

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

# Submitters Perspective

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## GOD: THERE IS NO OTHER GOD BESIDE HIM

### How many ways can God tell us to worship Him alone?

If you ask any Muslim, even a casual Muslim, what's the first "pillar" of Islam, they'll tell you without hesitation the *shahadah*: I bear witness that there is no god besides God. Most will then nullify that very statement by adding Muhammad's name. And that's the problem. Every Muslim knows absolutely that the fundamental aspect of Islam is to worship God ALONE. Every human being comes with the natural instinct to worship God. So, as it says in 23:89: Where did we go wrong?

It's not as if God doesn't give us lots of chances. Because we're weak and rebellious and egotistic, God gives us opportunities to repent and reform, to grow our souls, and to be appreciative. Not just a single chance, but chance after chance. He is so merciful. And since we're so thick-headed, He makes sure that the information is available to us in multiple forms. So if we don't get it the first time, maybe we'll recognize it the second or the third.

That's especially true of His command to us to worship Him alone. We

came to this earth because we failed to uphold God's absolute authority. We waffled and thought perhaps there could be another god with God. So we're here to denounce that idolatry and wholeheartedly worship God alone. So in His final scripture, the Quran, God reminds us over and over in many different ways that this is our first and most important duty. It's the only way our souls can grow enough to return to His presence in the Hereafter.

From Sura 1, where God gives us the words that will save us—*You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help*—to Sura 112, where He tells us four times that He is the only One worthy of worship:

*Proclaim, "He is the One and only GOD. The Absolute GOD. Never did He beget. Nor was He begotten. None equals Him."* [112:1-4]

God repeatedly informs us in beautiful various ways to worship Him alone. Dozens of times, He repeats the phrase *There is no god but He* (to name a few: 2:63, 3:18, 2:255, 3:6,

20:8, 27:26, 44:8, 59:22-4). So how much clearer can that be? Well, then to make it clearer, He tells us that all the messengers preached the same message to worship God alone:

*To `Aad we sent their brother Hood. He said, "O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god beside Him. Would you then observe righteousness?"* [7:65] (see also 7:59,73,85; 11:50,61,84; 23:32; 5:72,117)

He puts it as a direct command to us: *You shall worship GOD alone - do not associate anything with Him.* [4:36]

Then He puts it in the first person: *"I am GOD; there is no other god beside Me. You shall worship Me alone, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) to remember Me.* [20:14]

*GOD has proclaimed: "Do not worship two gods; there is only one god. You shall reverence Me alone."* [16:51]

Then He makes it a double negative: *You shall not worship beside GOD any*

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*other god. There is no other god beside Him. Everything perishes except His presence. To Him belongs all sovereignty, and to Him you will be returned. [28:88]*

*He embellishes the statement so that we can recognize His amazing qualities: Such is GOD your Lord, there is no god except He, the Creator of all things. You shall worship Him alone. He is in control of all things. [6:102]*

*Say, "My Lord advocates justice, and to stand devoted to Him alone at every place of worship. You shall devote your worship absolutely to Him alone. Just as He initiated you, you will ultimately go back to Him." [7:29]*

*The Lord of the heavens and the earth, and everything between them; you shall worship Him and steadfastly persevere in worshiping Him. Do you know of anyone who equals Him? [19:65]*

*Your only god is GOD; the One beside whom there is no other god. His knowledge encompasses all things. [20:98]*

*He is the Living; there is no god except He. You shall worship Him alone, devoting your religion absolutely to Him alone. Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe. [40:65]*

*Your only Lord is GOD; the One who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then assumed all authority. He controls all matters. There is no intercessor, except in accordance with His will. Such is GOD your Lord. You shall worship Him. Would you not take heed? [10:3]*

*He explains what would happen if there really were another god besides Him: Say, "If there were any other gods beside Him, as they claim, they would have tried to overthrow the Possessor of the throne." [17:42]*

*GOD has never begotten a son. Nor was there ever any other god beside Him. Otherwise, each god would have declared independence with his creations, and they would have competed with each other for dominance. GOD be glorified; far above their claims. [23:91]*

*He tells us the consequences of not worshipping Him alone, reminding us that setting up any partners with God is blasphemous idolatry.*

*It has been revealed to you, and to those before you that if you ever commit idol worship, all your works will be nullified, and you will be with the losers. [39:65]*

*You shall maintain your devotion absolutely to GOD alone. Anyone who sets up any idol beside GOD is like one who fell from the sky, then gets snatched up by vultures, or blown away by the wind into a deep ravine. [22:31]*

*We sent down to you this scripture, truthfully; you shall worship GOD, devoting your religion to Him alone. Absolutely, the religion shall be devoted to GOD alone. Those who set up idols beside Him say, "We idolize them only to bring us closer to GOD; for they are in a better position!" GOD will judge them regarding their disputes. GOD does not guide such liars, disbelievers. [39:2-3]*

*Here are some other ways that God puts across His most important message:*

*O people, worship only your Lord - the One who created you and those before you - that you may be saved. [2:21]*

