

When Firawn saw the approaching death, he declared his belief, but it was of no benefit. Faith is to believe in the unseen. When you see the punishment of Allah, then your belief is of no avail. This is

فَلُولَا كَانَتْ قَرْيَةُ ءَامَنَتُ فَنَفَعَهَ آإِيمَنُهُ آ إِلَّا قَوْمَ يُونُسَ لَمَّا ءَامَنُواْ كَشَفْنَاعَنْهُمْ إِلَى حِينٍ اللهُ لَكُنَا وَمَتَّعْنَهُمْ إِلَى حِينٍ اللهُ المُنْوَا الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَهُمْ إِلَى حِينٍ اللهُ المُنْوَا الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَهُمْ إِلَى حِينٍ اللهُ المُنْوَا الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَهُمْ إِلَى حِينٍ اللهُ المُنْوَالِيَا عَنْهُمُ إِلَى حِينٍ اللهُ اللّهُ اللهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللّهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللّهُ اللهُ

Then has there not been a [single] city that believed so its faith benefited it except the people of Yunus? When they believed, We removed from them the punishment of disgrace in worldly life and gave them enjoyment for a time.

إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْبهُودًا 9 نوالقعدة 1437 12.8.16

فَلَمَّا رَأُوْا بَأْسَنَا قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ وَكِفَرْنَا بِمَا كِنَا بِهِ مُشْبِرِكِينَ And when they saw Our punishment, they said: We believe in Allah alone and disbelieve in that which we used to associate with Him. فلمْ يَك يَنفَعُهُمْ إِيمَانَهُمْ لَمَّا رَأَوْا بَأَسَنَا سُنتَ اللهِّ التَّنِي قَدْ خَلِّتْ فِي عِبَادِهِ ۗ وَخُسَرَ هُنَالِكَ الْكَافِرُونَ But never did their faith benefit them once they saw Our punishment. [It is] the established way of Allah which has preceded among His servants. And the disbelievers thereupon lost [all]. سورة غافر 40:84-85

عليه Allah tells us about the nation of Yunus السلام. They were disbelievers, and their messenger left them in despair. As per the way of Allah, the people have to believe before they see the punishment approaching. But the people of Yunus

are an exception to the rule. When Yunus عليه السلام left them, having lost hope in their guidance, they saw the impending punishment approaching. This made them repent truthfully to Allah, and to submit to Him. Allah saved them. Their belief benefitted them, even though it was after they saw the punishment coming.

The time is up when the punishment is seen, or when death approaches. At that time, it is no use to believe. Allah knows the decree, that they will behave in the same disbelieving way if they are given another chance.

Allah knew the hearts of the people of Yunus عليه السلام, they were truthful in their repentance and belief, so Allah forgave them. He changed the decree for them. The knowledge and wisdom of Allah is above any explanation of the Qadr. Don't try to explain the Qadr with your mind, just believe. Allah knew the hearts of the people of Yunus عليه السلام, and that of Firawn, and the wisdom was to remove the punishment from the nation of Yunus عليه السلام, and not from Firawn. Allah deals with us according to our hearts, and there are exceptions in the decree. These are important facts we must understand.

Allah saved the nation of Yunus عليه السلام from the disgrace of the punishment in dunya. It came to them, and was removed. Allah is عالم الغيب والشهادة, the All-Knower of the unseen and the apparent. Allah also let them enjoy all kinds of provisions in dunya.

The name of Yunus عليه السلام is mentioned here, in association with his people. His story of being swallowed by a whale is mentioned in surah As-Saffaat.

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وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَا مَنَ مَن فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ كُلُّهُمْ جَمِيعًا أَفَأَنَتَ تُكْرِهُ

And had your Lord willed, those on earth would have believed - all of them entirely. Then, [O Muhammad], would you compel the people in order that they become believers?

Whatever happens is by the will of Allah. There are three stages of the decree.

- The knowledge of Allah about the decree
- The writing of the decree
- The will of Allah in the decree
- The creation of the means to carry out the decree

Allah is your Nurturer. If He willed it, everyone would have believed all at the same time. Nothing is difficult for Allah. But His will is according to His perfect knowledge and wisdom, not random. Allah can inspire everyone and put the belief and taqwa

ٱلنَّاسَ حَتَّ بَكُونُواْ مُؤْمِنِينَ (1)

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in the hearts, but this is not the will of Allah. Our will is based on desires, but the will of Allah is perfect. Allah knows the hearts, and will not treat the disbeliever in the same way as a believer, and the criminal as a muttagi. Allah will deal with everyone according to their hearts, and this is justice. So our will enters the equation of the Qadr too. Whichever path the person is inclined to will be made easy for him. It is not wisdom that everyone goes to Jannah.

Some decree is done on you, such as where you are born, your looks, your family; you are nor answerable for these things. The matters which carry a recompense are the ones you will be answerable for. The wisdom is to test the hearts and recompense accordingly.

When Allah doesn't force people to believe, why do you try? No one is more powerful than Allah. If he doesn't do it, why does the human being try to compel people to believe? This can only result in hypocrisy, when the person will say he believes, while in his heart he does not. This is not your job, and it will create stress for you. You only have to convey the message to people. Belief is in the heart, and will come only of the person wants it. It is not your capability to put the belief in the hearts. You can only convey the message, and then it is up to the person. This is the wisdom of Allah.

And it is not for a soul to believe except by permission of Allah, and He will place defilement upon those who will not use reason.

وَمَاكَانَ لِنَفْسٍ أَن تُؤْمِنَ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ ٱللَّهِ ۚ وَيَجْعَلُ ٱلرِّجْسَ عَلَى ٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ اللَّهِ

No one can believe without the permission of Allah, if He permits you, then you will choose to believe. Allah is الأول, the First, and He is الآخر, the Last. Allah knows who deserves the belief, and He will allow only that person to choose it. This makes you cautious. It is very firm. Allah permitted the people of Yunus عليه السلام to believe, but did not allow Firawn. So focus on yourself and be truthful. You must be the one longing for the faith and guidance, asking for it. Then Allah will give it to you.

In da'awah, you will see that sometimes however much you try to convince someone, they will not believe, and sometimes you will not do anything and they will believe. This is so humbling.

Allah will place His wrath and misguidance upon the one who doesn't use his intellect when he sees the signs of Allah. Imagine two groups, the believers and the disbelievers. The believers believe because they are worthy of the belief, so Allah allows them. You must be truthful in your quest. The ones who disbelieve, Allah knows they don't deserve the knowledge, so He doesn't give them permission to believe, and they will be under the wrath of Allah. They don't use their brain, and use their hearts to follow their desires.

The heart and mind must work together, this is the balance. The disbelievers don't use their minds, only their hearts, so they follow their desires and emotions, and are deprived of faith. For instance, when you are told about the haram and halal, your heart may desire the haram, but your mind will tell you it is wrong. It will tell you to do what Allah wants, even if it is against your desires. This is using your intellect.

The one who uses his mind will see the right and wrong, and have taqwa, and will deserve the belief. Those who only follow their desires, not using their brains, will be deprived of belief. You can see this clearly in the example of Firawn. He was shown so many signs of Allah, of such great intensity, but he didn't use his brain to process them, so he didn't believe.