

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Steadfastly Persevere

[52:48] You shall steadfastly persevere in carrying out your Lord's command—you are in our eyes—and glorify and praise your Lord when you get up.

Persevere, according to a dictionary definition: Continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success.

In the Quran, the English word “persevere” has the word “steadfastly” directly in front of it, with only one exception in 3:200. *O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.*

Even in this verse, God says first, you shall be steadfast, and then you shall persevere. Therefore, I think it is very relevant to understand what it means to be steadfast, in order to understand how to persevere. Thus, here is a dictionary definition of steadfast: Resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.

Consequently, the way to persevere is by combining both definitions: be resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering, continuing in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with

little or no prospect of success.

May God increase my knowledge, but the way I look at it is: it is not okay to fail and remain in a state of failure, even if we do not see the light at the end of the tunnel. Humans are not perfect, so we are bound to fail at something at least once in our lives. To steadfastly persevere, I need to know about success, failure, and how to maneuver from failing to becoming successful.

Here is how God defines the successful, and those failing in 91:1-10:

[91:1] By the sun and its brightness.

[91:2] The moon that follows it.

[91:3] The day that reveals.

[91:4] The night that covers.

[91:5] The sky and Him who built it.

[91:6] The earth and Him who sustains it.

[91:7] The soul and Him who created it.

[91:8] Then showed it what is evil and what is good.

[91:9] Successful is one who redeems it.

[91:10] Failing is one who neglects it.

Successful is the one who redeems their soul, while failing is the one who neglects it. Then how do we redeem our soul when we fall into a state of failure?

God shows us if we fall into a state of failure, using charity as an example in verse 58:13, we must then repent, ask God to forgive us, and then He will accept our repentance. This is the first step for turning failure into success.

After repentance we have to reform, being dutifully firm in our course of action no matter how difficult or how many times we fail, steadfastly persevering.

[4:146] Only those who repent, reform, hold fast to GOD, and devote their religion absolutely to GOD alone, will be counted with the believers. GOD will bless the believers with a great recompense.

[11:11] As for those who steadfastly persevere, and lead a righteous life, they deserve forgiveness and a generous recompense.

God willing, if I fall into a state of failure with any action, may God help me

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to never give up and steadfastly persevere to remember, thank, and reverence God at all times.

One thing we must keep in mind is the reason we are steadfastly persevering.

[51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone.

With that in mind, there are several instances where God tells us we need to steadfastly persevere.

[2:153] O you who believe, seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). GOD is with those who steadfastly persevere.

Here we can see God is telling us to persevere in seeking help. So, if I'm feeling down or unable to perform a task, it is important to humble myself to God. First, I should repent, then ask God to help me with whatever I'm doing. May God help me be humble and not forget that the One who created the heavens and earth can easily help me with whatever small task is going on in my mind or body. The one thing I must keep in mind when asking for help from the Almighty is I am not always asking for things that are good for me, and I must accept and be patient and grateful with the outcome of the situation.

[17:11] The human being often prays for something that may hurt him, thinking that he is praying for something good. The human being is impatient.

I sometimes am tired in the morning when I must go to work, and one day I was thinking to myself, "Wouldn't it be nice to not have to work?" So, I decided to meditate, pray to God for help, and I asked Him for \$19 million so I wouldn't have to go to work anymore. Well, I woke up today and by God's grace went to work, so the answer to my request was no. God owns the heavens and the earth so \$19 million to Him is nothing. God knows

that it is not money that I need but a different outlook on getting up and going to work. First, God gave me a great low-stress job that I enjoy, and I can use the earnings to provide for my family. God gave me an opportunity with this job to pay *Zakat* to grow my soul, thank you God. God gave me an opportunity to talk with people at work about the message. I could go on and on finding things to thank God for with the job He gave me. God tells us to be steadfast, persevere, and ask for help, and we must remember to be patient, grateful, and accept the outcome.

[3:186] You will certainly be tested, through your money and your lives, and you will hear from those who received the scripture, and from the idol worshipers, a lot of insult. If you steadfastly persevere and lead a righteous life, this will prove the strength of your faith.

