

# Balancing Hope with Fear

## Session Two

Reflect on the following verse of the Holy Quran.  
What does it say about Fear of Allah?

*Those who convey the message of Allah  
and fear Him, and do not fear any one but Allah;  
and Allah is sufficient to take account.*

**Sura Ahzab, 33:39**

# Agenda

- Verse of Quran
- Review of last lesson
- Understanding Fear of Allah
- Reading: Ayatullah Tehrani's answer to Allah: Love or Fear?
- Whispered prayer of the Fearful – passage 2
- Three stages of Fear

# Understanding Fear of Allah

To fear Allah does not mean He scares us as One who will harm us. Rather we fear:

- 1) Disobeying the creator of all things
- 2) Abusing and being ungrateful for the privileges we have;
  - a) the beauty of intellect
  - b) the ability to choose
  - c) the inner and outer guidance received
  - d) the constant mercy that surrounds us
- 3) Not fulfilling responsibilities as the Khalifa of Allah
- 4) Deserving punishment.

# Synonyms for *Fear of Allah*

**Awe** – To be overwhelmed with the Majesty and Glory of Allah's attributes. *Those only are believers when Allah is mentioned feel a tremor in their hearts.* (Sura Anfal, 8:2)

**Shame** – To be too ashamed to even consider disobeying the Almighty. Also to be ashamed of not doing obedience as He deserves.

*My slave is not fair to me, when he invokes me, I am too ashamed to reject him, and when he disobeys Me he is not ashamed of Me*  
(Hadith al Qudsi)

# Points from Ayatullah Tehrani's answer to: *Allah, love or Fear?*

Everything in the world is done through love, hope and fear. Even simple everyday things like walking have all three elements.

Love results in motivation and action. Fear results in caution and humility.

Fear without hope or love brings despair. Love and hope without fear creates boldness and carelessness.

Existence of love, hope and fear in a person are proportionate to knowledge of Allah and His attributes, knowledge of religion, past conduct, and his/her view of the future.

Often fear and love arise from innate self interest rather than for God.

Good tidings and warnings given by the Quran and the Masumeen are only the first stage of the journey for true believers. These start the journey towards love of Allah (and hope and fear)

# Three stages of Fear

From <http://www.al-islam.org/faith-and-reason-ayatullah-mahdi-hadavi-tehrani/question-7-friends-allah-not-having-fear>

According to the status of those who travel towards Allah, fear can be divided into three parts:

1) The fear of common people: This is the fear of the punishment of Allah. They fear the anger of their Lord. Allah says,

*They fear the day when the hearts and eyes are perplexed and confused.*

Sura Nur, 24:37

## 2) The fear of the middle ones:

This is the fear of the Divine displeasure. Those who have hearts that tastes the presence of Allah and who continuously watch over their souls are punished with this type of fear. They always fear the fact that the grace of Allah could end for them and that the sweetness of Allah's presence could vanish.

### 3) The fear of great souls who have living hearts:

That means the acknowledgement of the greatness of Allah (awj). While witnessing the Beauty of Allah, they also get a taste of His power. His beauty has showed itself to them with ultimate closeness and His honour has manifested itself with the show of self-sufficiency. Therefore the situation of the special friends of Allah differs from that of other people. The fear that occurs from witnessing the greatness of Allah and the manifestations of the Names of Allah unto their hearts, increases every moment. They are drowned in such spiritual pleasures.