

Introduction - Section III:

Introduction to 'Amilu Salih:

I. 'Amilu Salih - 2nd condition for success outlined in Surat al-Asr.

II. Linguistic analysis:

A. 'Amilu vs. fi'il:

1. fi'il: any activity or action, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether requiring any effort or not.
2. 'Amil: any voluntary action, with a purpose, and requires effort. Becomes tiresome for the person.
 - a. Surat al-Ghashi'at: 'amilatun nasia'at -tiresome work, entails hard work and effort.

B. Salaha - something which has the potential for progress, thriving, improvement. Something useful, productive, appropriate.

C. 'Amilu Salih: effort, endeavor, labor needed to do the following:

1. Build the healthy human personality. Build character of human individual so that he/she reaches potential
2. Healthy Family life - basic social unit. Man & woman join together and form a family.
3. Build a healthy society - concept of social values differs significantly across different cultures/societies.
What is the concept of social values and social evils which must be eradicated.
4. Establish a healthy and just social order - keep the Muslim umma united and strong.

D. Note: Effort starts from the individual. If the individuals are strong, the society will be strong. But if the individuals are impulsive and corrupt, then the society will reflect this.

E. Now, we limit 'Amilu Salih to the rituals of worship (salat, zakat, saum, etc). Originally, when wahi started coming, there was no salat, no zakat, no saum (15 years there was no saum), no haram. But the 'amilu salih was there - strengthening of the character of the Muslims - from the very beginning (Surat al-Asr was one of the earliest revelations).

1. Need to rethink our basic terminology of the Qur'an b/c our concepts will ultimately come from the basic terminology.
2. Ayat #10 - Surat al-Fatih: memorize it! - comprehensive ayat with deep philosophical significance.
 - a. Kalimu tayib: What you are believing, should be correct - sound thinking, correct philosophy/ideology. If the thought/beliefs/ideology are correct, can potentially reach to Allah.
 - b. Also need the 'amilu salih - needs effort to propogate it. Muhammad (SAWS) had to go through hard effort. After 10 years of the hardest effort, only 150 people accepted the Message of Muhammad (SAWS).
 - c. Correct thought + hard labor -> leads toward Allah.
 - i. Hard labor to build the human character, strong family life, healthy society, just social order.