

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

# Submitters Perspective

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## Striving to Make God our Priority

*[2:286] GOD never burdens a soul beyond its means: to its credit is what it earns, and against it is what it commits...*

*[7:42] As for those who believe and lead a righteous life—we never burden any soul beyond its means—these will be the dwellers of Paradise. They abide in it forever.*

We are given this interim on earth as an opportunity to redeem our souls and secure our future with God in the true eternal life. It is our responsibility to abide by the laws and guidelines that God, by His infinite mercy, has provided for us in this life. We were not left without guidance, to wonder what God expects of us and what we need to do. **By God's grace He has always made it clear to us what we need to do, how we need to behave, what we should avoid, what we should encourage and what we should discourage and prohibit in order to be redeemed, and to live a life that is pleasing to Him. All of this can be found in the scriptures sent down by God.**

But, as anyone alive can tell you—

as God Himself tells us—this life is full of distractions. Distractions in every imaginable form—money, children, work, family, television, friends, bills, school, and just plain everyday living. As some people say, life has a tendency to get in the way. But as much as we may feel overwhelmed with what we have to deal with, we must remember that God tells us that He never burdens us more than we can handle. When the Almighty tells us to remember Him in all our day, He knows we can, nay, that we should, do it.

*[3:191] They remember GOD while standing, sitting, and on their sides, and they reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth: "Our Lord, You did not create all this in vain. Be You glorified. Save us from the retribution of Hell."*

*[7:205] You shall remember your Lord within yourself, publicly, privately, and quietly, day and night; do not be unaware.*

*[35:5] O people, GOD's promise is the truth; therefore, do not be distracted by this lowly life. Do not be diverted from GOD by mere illusions.*

*The Purpose of Our Existence [51:56-58] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. I need no provisions from them, nor do I need them to feed Me. GOD is the Provider, the Possessor of all power, the Supreme.*

**By God's grace we were guided to His truth as submitters and we know (or we should know) what the purpose of this life is and that our first and foremost priority is seeking to please God, and living as righteously as is in our means.**

God tells us that we must constantly be aware of Him and to remember Him so that we make Him our god. **This life, as "real" as it may seem is an illusion. Our only goal should be to use every opportunity, every breath and every moment that we have to 'invest' in the hereafter—that we may succeed. Making God our priority should be our job, it should be our love, it should be our avocation.**

We should find ways to please Him, to seek Him (5:35). Find ways to

*(Continued on page 2)*

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strive (22:78). And we do it not because God needs our worship, but because we need it for happiness and eternal life.

*[5: 35] O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.*

*[22: 78] You shall strive for the cause of GOD as you should strive for His cause. He has chosen you and has placed no hardship on you in practicing your religion—the religion of your father Abraham. He is the one who named you “Submitters” originally. Thus, the messenger shall serve as a witness among you, and you shall serve as witnesses among the people. Therefore, you shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and hold fast to GOD; He is your Lord, the best Lord and the best Supporter.*

*[29:6] Those who strive, strive for their own good. GOD is in no need for anyone.*

Striving to make God our priority, is devoting our life to God. Strivers obey the commandments God has set out for us on how to live our lives, how to treat each other, what to forbid, and what to advocate. Strivers dedicate their lives and money to God. They do it because they want the higher ranks from God. They want the extra credit, and to be admitted an honorable admittance (17:80) back with God.

*[17:79-80] During the night, you shall meditate for extra credit, that your Lord may raise you to an honorable rank. And say, “My Lord, admit me an honorable admittance, and let me depart an honorable departure, and grant me from You a powerful support.”*

God is the King, the Most Sacred, the Peace, the Most Faithful, the Supreme, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the Most Dignified (59:23). Be He glorified—far above having partners. Who, among the

righteous, wouldn't want God leading their lives every moment of every day?

*[2:207] Then there are those who dedicate their lives to serving GOD; GOD is compassionate towards such worshippers.*

*[3:104] Let there be a community of you who invite to what is good, advocate righteousness, and forbid evil. These are the winners.*

Stephanie

\* \* \* \* \*

*[49:15] Mu'mens (believers) are those who believe in GOD and His messenger, then attain the status of having no doubt whatsoever, and strive with their money and their lives in the cause of GOD. These are the truthful ones.*

*[57:10] Why do you not spend in the cause of GOD, when GOD possesses all wealth in the heavens and the earth?*

Special Honor

*Distinguished from the rest are those among you who spend before the victory and strive. They attain a greater rank than those who spend after the victory and strive. For each, GOD promises salvation. GOD is Cognizant of everything you do.*

*[94:5-8] With pain there is gain. Indeed, with pain there is gain. Whenever possible you shall strive. Seeking only your Lord.*

\* \* \* \* \*

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## LETTER FROM A PRISONER

*Hard Times May Be Blessings In Disguise*

Peace,

I hope and pray by the time you receive this letter, you are in the best of spirit and health.

