

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ وَمَنْ تَابَ مَعَكَ وَلَا تَطْغَوْا إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: لَا يَسْتَقِيمُ إِيْمَانُ عَبْدٍ حَتَّى يَسْتَقِيمَ قَلْبُهُ، وَلَا يَسْتَقِيمُ

قَلْبُهُ حَتَّى يَسْتَقِيمَ لِسَانُهُ، وَلَا يَدْخُلُ رَجُلٌ الْجَنَّةَ لَا يَأْمَنُ جَارُهُ وَائِقُهُ.

Esteemed Muslims!

The topic of today's khutbah will be istiqamah (steadfastness, uprightness).

Istiqamah is the believer living a straight path, adhering to the commands of Allah the Almighty in belief, worship, and morality, and staying away from all forms of extremism. The spiritual states and goals desired in faith can only be achieved through istiqamah. Being upon istiqamah requires holding firmly to the divine rulings.

Allah ﷻ, says in the Noble Quran: *«So remain on a right course as you have been commanded, [you] and those who have turned back with you [to Allah], and do not transgress. Indeed, He is Seeing of what you do»* (Surah Hud, 11:112)

Dear Believers!

Perfect faith is completed through istiqamah. Without faith, deeds are not accepted; nor can faith reach perfection without being supported by righteous deeds. A believer cannot waver one way or another based on worldly gain or benefit. A true friend [of Allah] acts correctly according to his Lord's command.

Our Lord, Azza wa Jalla, says: *«Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah" and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised»* (Surah Fussilat, 41:30)

Valuable Brothers,

The people of istiqamah are those who protect Tawhid (monotheism), worship Allah, live by the beautiful character of our Prophet ﷺ, and walk straight, avoiding extremes. A believer of perfect faith only reaches true character, maturity, and a high station of servitude through istiqamah.

In a sacred qudsi hadith, our Lord says: **'Whoever shows enmity to a friend of Mine, I will declare war against him. My servant does not draw near to Me**

with anything more beloved to Me than the religious duties I have enjoined upon him. My servant continues to draw near to Me with supererogatory deeds until I love him. When I love him, I become his hearing with which he hears, his seeing with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes, and his foot with which he walks. If he asks Me, I will surely give him; if he seeks refuge in Me, I will surely protect him.'" (Al-Bukhari, Riqaaq, 6502)

Dear Brothers,

To be upon istiqamah, merely performing acts of worship is not enough; we must also purify our intentions with sincerity (ikhlas), avoid hypocrisy (riya), and shun extremism and negligence (ifrat and tafrit) in our affairs. The Prophet ﷺ said: **"Be steadfast, and do not go to extremes."** (At-Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 4)

Esteemed Muslims!

The true miracle (karamah) is to walk upon the path of truth without deviating from istiqamah until death. Like the Prophets and the righteous who were people of istiqamah, we too must continue to live with patience and perseverance in the face of trials, tribulations, and tests, without despairing, crumbling, losing hope, or swerving from the truth.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble hadith: **"A servant's faith is not correct until his heart is correct. And his heart is not correct until his tongue is correct. And a person will not enter Paradise if his neighbor is not safe from his harm and annoyance."** (Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Musnad, 16/23433; Targhib wa Tarhib, 5/426)