Being Thankful for What Allah Has Given Us

15-minute standard · Free English Friday sermon

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First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina. ▶ Audio

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ Audio

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ Audio

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,
▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa'aa. ▶ Audio

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa'aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana 'alaykum raqeebaa. ▶ Audio

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Yuslih lakum a'maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ Audio

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

Wa man yuti'illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan 'azeemaa. ▶ Audio

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ Audio

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam, ▶ Audio

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,
wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,
wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,
wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ Audio

وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.

First Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that everything we have in this life has been given to us by Him.

Today's khutbah is about something that is easy to say, but sometimes difficult to practise.

Being thankful for what Allah has given us.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Every day we wake up surrounded by blessings.

We open our eyes and we can see.

We get out of bed and we can walk.

We have food to eat, water to drink, and somewhere to sleep.

Many of us have families, children, friends and people who care about us.

And yet, how often do we stop and thank Allah for these things?

Sometimes we become so used to our blessings that we no longer notice them.

We only begin to appreciate our health when we become sick.

We only appreciate having money when we struggle to pay our bills.

And sometimes, we only appreciate the people in our lives after they are no longer with us.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should not have to lose a blessing before we learn to appreciate it.

Allah says in Surah An-Nahl, (verse 18):

"If you tried to count Allah's blessings, you could never take them all in"

Think about these words.

Allah has given us so many blessings that we cannot even count them.

And many of those blessings are things we rarely think about.

Our hearts continue beating without us having to remind them.

We breathe throughout the day and night without having to think about every breath.

We sleep and wake up.

We eat and drink.

And our bodies perform countless functions that are beyond our control.

All of these are blessings from Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes we look at our lives and focus only on what is missing.

We see someone with a bigger house, and suddenly our own house no longer seems good enough.

We see someone driving a better car, and we become unhappy with the car we already have.

We see someone enjoying an expensive holiday, and we begin feeling that our lives are not as good as theirs.

But why?

Perhaps the house we live in is keeping our family safe.

Perhaps the car we drive gets us to work and allows us to provide for our children.

Perhaps the simple food on our table is something another family is struggling to afford.

Just because someone has more than us does not mean Allah has given us little.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Social media has made this problem even worse.

Every day, people share their new cars, expensive homes, holidays and celebrations.

And sometimes, we begin comparing our everyday lives with the best moments other people choose to show us.

But we do not know what difficulties those people may be facing.

A person may have a beautiful home but little peace inside it.

A person may have a great deal of money but struggle with serious health problems.

A person may appear happy in every photograph but carry worries that nobody else knows about.

So we should not judge our own blessings by looking at what other people have.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us a beautiful lesson about this.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2963), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, advised us to look at those who have less than us in worldly matters, rather than always looking at those who have more.

Why?

Because this helps us recognise the blessings Allah has already given us.

My dear brothers in Islam,

This does not mean we should never work towards improving our lives.

Islam does not forbid us from earning a good living, buying a nice home or enjoying the halal blessings Allah has provided.

But there is a difference between wanting to improve our lives and becoming ungrateful for what we already have.

We can work hard while remaining thankful.

We can have goals while remaining content.

And we can enjoy our possessions without believing that those possessions make us better than anyone else.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah says in Surah Ibrahim, (verse 7):

"If you are thankful, I will give you more"

What a beautiful promise from Allah.

But being thankful is not simply saying Alhamdulillah with our tongues.

It must also show in the way we live.

If Allah has given us wealth, we should use some of it to help others.

If Allah has given us knowledge, we should use it for something beneficial.

If Allah has given us good health, we should use that strength to worship Him and do good.

And if Allah has blessed us with a family, we should treat them with love and kindness.

True gratitude means recognising our blessings and using them in ways that please Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One of the greatest blessings we often take for granted is our health.

When we are healthy, we may complain about small things.

Perhaps we are tired after work.

Perhaps we have had a difficult day.

Perhaps something did not go according to plan.

But imagine being unable to get out of bed without help.

Imagine being unable to walk to the masjid.

Imagine being unable to perform your salah without pain or difficulty.

How much would we give to have our health restored?

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, reminded us of this in Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 6412).

He taught us that there are two blessings many people fail to make good use of:

Health and free time.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about how we use these two blessings.

We may have enough strength to work long hours, yet struggle to find a few minutes for salah.

We may have time to spend hours watching television or scrolling through our phones, yet tell ourselves that we have no time to read the Quran.

We may be healthy enough to visit friends, go shopping and enjoy ourselves, but rarely visit someone who is sick or needs help.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Our health and our time will not remain with us forever.

One day, we may become too weak to do the things we can do today.

And one day, our time in this world will come to an end.

