

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

برنامج التربية القرآنية والنبوية

QUR'ANIC & PROPHETIC NURTURING PROGRAM

سورة الفاتحة

SURAH AL FATIHA

GUIDE US TO THE STRAIGHT PATH

07 OCTOBER 2023 | 22 RABI' AL AWWAL 1445 | CLASS #34

All praises are due to Allah. Anything good is from Allah and any mistakes are from ourselves and the shaitan. May Allah forgive us.

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INTRODUCTION

- ♥ We need guidance from Allah regardless if we are born Muslim or new to Islam. Even if we have all the means of guidance, we still cannot rely on it, why? Because we do not what trials we will go through and what will happen afterwards.
- ♥ Even if we believe, obey and have companions, we still need Allah to guide us.

WE ARE ALL MISGUIDED UNLESS
WE ARE GUIDED BY ALLAH

وَكُلُّكُمْ ضَالٌّ إِلَّا مَن هَدَيْتُ فَسَلُونِي الْهُدَىٰ أَهْدِيكُمْ،

All of you are astray except those whom I guide. Ask Me for guidance and I will guide you.¹

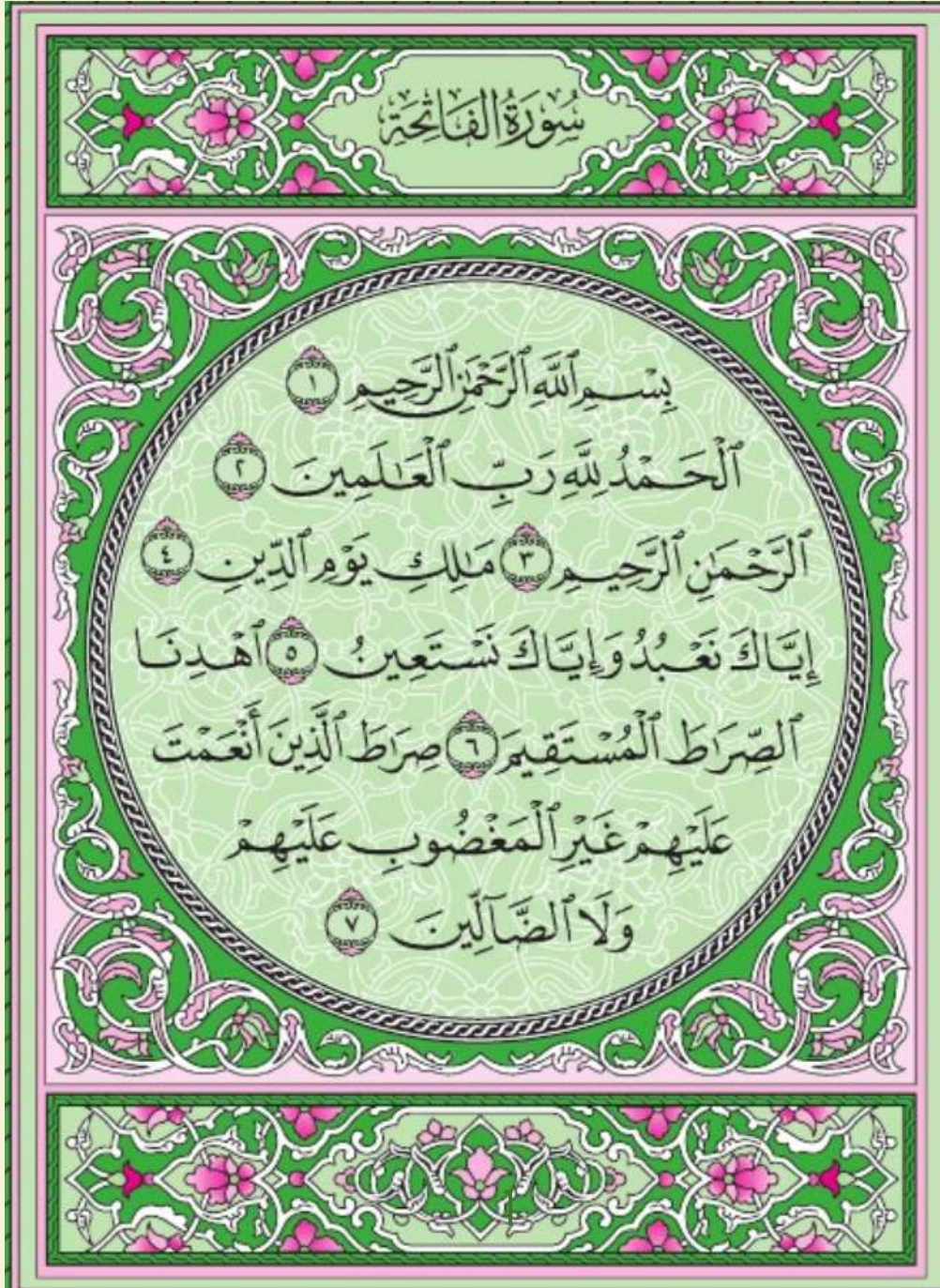
¹ Sunan Ibn Majah, Book 37, Hadith 4398

- ♥ Regardless of what our level may be, we are all the same in needing guidance from Allah.
- ♥ We want to achieve the best and the best is to be a muhsin who does not look at himself or others, but only wants to go through things while looking at the Face of Allah. We will not see the people, but see how Allah teaches us and what is needed to reform us.
- ♥ And this makes the journey of guidance special. All that Allah brings is for our own goodness and guidance.
- ♥ Our life and guidance are not routine, but to rely on Allah to be guided.
- ♥ When we come to Allah, it is important to be humble, and not as if we already know. We come to Allah, "I do not know, but You teach me."

