

# ALI 496 – Understanding God's mercy – session two

## Question

How does God help us in the journey  
towards Him?

# Agenda

- Appreciating God's mercy
- Guidance as mercy
- The Prophet (s)
- The Quran
- Spiritual support and protection
- Help in purification
- Hope in the mercy of God

# Appreciating God's mercy

Mercy + strength

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ

And truly your Lord is the All-mighty, the All-merciful.  
(26:9, 68, 104, 122, 140, 159, 175 & 191)

The Qur'an mentions that along with God's mercy, He has the power to carry out all that He wants. Some people are merciful as long as they do not have power; yet when they have power they are no longer merciful . . . God is both merciful and powerful. His power does not change Him and He is not merciful because of weakness.

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## Mercy + knowledge

Allah has both mercy and knowledge. Sometimes people are very kind to us because they do not know who we are, our wrong actions, the negative things we have said about them, or the lowly qualities you have. Had they known our true colours, they would have withdrawn their love and mercy from us.

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## Mercy + Needlessness

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ

Our Lord is the rich dispenser of mercy.

**Sura An'am, no.6, verse 133**

The Lord is all-sufficient and merciful; He is needless though He is still merciful. His mercy is not because weakness or His expectation of lending Him a helping hand in the future. He was not needy in the past to feel sympathetic towards us. Moreover, He is not like those who have mercy only when they are weak and for example, have no position, and forget you once they become rich.

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# Guidance – a mercy from God

## General guidance

قَالَ رَبُّنَا الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَىٰ

He said, ‘Our Lord is He who gave everything its creation and then guided it’.

**Sura Taha, no.20, verse 50**

سَبِّحِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى  
الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّىٰ  
وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَىٰ

Celebrate the Name of your Lord, the Most Exalted  
who created and proportioned  
who determined and guided.

**Sura A'ala, no.87, verses 1-3**

# Specific guidance

1) *Takwiniyyah* – Being, from within  
(Intellect and conscience)

2) *Tashri'iyyah* – Legislative, external  
(Prophets and revelation)



# The Prophet as mercy

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

We did not send you  
but as a mercy to all the nations.

**Sura Anbiya, no. 21, verse 107**

There are two ways of interpreting this:

1) God has sent him to be a mercy.

2) He has sent him out of His mercy.

There has certainly come to you an apostle from among yourselves. Grievous to him is your distress; he has deep concern for you, and is most kind and merciful to the faithful.

**Sura Tawba, no.9, verse 128**

An apostle has come to you from yourselves. He is not a stranger. He is not someone from another planet or another world. He is a human being from among yourselves. When you are in trouble, he is in trouble. He empathizes with your suffering. This is how much he loves and cares for you. He is like a parent who suffers when his or her child is in difficulty. He is very concerned about you. He desperately wants the best for you. And he possesses exclusive kindness and mercy towards the believers. **Understanding God's mercy Part 4, Dr. Shomali**

# The Quran as mercy

وَلَقَدْ جِئْنَاهُمْ بِكِتَابٍ فَصَّلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً  
لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

Certainly We have brought them a Book which We have elaborated with knowledge as a guidance and mercy for a people who have faith.

**Sura A'raaf, no.7, verse 52**

وَنُنزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۗ  
وَلَا يَزِيدُ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا خَسَارًا

We send down in the Qur'an  
that which is a cure and mercy for the faithful  
and it increases the wrongdoers only in loss.

**Sura Israa, no.17, verse 82**

It should be noted that whenever God gives us a blessing such as the Qur'an, the Prophet (s), the *Ahlul Bayt* (a), a good teacher, a friend, a good spouse, or good children, we are held responsible, and if we do not appreciate them and benefit from them, we will end up in a worse situation compared to those who have not been given those blessings.

**Understanding God's mercy Part 5, Dr. Shomali**

# Spiritual support and protection

## 1) Help against Shaytan

And were it not for God's grace upon you and His mercy, you would have surely followed Shaytan, except a few.

**Sura Nisaa, no.4, verse 83**

## 2) Protection from misguidance

Were it not for God's grace and His mercy on you, a group of them were bent on leading you astray; but they do not mislead anyone except themselves, and they cannot do you any harm. God has sent down to you the Book and wisdom, and He has taught you what you did not know, and great is God's grace upon you.

**Sura Nisaa, no.4, verse 113**



### 3) Protection from the Nafse Ammarah

Yet I do not absolve my soul  
for the soul indeed prompts to evil,  
except inasmuch as my Lord has mercy  
Indeed my Lord is all-forgiving, all-merciful.'

**Sura Yusuf, no.12, verse 53**

# Help in spiritual purification

Were it not for God's grace and His mercy upon you not one of you would ever be pure.

But God purifies whomever He wishes and God is all-hearing, all-knowing.

**Sura Nur, no.24, verse 21**

# Hope as mercy from God

Say 'O My servants who have committed excesses against their own souls, do not despair of the mercy of God. Indeed God will forgive all sins. Indeed He is the All-forgiving, the All-merciful.'

**Sura Zumar, no.39, verse 53**

God asks the Prophet (s) to tell His servants that they should not despair of His mercy even if they have not been just with themselves and have harmed themselves by committing sinful deeds.