

# ALI 300: Knowing God through the Whispered Prayers: Session One

## Agenda

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ The Pleasure of Dhikr
- ❖ Definition of Dhikr
- ❖ Types of Dhikr
- ❖ Readings#1 Verses and Hadith on Dhikr
- ❖ Insignificance of the Self

# The Pleasure of Dhikr

Dhikr of Allah connects a person to Allah. Allah says in Hadith al Qudsi:

أَنَا جَلِيسُ مَنْ ذَكَرَنِي

*I am the companion of one who remembers Me*

We seek company of those who mean much to us. Being in the company of the Holy Prophet (s) or the Imams is a dream for us. But they are the servants of the Almighty. Imagine being in the company of the Almighty Himself!

# Definition of Dhikr

- ❖ Many people understand Dhikr as verbal. But it actually has more to do with the heart.
- ❖ Dhikr is to remember Allah and be connected to Him. It is not restricted and has no limits.
- ❖ Dhikr is to remember His qualities and His actions.
- ❖ Dhikr depends on the knowledge and *Ma'refat* of the person. When a person remembers someone he thinks of what he knows about him.

The remembrance of His blessings leads one to be grateful to Him.

The remembrance of His Power makes one trust Him.

The remembrance of His favours serves as the source of our love for Him.

The remembrance of His Wrath inspires awe of Him.

The remembrance of His greatness causes humility and submission to Him.

The remembrance of His Might in the open and hidden motivates our God consciousness.

The remembrance of His forgiveness serves as a source of hope in Him.

The remembrance of His justice helps us become more pious and fair in our dealings.

Adapted from: [http://www.al-islam.org/enlightening-commentary-light-holy-quran-vol-8/section\\_4](http://www.al-islam.org/enlightening-commentary-light-holy-quran-vol-8/section_4)

# Types of Dhikr

- ❖ *Salaat : Establish prayer for My remembrance (20:14)*
- ❖ *Recitation of the Holy Quran: I swear by the Quran, full of remembrance. (38:1)*
- ❖ *Supplications for different times and days*
- ❖ *Tasbih or glorification of God*
- ❖ *Remembering God at opportunities of obedience and disobedience*

## From the Whispered Prayer

My God, were it not incumbent to accept Your  
command,  
I would declare You far too exalted for me to  
remember You,  
for I remember You in my measure  
not in Your measure,  
and my scope can hardly reach the point  
where I may be a locus for calling You holy!

# Feeling Incompetent

Dhikr done by the human being is flawed as:

- 1) he is lowly and cannot adequately remember Allah as He deserves
- 2) he is limited in thinking and understanding
- 3) The dhikr is often distracted and without understanding and focus

# Feeling Ashamed

Sins and evil words leave an effect on the place of origin; the heart, the mind and the mouth.

The same mouth that has sinned and uttered wrong things is not worthy of uttering Dhikr



# Dhikr - A Blessing from God

The opportunity to do Dhikr is a blessing from God.

*Among Your greatest favours to us  
is the running of Your remembrance  
across our tongues  
and Your permission to us to supplicate You,  
declare You exalted, and call You holy!*

اللَّهُمَّ أَذِنْتَ لِي فِي دُعَائِكَ وَمَسْأَلَتِكَ  
فَاسْمِعْ يَا سَمِيعُ مِدْحَتِي وَأَجِبْ يَا رَحِيمُ دَعْوَتِي  
وَأَقِلْ يَا غَفُورُ عَثْرَتِي

O Allah,  
You have allowed me to supplicate to You,  
and ask from You,  
Then hear my praise, O One who hears all,  
and answer my call, O Merciful  
and decrease my mistakes, O most Forgiving.

**Dua al Iftitah**