God is putting us through many tests repeatedly, to see if we will hold fast to Him, remember and reverence Him, and continue to worship Him alone. God gives us the answer of how to steadfastly persevere when facing the tests:

[13:22] They steadfastly persevere in seeking their Lord, observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), spend from our provisions to them secretly and publicly, and counter evil with good. These have deserved the best abode.

From this verse we see that first we must seek God's guidance and not just accept what someone else tells us. He is the All-Powerful, so seek answers from Him on how to deal with all situations in life.

Second, repeatedly, God tells us to steadfastly persevere observing the Contact Prayers, *Salat*. The contact prayers are a gift to us that help us keep the remembrance of God all day long and protect us from evil and vice (29:45). Right before, during, and right after I make a Contact Prayer God gives me a sensation of fullness and joy. However, the concept of soul

growth is just a matter of faith for me, and this is where the definition of persevere related to me with the contact prayers. I can't see my soul, so when I've done *Salat*, I can't be like, "Ohhh, did you see that, my soul just grew an inch!" Therefore, in the face of unbeknownst soul growth, I still steadfastly persevere to make contact prayer with God in hopes of attaining success upon leaving this earth.

Third, we must steadfastly persevere in spending the provisions God provides for us. Provisions are not always in the form of materialistic items. God provides us with happiness, a tongue, lips, mouth, and all other things associated with our ability to speak. We can share our provision of happiness by speaking to others and offering words of encouragement. Knowledge and wisdom are other provisions from God. We can also take material items such as money, clothing, or food and spend these provisions for the sake of worshiping God alone. God is the one who is the real Provider of everything. He wants us to steadfastly persevere in spending these provisions secretly and publicly.

The last way in 13:22 that God tells us to deal with tests is by steadfastly persevering countering evil with good. If God helps us to master this art, life is much easier. It is easy to say, "Just look at the bright side, and find the positivity in it!" It is much more difficult to do it when you are in the middle of a test.

By the grace of God, there is always a way to find something positive in any situation. God willing, we use the tools of patience, prayer, and meditation to counter evil with good. One focus that God gave me when trying to find light in what seems like a dark situation is to remember this earth is only a temporary illusion. *[6:32] The life of this world is no more than illusion and vanity, while the abode of the Hereafter is far better for the righteous. Do you not understand?!*

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When God strengthens me to keep this focus, it helps me find good in places where most see evil.

In summary, God tells us to be steadfast when using perseverance. If we find ourselves failing, we cannot accept failing; we must push ourselves to turn our failures into success. The first step to changing our failures into success is repent to God and ask Him for forgiveness. Then, we must work hard to reform, hold fast to God, and devote our lives to worship God alone. God instructs us to steadfastly persevere seeking help from Him, but we must remember to be patient, grateful, and accepting of the outcome.

There are many other times, instances, actions, and thoughts where God wants us to steadfastly persevere. God help us humble ourselves to repent, then reform and steadfastly persevere in devoting our entire lives to worship Him alone!

Robert

* * * * *

Don't Worry. Be Happy

The title comes from lyrics to a catchy little tune that was popular in the late 1980s. It also included the lines:

In every life we have some trouble
But when you worry
you make it double
Don't worry, be happy
Don't worry, be happy now

That's what God tells us in the Quran as well. Don't worry. God is in full control of everything. Be happy. Happiness comes from worshiping God alone.

It's easy to say, but is it easy to do? Yes, it is. It's a choice we make. We choose whether we want eggs or cereal for breakfast. We choose if we want to wear the blue shirt or the green shirt. We

choose whether to stop at the store or go straight home after work. These are choices we make. Well, we also make the choice to be happy or to be miserable. Abraham Lincoln is quoted: "Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be." (from BrainyQuote.com).

When something bad happens to us, we can choose to complain and fuss about it, or we can ask God to relieve our adversity. When He does relieve our adversity, we can choose to accept that and simply go on, or we can thank God and appreciate His mercy. We can choose to learn from the experience and thus grow our souls.

