9832 - University student confronted with some kinds of bid’ah

the question

I currently attend a large University in America(University of Maryland). I have met many muslims with strange views while here. Some believe Allah has no hands, which really mean power, some believe Allah is everywhere, some believe that Abu Baker and Omar are Kafirs(Raafidah's). My question is how do I deal with these people when I have shown them the evidence in Quran and Sunna that goes against these deviant beliefs but they don't listen to me. Should I not pray behind or with these people when I often find myself having no Khooshu and I can't concentrate on Allah because I keep thinking about their deviancy. Do I still continue to Salam them and talk with them about other things instead of Islam? Please respond soon, for I am a student and I am faced with this everyday and I am tensed and don't know what to do.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

We advise you to learn Islam and ‘aqeedah (belief, tenets of faith) from the Qur’aan and Sunnah, and from the books of the salaf (early generations) of this ummah. You should read the books of ‘aqeedah written by the earliest generations, such as al-Sunnah by Imaam Ahmad and his son ‘Abd-Allaah; al-Sunnah by Abu ‘Aasim; al-Eemaan by Ibn Abi Shaybah, and other books written by the scholars who did not join or take sides with any group or sect, but rather relied on the clear evidence (daleel) and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). Undoubtedly the beliefs that you refer to in your question are bid’ah, for these people deny the attributes of Allaah such as His having a hand; they interpret it as meaning strength or power, despite that fact that Allaah has affirmed that He has a hand which is as He wills. They claim that Allaah is everywhere, denying the aayahs which speak of His istiwaa’ (rising above the Throne) and being high and exalted, etc. And the Raafidis describe the Sahaabah as being kaafirs. All of these people are innovators (followers of bid’ah) and there is no evidence (daleel) for their bid’ah.

We advise you to keep away from people like these if they cannot be convinced. You should strive to convince them and to show them books of salafi ‘aqeedah and the books which discuss the dubious arguments of those innovators, such as the books of ‘Uthmaan ibn Sa’eed al-Daarimi, who wrote two books refuting the Jahamiyyah and others. If they are not persuaded, then keep away from them and do not pray behind them; stay with people who follow the salafi ‘aqeedah.