

An-Nisa (The Women) [4:38]

وَالَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ رِيَاءَ النَّاسِ وَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ
وَلَا بِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَنْ يَكُنِ الشَّيْطَانُ لَهُ قَرِينًا فَسَاءَ قَرِينًا



Not those who spend of their substance, to be seen of men,
but have no faith in Allah and the Last Day: If any take the
evil one for their intimate, what a dreadful intimate he is!

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

QUR'AN: *And those who spend their property (in alms) to show to the people...!:* That is, they spend for showing to the people. The verse proves that:

Showiness in charity or in any other good work is in fact polytheism, which shows that such a man does not believe in Allah, because he has more confidence in people and in their appreciation.

It is also polytheism in practice, because that man does not want any reward of the hereafter for his deeds; his entire hope is to reap the fruit of his 'charity' in this world.

The person who does good deeds for showing to the people is associated with the Satan, and the Satan is an evil associate.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

Those who are miserly and bid others to be so, and hide what Allah has given them, or spend of their wealth to show off have been condemned as unbelievers, the companions of Shaytan.

AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS

Sometimes Satan whispers and tempts something from a long distance into some persons, and sometimes it does it from a short distance. The believers usually flee from the temptations of Satan, but sometimes Satan becomes as a constant friend and companion of some people. It may approach them very nigh, and in a manner that Sura Al-Zukhruf, No. 43, verse 36 refers to. It states: " And whoever turns himself away from the remembrance of the Beneficent God, We appoint for him a Satan, so he becomes his associate."

Explanations :

1- Both to abandon giving charity and to give charity hypocritically are bad. In the previous verse, niggardliness was blamed, and here in the above verse, hypocritical remittals are remonstrated.

2- Hypocrisy is the sign of the lack of true faith in Allah and the Hereafter. A hypocrite relies on people, then he is deprived from the full reward in the Hereafter.

3- The goal of giving charity is not only satiating the hungry, since this aim can be gained by hypocrisy either. So, the aim of giving charity, is also the spiritual growth of the giver of charity.