First of all, I would like to thank your staff for the time and consideration that all of you have taken in spreading of knowledge and words of encouragement as well as inspiration with direction that you give brothers like myself in the time of need.

Right now, I feel that Allah is attempting to guide me back to the path that he requires of me but free will and wrong choices led me to destruction which I truly had to learn. Also, though I have been down the path of life of trial and error before, this time I truly feel the purification that exist which is possibly for the better that coincides with the Quran in regard to jihad. I would appreciate your prayers and dua for Allah to arrange my affairs better because I know if it is left up to me, the focus of myself will waver. I end this letter.

VJ

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor's note

We learn from Quran:

*"You may dislike something which is actually good for you, and you may like something which is actually bad for you."* (Qur'an 2:216).

What appears to be a real disaster may actually be a great blessing in disguise.

Discovering God and joining his kingdom is the greatest achievement any human being can achieve. If incarceration is what it takes for anyone to attain this precious goal, it is a small price indeed for such a great treasure.

The Qur'an teaches us that if a disbeliever possesses all the treasures of the world, even twice as much, he would readily give it all up in exchange for a believer's achievement (10:54, 13:18, and 39:47).

*In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

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## DO YOU HAVE A RESERVATION?

When you walk into a hotel or a restaurant, you are often greeted with this question. Certainly if you tried to get into El Bulli in Spain, you would be laughed at if you simply walked in. Their reservation system is essentially “a lottery with slightly better odds than the Connecticut Powerball.” In New York, Rao’s and Momofuku Ko are extremely tough to reserve a table at. At Momofuku Ko, you have to call at exactly 10 am daily for a table eight days later, and they say the average open reservation lasts three seconds. Even small popular local restaurants may be difficult to reserve on weekends during the season.

However, if you know someone, or you are someone, or you can offer enough monetary incentive, you will often hear, “Oh, yes, a table has just opened up.”

We need a reservation for Heaven as well. *The gardens of Eden are reserved for them, wherein rivers flow. They have anything they wish therein. GOD thus rewards the righteous. [16:31]*

**But God’s system is very different. We cannot buy our way in. We can’t bully our way in.** Being President gets you no more points than being a house painter. The best table in the best res-

taurant in the world will never compare to the joy and happiness of knowing that we will be in Paradise forever.

*Adorned for the people are the worldly pleasures, such as the women, having children, piles upon piles of gold and silver, trained horses, livestock, and crops. These are the materials of this world. A far better abode is reserved at GOD. Say, “Let me inform you of a much better deal: for those who lead a righteous life, reserved at their Lord, are gardens with flowing streams, and pure spouses, and joy in GOD’s blessings.” GOD is Seer of His worshippers. [3:14-5]*

So how do we guarantee our reservation at God’s table? He tells us throughout the Quran—worship God alone, do the practices that strengthen and grow our souls, meditate, commemorate His name, be generous and charitable and kind, be honest in all our dealings. This is not a single phone call we can make; it’s a life-long commitment. But God’s reservation line is always open. At any time, we can repent and reform and get our name back on the list for the best table at God. God tells us: *We reserve the abode of the Hereafter for those who do not seek exaltation on earth, nor corruption. The ultimate victory belongs to the righteous. [28:83]*

And: *Those who proclaim: “Our Lord is GOD,” then lead a righteous life, the angels descend upon them: “You shall have no fear, nor shall you grieve. Re-*

*joice in the good news that Paradise has been reserved for you.” [41:30]*

And what will a table at God be like? It will be much more than we can ever imagine. The most beautifully decorated restaurant in the world, though it serves the finest, most delicious food, will be nothing in comparison to what God has promised. *They have deserved provisions that are reserved specifically for them. [37:41]*

*As for the virtuous, they will drink from cups spiced with nectar. A spring that is reserved for GOD’s servants; it will gush out as they will. [76:5-6]*

**So let’s be sure and book our reservation with God early and often.** We need to keep checking our behavior to be sure we haven’t lost our place on the reservation list. It’s an easy reservation to get—God has unlimited tables—but in order to keep it, we have to do the things God tells us to do. Then we can avoid the retribution of Hell and walk happily into the “Paradise Restaurant,” where we can *Eat and drink happily, in return for your works. [52:19, 69:24, 77:43].*

This is a reward beyond our imagining. *[32:17] You have no idea how much joy and happiness are waiting for you as a reward for your (righteous) works.*

Lydia