When someone treats us unfairly or badly, we can respond in kind, or we can choose to forgive the action and try to be understanding of the circumstances. We can turn to God and ask Him to help us be more patient, kind and humble. If you react to the negative situation with anger, frustration or animosity, it never makes you feel better (except maybe for just a moment of self-righteous satisfaction: "I showed you!"), and it very rarely helps the situation. It usually just makes it worse. So, now you're in a negative situation which is causing you discomfort and you've added to it by losing your temper and lashing out at someone else. Guilt is now piled on top. As the song says: "You make it double."

Every day our lives are loaded with decisions to make. The single most important one is whether we will worship God alone, follow His commandments, and strive in His cause, or listen to the whispers of our most ardent enemy, Satan. And the beautiful thing is that if we choose correctly here, every other decision is a piece of cake.

[19:76] GOD augments the guidance of those who choose to be guided. For the good deeds are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and bring far better returns.

[17:19] As for those who choose the Here-

after as their priority, and work righteousness, while believing, their efforts will be appreciated.

[16:97] Anyone who works righteousness, male or female, while believing, we will surely grant them a happy life in this world, and we will surely pay them their full recompense (on the Day of Judgment) for their righteous works.

But it's not a one-time decision and it's done. We can't just say, "I believe in God alone," and think that we're saved. We are constantly faced with making the correct decision, the decision not to worry, to be happy. Distractions are everywhere.

[9:24] Proclaim: "If your parents, your children, your siblings, your spouses, your family, the money you have earned, a business you worry about, and the homes you cherish are more beloved to you than GOD and His messenger, and the striving in His cause, then just wait until GOD brings His judgment." GOD does not guide the wicked people.

[7:175] Recite for them the news of one who was given our proofs, but chose to disregard them. Consequently, the devil pursued him, until he became a strayer.

[10:101] Say, "Look at all the signs in the heavens and the earth." All the proofs and all the warnings can never help people who decided to disbelieve.

In the New Testament, Matthew 6:31-34 Jesus says: *Stop worrying, then over questions like, 'what are we to eat, or what are we to drink, or what are we to wear?' The unbelievers are always running after these things. Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides. Enough, then, of worrying about tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.*

The Quran gives us the same advice:

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[20:130] *Therefore, be patient in the face of their utterances, and praise and glorify your Lord before sunrise and before sunset. And during the night glorify Him, as well as at both ends of the day, that you may be happy.*

Happiness: Now and Forever

[10:62-4] *Absolutely, GOD's allies have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. They are those who believe and lead a righteous life. For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is GOD's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph.*

So why worry? Why be angry or hurt or negative? If we choose God in every situation, He will bring us through it calmer and more confident, stronger in our submission, and happier in our lives. As Jesus said, we don't need to worry about tomorrow. Today is enough. And then there's this thought: Today is just the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

With God, the true tomorrow is Heaven, and if we choose that path, God promises us: [32:17] *You have no idea how much joy and happiness are waiting for you as a reward for your (righteous) works.*

Lydia

Questions

[This circulated on the Internet and is just food for thought. God won't have to ask us anything. He will show us our record and we will be our own judge (75:13-5). On the other hand, 16:93 says: ... You will surely be asked about everything you have done.]

God won't ask what kind of car you drove; He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house; He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived; He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the fancy clothes in your closet; He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was; He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it. God won't ask what your job title was; He'll ask if you gave full measure and performed your job honestly.

God won't ask about the color of your skin; He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation. If you worship Him alone, He'll graciously and lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

God Willing

36th Annual Conference
United Submitters
September 3-5, 2021
Chicago, Illinois



God willing, the annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Chicago IL, on September 3-5. It is an opportunity to remember God, increase our knowledge and meet our brethren in faith (3:191-194, 18:28, 58:11, 49:10).

Registration and hotel details are available online at:
www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/

As usual, attendance will be by invitation only. To help us organize a successful conference—and God has always been generous and gracious towards us—please let us know of your plans as soon as you know. For questions or information please email: info@masjiduntucson.org.