

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

22237 - Conditions of righteous deeds

the question

What are the conditions which must be met for a deed to be righteous?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Shaykh al-Shanqeeti said:

What is meant in the aayah

“...who do righteous deeds...”

[al-Kahf 18:2 - interpretation of the meaning]

is explained in other aayahs which indicate that a deed cannot be righteous unless it meets three conditions:

1 - It must be done in accordance with that which was brought by the Prophet SAWS (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). Every action that goes against that which was brought by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is not righteous, rather it is false. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad) gives you, take it”

[al-Hashr 59:7]

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“He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad), has indeed obeyed Allaah”

[al-Nisa’ 4:10]

“Or have they partners with Allaah (false gods) who have instituted for them a religion which Allaah has not ordained?”

[al-Shoora 42:21]

and there are many similar aayahs.

2 - The one who does it must be sincere in his intention towards Allaah. Allaah says (interpretation of the meanings):

“And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him)”

[al-Bayyinah :5]

“Say (O Muhammad): ‘Verily, I am commanded to worship Allaah (Alone) by obeying Him and doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake only.

And I am commanded (this) in order that I may be the first of those who submit themselves to Allaah (in Islam) as Muslims.’

Say (O Muhammad): ‘Verily, if I disobey my Lord, I am afraid of the torment of a great Day.’

Say (O Muhammad): ‘Allaah Alone I worship by doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake only (and not to show off, and not to set up rivals with Him in worship).’

So worship what you like besides Him”

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[al-Zumar 39:11-15]

and there are many similar aayahs.

3 - It must be done on the basis of faith and sound belief, because the action is the roof and the belief ('aqeedah) is the foundation. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Whoever works righteousness — whether male or female — while he (or she) is a true believer...”

[al-Nahl 16:97]

So faith is described as the prerequisite for that.

The concept of this prerequisite is explained in many places, such as when Allaah describes the actions of non-believers:

“And We shall turn to whatever deeds they (disbelievers, polytheists, sinners) did, and We shall make such deeds as scattered floating particles of dust”

[al-Furqaan 25:23]

“their [disbelievers'] deeds are like a mirage in a desert”

[al-Noor 24:39]

“their [disbelievers'] works are as ashes, on which the wind blows furiously on a stormy day”

[Ibraaheem 14:18]

and there are many similar aayahs as explained above.