So let us appreciate these blessings while we still have them.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also learn to be thankful for the people Allah has placed in our lives.

Our parents.

Our spouses.

Our children.

Our brothers and sisters.

And those who help us when we are struggling.

Sometimes, we notice every mistake our family members make, but forget the good they do for us.

A husband may focus on what his wife has not done, while overlooking everything she does for the family.

A wife may become so used to her husband's efforts that she no longer notices them.

Parents may become frustrated with their children and forget that those children are a blessing from Allah.

And children may forget the sacrifices their parents made for them.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Being thankful to Allah should also make us more appreciative of the people around us.

Say thank you.

Show appreciation.

Do not make people feel that their efforts mean nothing.

Sometimes, a few kind words can make someone feel that all their hard work has been noticed.

And remember that we should not only thank Allah when life is going well.

There will be times when we face sickness, financial problems, family difficulties and other tests.

Being thankful does not mean pretending that these difficulties do not hurt.

It does not mean we cannot feel sadness or ask Allah for relief.

It means that even during difficult times, we remember that Allah has not abandoned us.

There may still be blessings in our lives that we have overlooked.

And there may be wisdom in what Allah has allowed us to experience, even if we do not understand it at the time.

My dear brothers in Islam,

In Surah Al-Baqarah, (verse 152), Allah tells us:

"Remember Me, and I will remember you, and thank Me, and do not be ungrateful to Me"

Let us remember this command.

Let us stop focusing only on what we do not have.

And let us begin recognising what Allah has already given us.

May Allah make us among those who are truly thankful.

May Allah forgive us for the times we have complained and forgotten His blessings.

May Allah protect us from jealousy and constant comparison with others.

And may Allah help us use our blessings in ways that please Him, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Asking for Forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,
wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,
wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.
Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ Audio

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een.
▶ Audio

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Second Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the many blessings Allah has given us.

But now we need to ask ourselves a simple question.

How can we become more thankful in our everyday lives?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we can do is begin each day by remembering Allah.

When you wake up, thank Allah for giving you another day.

Another opportunity to pray.

Another opportunity to seek forgiveness.

And another opportunity to do something good.

Not everyone who went to sleep last night woke up this morning.

So being given another day is itself a blessing.

The second thing we can do is stop complaining about every small difficulty.

Of course, we all face problems.

But sometimes, we allow one small thing to ruin our entire day.

Perhaps the traffic was bad.

Perhaps the food was not what we wanted.

Perhaps something at work upset us.

And suddenly, we forget every other blessing in our lives.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Try to make it a habit to remember what went right, not only what went wrong.

The third thing we can do is share our blessings with others.

If Allah has given you more money than you need, help someone who is struggling.

If Allah has given you knowledge, teach someone.

If Allah has given you time, visit someone who is lonely or sick.

And if Allah has given you the ability to help another person, do not overlook that opportunity.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also teach our children to be thankful.

Children today are growing up in a world where they are constantly encouraged to want more.

A newer phone.

A better game.

More expensive clothes.

And whatever their friends happen to have.

Teach them that happiness does not come from always getting what we want.

Teach them to appreciate their food, their home, their education and the people who care for them.

And most importantly, let them see us practising gratitude ourselves.

We cannot constantly complain about what we have and then expect our children to be content with what they have.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is also a simple act of gratitude that we can practise throughout the day.

Saying Alhamdulillah.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us in Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2734a), that Allah is pleased when His servant praises Him after eating or drinking.

Think about how easy this is.

After a meal, say Alhamdulillah.

After drinking water, say Alhamdulillah.

When something good happens, say Alhamdulillah.

And when you remember a blessing that you have taken for granted, thank Allah for it.

But remember, our gratitude should not end with our words.

It should be seen in how we treat people, how we spend our time and how we obey Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, we will leave behind our homes, our cars, our money and everything else we own.

None of these things will remain with us.

What will matter is how we lived and what we did with the blessings Allah gave us.

So let us leave this masjid today with a renewed appreciation for what we already have.

Let us stop measuring our happiness by what other people own.

Let us appreciate our families while they are still with us.

And let us use our health, wealth and time to earn the pleasure of Allah.

Because a thankful heart can find happiness in blessings that an ungrateful heart may never even notice.

May Allah make our hearts filled with gratitude.

May Allah place barakah in our health, our wealth and our families.

May Allah help us appreciate the blessings we have before we lose them.

And may Allah make us among His thankful servants and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

Closing Dua — Arabic Transliteration

In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,
yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.

▶ Audio

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad

▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat. **▶ Audio**

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen. **▶ Audio**

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar. **▶ Audio**

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

Final Khutbah Closing — Arabic Transliteration

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon. ▶ Audio

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah. ▶ Audio

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.