سورة الفاتحة

SURAH AL FATIHA

OPENING CHAPTER



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

2

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds -

3

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful,

4

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

Sovereign of the Day of Recompense.

5

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

It is You we worship and You we ask for help.

6

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Guide us to the straight path -

7

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.

GUIDE US TO THE STRAIGHT PATH

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Guide us to the straight path

SURAH TA HA 25

قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

[Musa (Moses)] said: "O my Lord! Open for me my chest (grant me self-confidence, contentment, and boldness).

- ♥ Another name for Surah Al Fatiha is Um Al Kitaab, the Mother of the Book. It is recited in every unit of prayer.
- ♥ Allah did not leave us in life with telling us by what to invoke Him. He tells us to say, "Guide us to the Straight Path."

- ♥ To be guided to the Straight Path means there are no extremes, there is no transgression in one area or neglect in another. If we are balanced while taking care of our deen and duniya, we will never get bored and we will not feel scattered.
- ♥ We think we may be applying the guidance, but there can be barriers to guidance where we can still be misled.
- ♥ Guidance is clear and it's common sense. When Allah guides us to what is good and bad for us, it is clear.

BARRIERS TO GUIDANCE

1. HABIT AND BLIND FOLLOWING

- ♥ We are all born Muslim, but then the environment changes us, whether it is the parents, friends or media. And it can be hearing so many good words, but a bad idea gets subtly implemented, and then slowly more words are added and then another bad idea is placed, until with time, a person's faith and belief has changed. Before he never considered energy and now he becomes conscious of it. We ask Allah for the well-being. Ameen.
- ♥ Misguidance is subtle just as guidance is subtle.
- ♥ For example, a person wakes up to say words of self-affirmation, so it becomes a habit.

Though we are to wake-up and give words of affirmation to Allah and not ourselves.

- ♥ A man was wearing a bracelet and the Prophet (ﷺ) asked him, “why are you wearing it?” and he said, “this protects me from sickness”. And the Prophet (ﷺ) said to remove it because it will only increase him in more sickness. And this leads to shirk – the greatest of sicknesses. A bracelet or necklace cannot give us power or protection.
- ♥ Islam is against following blindly and that is why it is important to always renew the intention. Are we doing things for Allah?

SURAH AL BAQARAH 170

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ
 آبَاءَنَا أَوْ لَوْ كَانَ آبَاؤُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ

And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allah has revealed," they say, "Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing." Even though their fathers understood nothing, nor were they guided?

- ♥ People will say to follow what we are familiar with and what our parents do, but when something good comes to them, they refuse it. Not everything our parents did was right because it could be just a habit. It is important to use our mind and intellect, and to follow the truth with evidence.
- ♥ Blindly following is a great obstacle from taking the guidance and that is why it is important to see what is right and wrong, and to always go back to the truth.

- ♥ When misguidance appears, it looks appealing and exciting, but it is important to look at things with evidence.

SURAH AL BAQARAH 171

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي يَنْعِقُ بِمَا لَا يَسْمَعُ إِلَّا دُعَاءً
وَنِدَاءً صُمُّ بكم عُمي فهم لا يعقلون

The example of those who disbelieve is like that of one who shouts at what hears nothing but calls and cries cattle or sheep - deaf, dumb and blind, so they do not understand.

- ♥ The shaitan makes us to follow things blindly.

2. DESIRES

- ♥ We have desires such as wanting to sleep in the morning and not waking up for fajr.
- ♥ Desires are a barrier from going forward with the guidance.

WHAT SURROUNDS PARADISE AND THE FIRE

حُجِبَتِ النَّارُ بِالشَّهَوَاتِ، وَحُجِبَتِ الْجَنَّةُ بِالْمَكَارِهِ.

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "The (Hell) Fire is surrounded by all kinds of desires and passions, while Paradise is surrounded by all kinds of disliked undesirable things."²

- ♥ The hellfire is surrounded with temptations and we find how when we fall into temptations, the pleasure is momentary and then we feel the guilt.
- ♥ If we speak out of desire or do things out of desire, then after doing it, we must know that we will feel bad.
- ♥ And paradise is surrounded with difficulties, but the moment we overcome this barrier, we feel we are in paradise. It is like going to the study

² Sahih al-Bukhari 6487

circles. We may find it difficult, but the moment we enter, it is like paradise.