*Therefore, you shall worship GOD alone, and be appreciative. [39:66]*

*Therefore, you shall devote your worship absolutely to GOD ALONE, even if the disbelievers dislike it. [40:14]*

*All that was asked of them was to worship GOD, devoting the religion absolutely to Him alone, observe the contact prayers (Salat), and give the obligatory charity (Zakat). Such is the perfect religion. [98:5]*

*This is only a small fraction of the ways God puts this commandment to us. As you read your Quran, look for all the different statements concerning worshipping God. It's truly amazing. He even tells us what to say:*

*Say, "I have been commanded to worship GOD, devoting the religion absolutely to Him alone. [39:11]*

*Say, "GOD is the only One I worship, devoting my religion absolutely to Him alone. [39:14]*

*Say, "O people, if you have any doubt regarding my religion, I do not worship what you worship beside GOD. I worship GOD alone; the One who will terminate your lives. I am commanded to be a believer." [10:104]*

*Say, "O you disbelievers. I do not worship what you worship. Nor do you worship what I worship. Nor will I ever worship what you worship. Nor will you ever worship what I worship. To you is your religion, and to me is my religion." [109:1-6]*

*So there's no way we can ever say that we missed this one. We need to take the message to heart and be appreciative of God's blessing that He gives us all these chances and all these ways to understand what He's telling us:*

*GOD: there is no other god besides Him, the Living, the Eternal. Never a moment of unawareness or slumber overtakes Him. To Him belongs everything in the heavens and everything on earth. Who could intercede with Him, except in accordance with His will? He knows their past, and their future. No one attains any knowledge, except as He wills. His dominion encompasses the heavens and the earth, and ruling them never burdens Him. He is the Most High, the Great. [2:255]*

*Lydia*

## Prayers from the Quran

Imploring God and asking His Forgiveness and Mercy is one of traits of the believers (4:106, 11:90...). Supplication to God is a form of worship (40:60). God is the only one who can answer our prayers, and can help us.

*[2:186] When My servants ask you about Me, I am always near. I answer their prayers when they pray to Me. The people shall respond to Me and believe in Me, in order to be guided.*

There are many beautiful prayers in the Quran that we can reflect on and use them as a guide for our supplication to God. We list some of them below, starting with the *The Key* (al-Fâtehah).

***[1:1-7] In the name of GOD, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.***

***Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe. Most Gracious, Most Merciful.***

***Master of the Day of Judgment.***

***You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help.***

***Guide us in the right path:***

***the path of those whom You blessed; not of those who have deserved wrath, nor of the strayers.***

*[2:128] "Our Lord, make us submitters to You, and from our descendants let there be a community of submitters to You. Redeem us. You are the Redeemer, Most Merciful.*

*[2:201] "Our Lord, grant us righteousness in this world, and righteousness in the Hereafter, and spare us the retribution of Hell."*

*[2:250] "Our Lord, grant us steadfastness, strengthen our foothold, and support us against the disbelieving people."*

*[2:285] Forgive us, our Lord. To You is the ultimate destiny."*

*[2:286] "Our Lord, do not condemn us if we forget or make mistakes. Our Lord, and protect us from blaspheming against You, like those before us have done. Our Lord, protect us from sinning until it becomes too late for us to repent. Pardon us and forgive us. You are our Lord and Master. Grant us victory over the disbelieving people."*

*[3:8] "Our Lord, let not our hearts waver, now that You have guided us. Shower us with Your mercy; You are the Grantor.*

*[3:16] They say, "Our Lord, we have believed, so forgive us our sins, and spare us the agony of the hellfire."*

*[3:53] "Our Lord, we have believed in what You have sent down, and we have followed the messenger; count us among the witnesses."*

*[3:147] "Our Lord, forgive us our sins, and our transgressions, strengthen our foothold, and grant us victory over the disbelievers."*

*[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.*

*[3:193] "Our Lord, we have heard a caller calling to faith and proclaiming: 'You shall believe in your Lord,' and we have believed. Our Lord, forgive us our transgressions, remit our sins, and let us die as righteous believers.*

*[3:194] "Our Lord, shower us with the blessings you promised us through Your messengers, and do not forsake us on the Day of Resurrection. You never break a promise."*

*[4:75] Why should you not fight in the cause of GOD when weak men, women, and children are imploring: "Our Lord, deliver us from this community whose people are oppressive, and be You our Lord and Master."*

*[5:83] "Our Lord, we have believed, so count us among the witnesses.*

*[7:23] "Our Lord, we have wronged our souls, and unless You forgive us and have mercy on us, we will be losers."*

*[7:89] "We would be blaspheming against GOD if we reverted to your religion after GOD has saved us from it. How could we revert back to it against the will of GOD our Lord? Our Lord's knowledge encompasses all things. We have put our trust in GOD. Our Lord, grant us a decisive victory over our people. You are the best supporter."*

