

Welcome to ALI 398  
Hadith of Abu Dhar - III  
Session Three

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Question for Reflection

What is the biggest challenge to achieving  
sincerity

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ  
وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَمَةِ

And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion.

Sura Bayyinah, 98:5

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ  
أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ

Surely We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, therefore serve Allah, being sincere to Him in obedience. Is it not to Allah that sincere devotion is due?

Sura Zumar, 39:1-2

# Hadith

Certainly there is a reality of every truth and a servant cannot reach the reality of Ikhlas unless he doesn't like people to praise him for the actions he has done (only) for the sake of God".

Holy Prophet (s)

Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 72, p.304, hadith

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# Understanding Ikhlas

- Sincere intention for Allah only
- Not others, not for the self
- Maintaining sincerity throughout the action
- Persevering in sincerity

# Perseverance in Ikhlas

Imam al-Baqir (a) said: "Perseverance in an action is more difficult than the act itself." He was asked, "What is meant by perseverance in action?" He (a) replied, "A man does some kindness to a relative or expends something for the sake of God, Who is One and has no partner. Thereupon the reward of a good deed performed secretly is written for him. Later, he mentions it to someone and that which was written earlier is wiped out and instead the reward of a good deed performed openly is written for him. Later, when he makes a mention of it again, the vice of riya' (showing off) is written for him (instead of the reward written earlier)." [Al-Kulayni al-Kafi, kitab al-'iman wa al-kufr, bab al-riya', hadith # 16]

# The Mukhlisun

Mukhlisun are those who worship God in such a way that they don't see themselves in service nor do they take notice of the world or its people, Thus they and their actions totally belong to Lord.

From: <https://www.al-islam.org/articles/merits-soul-sincerity-ikhlas>

# How to maintain Ikhlas

- Know that you are never free from Shaytan and your nafs
- Resist the temptation to talk about yourself and your actions
- Keep a constant watch over yourself
- Annihilate the self, for God seeking and self seeking cannot go together.

# Quote to remember

لا مُؤَثَّرٌ فِي الْوُجُودِ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

No one is effective in the realm of  
existence except God

Imam Khumayni, Forty Hadith

Hadith #2

# Afflictions of Sincerity

**Riya** - Doing an action that other people may see. This is to derive respect, position, praise . . . for the doer.

**Sum'ah** - Doing an action in private but with the intention that people will eventually hear about it. The information is spread openly and/or subtly.