- ♥ There is a story of man whose name was Al 'Asha who was a disbeliever of Quraish at the time of the Prophet (ﷺ). He was a poet who greatly influenced people with his words, similar to a modern-day influencer.
- ♥ He started to take interest in Islam and wanted to accept it. When the disbelievers heard of this, they did not like it because then he can influence others to accept Islam.
- ♥ They plotted to stop him by first telling him, “don't you know if you accept Islam, then you will be prohibited from adultery.” So they wanted to come to him from the point of desire. Then the man said, “yes I cannot stop having illegal relations.”.

- ♥ And then they said, “don’t know if you accept Islam, then you will not be allowed to drink,” And he said, “oh no, I cannot stop drinking.”
- ♥ So the man said, “I have many issues myself, so after I solve my desires, I will accept Islam next year.” The moment he left, he died. We ask Allah for the well-being. Ameen.
- ♥ When we want to accept Islam, we should not delay it and say, “I don’t know if I can wear hijab or until I learn the prayer or Arabic.”. It is important to accept Islam and then with time, Allah will teach us. It is important to believe and say the testimony and then Allah will reform us from our desires. It is important to never delay Islam.

3. POSTPOING DOING GOOD

- ♥ It is an obstacle to guidance when we postpone doing good, such as, “I’ll attend classes later.”
- ♥ When we learn something today such as forgiveness, we should seek forgiveness and not postpone and say, “I don’t need to ask for forgiveness now” or “I didn’t do anything wrong.”

4. SELF-SUFFICIENT FROM GUIDANCE

- ♥ A person feels he is rich and sufficient from guidance. He thinks he is already guided and is in no need. For example, someone is told “let’s recite Surah Al Fatiha” and he says, “I already know it.”
- ♥ It is important to feel we are in need of Allah’s guidance. Or if someone says, “I want to tell

you something” and we think, “what does he want to say”, so we already shut-off before receiving advice.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 6 TO 7

6

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَّاظٍ

No! [But] indeed, man transgresses

7

أَن رَّآهُ اسْتَغْنَىٰ

Because he sees himself self-sufficient.

- ♥ Another test can be when we are patient with our children and then our husband tells us, “you need to be patient with the kids.” And then we think, “I’m already patient with them, why is he telling me this?”. It is important to be humble when any reminder comes to us and accept the guidance. We should never feel we are fine and do not need any advice.

- ♥ It is not people who will guide us, but Allah sends them to us to test us, so we do not want to be offended, but be pure in our heart. And take it as guidance and nurturing from Allah.
- ♥ It is important to feel poor to Allah's guidance.
- ♥ In the Battle of Hunain, there were the Emigrants of Makkah, the Ansar of Medina and the newly reverts to Islam. The Prophet (ﷺ) gave the Emigrants and newly reverts from the war booty, but not the Ansar were not given anything.
- ♥ And this was a great test for the Ansar. They felt bad, but did not speak. Though discomfort appeared on their faces. The leader of the Ansar could feel his people felt bad and he went to the Prophet (ﷺ). He was very transparent and said, “we all feel, why did

everyone else get and not us?”. Then the Prophet (ﷺ) told him to bring all the Ansar since he wanted to speak to them. The Prophet (ﷺ) never left the people with their doubts.

- ♥ The Prophet (ﷺ) wanted to show them there are blessings besides money. He said, “didn’t I find you misguided and then Allah guided you by me. Were you not poor and then Allah enriched you. Were you not enemies before and then Allah united your hearts?”
- ♥ The Prophet (ﷺ) wanted to remind them of these favors. They may feel upset about money, but he wants to remind them of the bigger picture.
- ♥ The Ansar all said yes. Then the Prophet (ﷺ) could still sense it was still not clear for them.

- ♥ The Prophet (ﷺ) also said, “I came to you poor and being defeated and you supported me.” And this is guidance from Allah to also mention their favors on him. And the Ansar said, “all favors are from Allah.”
- ♥ Then the Prophet (ﷺ) said, “I gave people who are still attached to the duniya, who just newly accepted and you have been Muslims for a long time” and he said, “I am comfortable with you because you are believers.”
- ♥ The Prophet (ﷺ) said if all the people were to take a path and you Ansar would take a path, I would follow your path. And he said, “O Allah have mercy on the Ansar, their children and their children’s children.”
- ♥ So they got the dua of the Prophet (ﷺ) which is more than money.

- ♥ We may be told many things, but still we do not feel at peace, and that is why an important sign of guidance is to feel secure and not to have a single doubt. And that is until we reach that faith.
- ♥ And Allah will assure a person they are on guidance with glad tidings so they may continue.
- ♥ It is important to go back to what we do and Allah will show us and guide us. We are to go back to the prayer, to remembering Allah, to dua, to what is solid and known.

MAY ALLAH KEEP US FIRM ON THE GUIDANCE AND
PROTECT US FROM ANY MISGUIDANCE. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. تفسير الشيخ السعدي – TAFSEER SHEIKH AS SA'ADY

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

<https://vimeopro.com/markazalsalam/qnp-surah-al-fatihah>

TO REQUEST ACCESS TO THE RECORDING:

<https://markazalsalam.com/recordings-notes>

CLASS NOTES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

FOR STUDENTS OF KNOWLEDGE, TEACHERS AND DA'EES IN ENGLISH

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FOR CHILDREN CLASS NOTES

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