2431 - How can we increase the love of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) in our hearts?

the question

How can one develop in their heart love of Prophet Muhammad more than anything else in the
world?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The strength of love for the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is connected
to the Muslim’s faith. When his faith increases, his love for the Prophet (peace and blessings of
Allaah be upon him) increases. Loving the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is
an act of obedience to Allaah and a means of drawing closer to Him. Loving the Prophet (peace
and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is one of the obligatory duties in Islam.

It was narrated that Anas said: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:
“None of you truly believes until I am more beloved to him than his father, his child and all the
people.” (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 15; Muslim, 44)

You can increase your love of the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) by
realizing the following:

Firstly: he was sent by his Lord who chose him above all of creation to convey the religion of Allaah
to mankind. Allaah chose him because He loved him and was pleased with him. If Allaah were not
pleased with him, He would not have chosen him. So we must love the one whom Allaah loves and
be pleased with the one with whom Allaah is pleased. We must realize that he is the close friend
(khaleel) of Allaah and that close friendship is a higher status and it is the highest degree of love.

It was narrated that Jundub said: I heard the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) say: “I declare before Allaah that I have no close friend (khaleel) from among you. Allaah has taken me as a close friend as he took Ibraaheem as a close friend. If I were to have taken a close friend from among my ummah, I would have taken Abu Bakr as a close friend.”

(Narrated by Muslim, 532).

Secondly:

We should realize the high status to which Allaah has raised him, for he (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is the best of mankind.

It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “I will be the leader of mankind of the Day of Resurrection, the first whose grave will be opened, the first to intercede and the first to be asked to intercede.”

(Narrated by Muslim, 2278)

Thirdly:

We should realize that he suffered trials and difficulties in order to bring Islam to us. We should remember that the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) was persecuted, hit, slandered and insulted; the closest people to him disowned him and accused him of being a madman, a liar and a sorcerer. He fought the people in order to protect the religion so that it could reach us; they fought him, expelled him from his people and homeland, and gathered armies against him.

Fourthly:
We should follow the example of his companions who loved him deeply. They loved him more than wealth and sons, and more than their own selves. There follow some examples of that:

It was narrated that Anas said: I saw the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) when the barber was cutting his hair and his companions were going around him wanting to ensure that his hair would fall only into someone’s hand.

Narrated by Muslim, 2325

It was narrated that Anas (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: “On the Day of Uhud some of the people fled and left the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), but Abu Talhah stood before him covering him with a shield. Abu Talhah was a powerful archer who broke two or three bows that day. When a man passed by carrying a quiver containing arrows, he would say: Give them to Abu Talhah. Whenever the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) raised his head to look at the people, Abu Talhah would say: O Prophet of Allaah, may my father and my mother be sacrificed for you, do not raise your head lest you be struck by an arrow shot by the enemy. My neck is before your neck.”

(Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 3600; Muslim, 1811)

Fifthly:

You should follow his Sunnah in word and deed, so that his Sunnah is the path you follow in your whole life, and you put his words before any other words and put his command before everything else; and you should follow the ‘aqeedah (belief) of his noble Companions, and the ‘aqeedah of the Taabi’een who followed them, and the ‘aqeedah of those who followed their path until the present day, namely Ahl al-Sunnah wa’l-Jamaa’ah, and avoid bid’ah (innovation), especially the Raafidis (Shi’ah), for their hearts are hardened against the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and they give their imams precedence over him and love them more than
they love him.

We ask Allaah to help us to love His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and to make him dearer to us than our children, parents, families and our own selves.

And Allaah knows best.