.
- Highlights that parental advice, even when inconvenient, often brings unseen benefit.
- Allah honors those who listen to sincere parental guidance.

Ikhlas: The Foundation of All Deeds

- Sincerity is doing deeds solely for the pleasure of Allah, not for people's approval.
- Teaching or learning the Qur'an without ikhlas is spiritually empty, regardless of the subject's nobility.
- Example from Shaykh's teacher: a janitor with ikhlas is more beloved to Allah than a teacher of hadith without it.

Three Times to Check Your Intention (Imam Ghazali's Advice)

- Before the act (e.g., before Salah – be clear you're doing it for Allah).
- During the act (renew the intention mid-deed).
- After the act (seek forgiveness for any shortcomings in sincerity).

Definitions of Ikhlas

- Abu Al-Qasim: Doing good without seeking praise or recognition.
- Hudhayfa Al-Mar'ashi: Your inward and outward should match – consistency of character when alone and in public.
- Key sign: How you act when no one is watching.

Measuring Sincerity in Worship

- Don't pray beautifully only in public – match it in private.
- Shaykh's teacher: "How long your rak'ah is when you're alone shows your ikhlas."
- Real sincerity is unseen, consistent effort.

Practical Signs of Ikhlas

- Not caring for praise or criticism.
- Forgetting your own good deeds – not constantly recounting them.
- Doing things expecting reward only in the Hereafter.
- Example: Don't stop praying in public due to others watching — that too is a form of showing off (riya).

Ikhlas vs. Riyā (Showing Off)

- Leaving a good deed out of fear of people = riya.
- Doing a good deed for people = minor shirk (association).
- Minor shirk does not remove one from Islam but is spiritually dangerous.

Sincerity in Teaching and Studying Qur'an

- True benefit in teaching Qur'an comes only with sincerity.
- Prophet ﷺ said: "The best among you are those who learn and teach the Qur'an" — only if done sincerely.
- Teachers and students alike should avoid fame-seeking or worldly gain.

Dealing with Praise and Criticism

- Don't be driven by how others perceive your religious actions.
- Some scholars become famous despite avoiding the spotlight.
- Angels know and honor sincere people — even if people do not.

Purpose and Position Don't Matter Without Ikhlas

- Don't do actions to gain followers, influence, or fame.
- Prophet Nuh ﷺ preached for 950 years and had only ~80 followers — still one of the greatest prophets.

- Focus on quality and purpose, not numbers.

Worldly Motives to Avoid

- Teaching Qur'an only for money, fame, or leadership is warned against in hadith.
- Accepting fair compensation is permissible but should not be the primary goal.
- Shaykh shares personal story of returning all his Eid gift money to his Qur'an school out of principle.

Final Reflections

- Stay sincere until your last breath — that's the real challenge.
- Even a small deed done with ikhlas is better than many without.
- Consistently renew intention, act with humility, and leave outcome to Allah.