

What should be the intention behind seeking knowledge?

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How to purify the intention when seeking knowledge?

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Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to having the correct niyyah (intention) when seeking knowledge, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ states:

And the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² said:

“Whomever Allaah intends good for, He grants him fiqh (understanding) of the Religion.”³

So if Allaah bestows fiqh of your religion upon you – and what is meant by fiqh (understanding) here is knowledge of the Legislation, so this includes knowledge of the issues of 'Aqeedah and Tawheed and other than that – so if you see that Allaah has blessed you with this, then receive glad tidings of good because Allaah, the Most High, wished good for you.

And Imaam Ahmad said:

Al 'ilm (knowledge) – nothing is equal to it, for the person who makes his niyyah correct.

They said:

How is the niyyah made correct, O Aboo 'Abdillaah?

He said:

(The person) has as his intention, removing ignorance from himself and from other than himself.

(Sharh hilyah taalib il 'ilm p13 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ))

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ Reported by al Bukhaaree (71), Muslim and others from the hadeeth of Mu'aawiyyah (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him