*[7:126] "Our Lord, grant us steadfastness, and let us die as submitters."*

*[7:155-156] You are our Lord and Master, so forgive us, shower us with Your mercy; You are the best Forgiver. "And decree for us righteousness in this world, and in the Hereafter.*

*[14:35] "My Lord, make this a peaceful land, and protect me and my children from worshipping idols.*

*[14:40-41] "My Lord, make me one who consistently observes the Contact Prayers (Salat), and also my children. Our Lord, please answer my prayers. My Lord, forgive me and my parents, and the believers, on the day when the reckoning takes place."*

*[17:24] "My Lord, have mercy on my parents, for they have raised me from infancy."*

*[17:80] "My Lord, admit me an honorable admittance, and let me depart an honorable departure, and grant me from You a powerful support."*

*[18:10] "Our Lord, shower us with Your mercy, and bless our affairs with Your guidance."*

*[23:94] "My Lord, let me not be one of the transgressing people."*

*[23:109] 'Our Lord, we have believed, so forgive us and shower us with mercy. Of all the merciful ones, You are the Most Merciful.'*

*[25:65] "Our Lord, spare us the agony of Hell; its retribution is horrendous.*

*[25:74] "Our Lord, let our spouses and children be a source of joy for us, and keep us in the forefront of the righteous."*

*[26:83] "My Lord, grant me wisdom, and include me with the righteous.*

*[26:87] "And do not forsake me on the Day of Resurrection."*

*[40:7-9] "Our Lord, Your mercy and Your knowledge encompass all things. Forgive those who repent and follow Your path, and spare them the retribution of Hell. "Our Lord, and admit them into the gardens of Eden that You promised for them and for the righteous among their parents, spouses, and children. You are the Almighty, Most Wise. "And protect them from falling in sin. Whomever You*

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MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel/Fax: (520) 323 7636

internet web site [www.masjiduntucson.org](http://www.masjiduntucson.org)

e-mail: [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org) [masjiduntucson@gmail.com](mailto:masjiduntucson@gmail.com)

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*protect from falling in sin, on that day, has attained mercy from You. This is the greatest triumph."*

[46:15] *"My Lord, direct me to appreciate the blessings You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to do the righteous works that please You. Let my children be righteous as well. I have repented to You; I am a submitter."*

[59:10] *"Our Lord, forgive us and our brethren who preceded us to the faith, and keep our hearts from harboring any hatred towards those who believed. Our Lord, You are Compassionate, Most Merciful."*

[60:4] *"Our Lord, we trust in You, and submit to You; to You is the final destiny."*

[60:5] *"Our Lord, let us not be oppressed by those who disbelieved, and forgive us. You are the Almighty, Most Wise."*

[66:8.14] *"Our Lord, perfect our light for us, and forgive us; You are Omnipotent."*

Our Lord, please answer our prayers. You are always near, responsive (14:40, 11:61).

\* \* \*

## 2010 Annual Conference Report

[3:159] *....Once you make a decision, carry out your plan, and trust in GOD. GOD loves those who trust in Him.*

[14:12] *"Why should we not trust in GOD, when He has guided us in our paths? We will steadfastly persevere in*

*the face of your persecution. In GOD all the trusters shall trust."*

This was the 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the United Submitters International—our silver anniversary. It was held in Tucson, Arizona, on July 30-August 1, 2010. Nearly 250 people, including the children, came to enjoy meeting and sharing with submitters from all over the world. At registration, every adult submitter was given a Quran, a much-appreciated gift.

The Friday khutba was delivered by brother Mike from Toronto. He gave a wonderful talk reminding us of the importance of trusting in God. He quoted verse 17:36, under the subtitle: Crucial Advice [17:36] *You shall not accept any information, unless you verify it for yourself. I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them.*

In truth, if we really were using our brains, we would be trusting in God. He related some of his recent Hajj experiences which truly demonstrated how trusting in God can make a difficult situation easy.

Abdullah welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Some people traveled great distances and God will reward them for their efforts. Then first time attendees were asked to say a few words about how they came to the message. It was wonderful to see all the new faces. There were more than 25 newcomers from all over the world. They were all thrilled to be with

their real family, and they all had stories of how they found true submission. Ultimately, we know that it's God's guidance and His mercy.

We were treated to three days of speeches from submitters old and new. There was a wide range of topics, all very well presented. The talks were entertaining and inspiring. There were ideas offered on how best to spread the message, and there were personal stories of triumph over adversity.

The meditation (zikr) Friday and Saturday evenings was beautiful as always. It's wonderful to raise our voices in commemoration of God. It feels so energizing.

[15:98-9] *You shall sing the praises of your Lord, and be with the prostrators. And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.*

After the noon prayer and the photo session on Sunday, way more than 100 people went to Masjid Tucson for a pizza/Eegees party. It was a wonderful gathering that lasted several hours. Then it was time for people to head for home.

God willing, we will all have a submission-filled year, and be able to come together sometime next year, for another rejuvenating conference. All praise be to God, Lord of the universe.

*Lydia and Nargis*