

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا ﴿٤١﴾

*Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33:41*

**O You Who Believe!**

- Celebrate the praises of Allah.
- And do this often.

## **Commentary**

Allamah Tabatabai (AR)

*O you who believe! remember Allah, remembering frequently.*

This verse invites the believer to remember God continuously and to be enlightened, through good promises. The Messenger is remembered as being benevolent. He is being asked to tell the people that they should not obey the disbelievers and the hypocrites. It may also have two interpretations according to the time of revelation. "O you who believe! remember Allah, remembering frequently". Remembrance is a word that is just the opposite of forgetfulness and disregard and this is the confirmation of what has been realized and revealed. The pronunciation on which this word stands as proof is a sign of the divine truth.

### **A Discussion on Hadith**

Imam Jafar Sadiq has been quoted in Kafi through Ibnal Qadah to have said,

- Everything created by God has its limit excepting "zikr" or remembrance which has no limitations on any side.
- God has laid down duties that we must perform and when a person performs it that will be supposed as his limit.
- Ramadan: Any one who fasts in this month his fasting is his limit.
- Hajj: Anyone who performs it should take it to be his limit.
- Only remembrance is exempt because God is not happy with a little remembrance yet he has fixed no limit for it.
- Hazrat recited the verse that says, "*O people who believe remember God, remembering frequently.*"
  
- And then said that God has fixed no limit for it.
- My father used to remember God at every moment,
- even when I walked with him he remembered God,
- when he ate he remembered God
- and I used to here him chant *There is no God but God* even when people were busy telling him something else.

- He used to call us and ask us to remember God till such time that the sun rose.
- He used to recite the orders of the Qur'an and some of us would also recite it
- and he reminded all those who never recited the Quran to do so.
- He used to say *The blessings of the house in which the Qur'an is recited and God is remembered is enhanced and it is lessened in the house where no one recites the book or remembers God. The angels leave that place and Satan take their place.*

The Messenger has said,

Should I tell you about your best deeds that will enhance your status and through which your wealth is purified and is better than Dirhams and Dinars and better than facing and fighting the enemy?

The people requested him to say what it was and the Messenger said,

Remember God continuously.

The Imam then continued, One person came to the Messenger and asked, *Who is the best among all those in the mosque?* The Messenger answered,

He who has been gifted the tongue that remembers has been gifted the best of all there is in the hereafter. He then explained the words that one should feel that if he has done some thing he has done enough or more than enough.

Abu Al Mazai has been quoted in the same book saying that Hazrat Ali said,

- He who has remembered God secretly has remembered Him very much.
- The hypocrites used to praise God overtly but in secret they spoke against Him or denied Him so God said, "*They do this just to impress the people for they do not remember God and if they do it is very little.*"

*The Compiler says*

This is a very subtle observation.

Zaid bin Hisham is quoted as saying (In the book Fazail), Imam Jafar Sadiq said,

Man has never been tested very severely but in three things that he regards Haram.

People asked him to speak about these things, and he said,

- To do good deeds and charity with one's hands;
- to do justice with one's self and three,
- to remember God constantly though I do not say, *Praise God who is one and the most mighty* though saying this is also remembrance.
- One should remember God when something is made permissible for him and should also remember God when something is made impermissible for him.

Ahmed, Tirmizi, and Bahiqi have quoted Abu Said Hazri to have said that, " The Messenger was asked as to who will be closest to God and superior to all on the Day of Judgment. He answered,

Those who remember God constantly.

I asked, " O Messenger of God who is God's warrior in your opinion?" He answered,

The person who remembers God constantly will be superior to the warrior who fights against the disbeliever and the hypocrites till his sword goes thin and he is drenched.

Abdullah bin Al Hasan has quoted his father and grandfather Hasan bin Ali (AS) that one Jew came to the messenger and he repeated the question that his high priest had already asked, *Why are you called, Muhammad, Ahmed, Abul Qasim, Bashir, Nazeer and the Messenger?*

- They call me His Messenger because I enjoin the people to God's religion;
- I am called Nazeer because I censure those who disobey me;
- and I am called Bashir because I give the glad tidings of Paradise to those who do good deeds.

Among the under mentioned verses some are related to the wives of the Messenger and some are general in nature.

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) and Aqa Mahdi Puya (AR)

Imam Jafar bin Muhammad as Sadiq said:

There is a limit to everything, but there is no limit to the remembrance of Allah. Excess in anything is disliked by Allah, but Allah's love increases proportionately to the degree of His remembrance a man commemorates in his thoughts and actions. Our true followers are those who, whenever free from their legitimate duties, remembers Allah a great deal.

*Tasbihat al Arba, Tasbih of Bibi Fatimah, and Kalimah are the best recitations for the abundant remembrance of Allah, day in and day out.*