

Conditions of the testimony of faith

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Muslims believe that stating the testimony of faith has certain conditions, such as saying it with sincerity. What are these conditions?

ANSWER:

It is clearly not enough to say the testimony of faith – that there is none truly of worship except Allaah alone, and that Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him) is the final Messenger - without believing it or understanding what you are saying.

However Muslim scholars of the past have mentioned that other conditions must be fulfilled in order for the testimony to be valid, rather than just mere words which are just stated on the tongue.

These conditions include the following:

The person should have **knowledge** of what they are saying: that the testimony of faith affirms the right of Allaah to be worshipped and negates that anyone or anything else should be worshipped.

The person should be **certain** that they really mean what they are saying and that they don't harbour doubts and suspicions afterwards.

The person should be **sincere** and **true** in what they are saying, and not just stating it on their tongue whilst rejecting it in their heart.

The person should **love** what he is saying and have love for Allaah and all his Prophets, as well as loving the people who love them.

The person should have **submission** to Allaah and **accept** happily what Islam decrees and asks of a person.