

As-Saff (The Row) 61:2

O You Who Believe!

- Why do you say, which you do not?

Commentary

Allamah Taba Tabai (AR)

O you who believe! Why do you say that which you do not do? It is most hateful for God that you say that which you do not do. Verily God loves those who fight in ranks for His cause as if they were a solid structure.

The Surah enjoins the believers to wage Jihad in the cause of God and fight the enemies of His religion. They should proclaim that this religion is the light revealed by God and the idolaters and the people want to extinguish it by their puffing. God will protect this Light no matter how miserable the disbelievers feel about it.

God has sent the Messenger they believe in with the true religion and guidance. This is the religion of the Messenger that Iesa foretold the Bani Israel.

It is therefore imperative on the believers to be resolute in obeying him and do what he orders. They should fight in the way of God, help God in this religion so that God bestows well being on their hereafter, help them and give them victory in this world over the enemies.

It is also compulsory that the believers should ask the others to do things that they do not perform themselves. They should never betray their promise because this enrages God. They should not torment the Messenger for there is the danger that God may turn their hearts as He has done with the people of Musa for they know that he comes to them as the Messenger of God and God does not guide the oppressors.

The verses in this Surah prove that it was revealed in Madina.

God says, *O you who believe! Why do you say things, which you do not do?*

The verse admonishes the believers for not practicing what they preached. Some commentators have said “O you who believe!” refers to the hypocrites and the verse admonishes this group and not the true believers because they are respectable as per the Qur’an.

The Qur'an is full with verses that admonish and mention the punishment from God especially those verses that are related to Jihad like that of Uhud, Ahzab, Hunayn, The peace Treaty of Hudaibiah and the battle of Tabuk, and are connected with the issue of charity in the way of God. If the believers are true they will be honored and will be the outcome of the admonishments of God. In this way He has guided them because they could not have purified themselves or merited any honor.

The verse is related to admonishment against being weak in character, betraying one's trust, not keeping promises and it is correct because until the overt and the covert are the same they will keep sinning and this is hypocrisy. " Indeed God befriends those who fight in His way like a solid structure and kill [or be killed]" This verse explains the verse, " O you who believe! Shall I guide you to a trade that will save you from a painful torment?" There are other verses that explain the same too.

The Muslims had given their promise that they would never desert the battle, and will not apply slyness to be absent from war, and will not complain about shortage of funds and charity for arms. They will not promise things that they would not do. These are the issues for the admonishment.

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

These words here are specially directed to the faint-hearted companions who had talked much but failed miserably to back up their resolution in words with firmness in action as at the battle of Uhad. Refer to the commentary of Ali Imran: 121, 128, 140 to 142, 144, 151 to 156, 159, 166 to 168 and Anfal: 16.

Those who do not put into practice what they preach are hated and disliked by Allah.