

## Sources of Islam

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**QUESTION: What are the sources of Islam? Where do Muslims take their beliefs from?**

**ANSWER:**

Islamic beliefs are taken from **two sources**.<sup>1</sup>

The first source is the **Qur'aan**.

The second is the **Sunnah** of Muhammad (may Allaah's peace and blessing be upon him).

The Sunnah refers to his statements, his actions, his approvals (meaning those things which were done in his presence and he did not object to) and those things that he abandoned.

These two sources need to be understood in the correct way.

Many different people, both Muslims and non Muslims, quote from these two sources to justify their own opinions.

So what is the correct way?

It is the understanding of the early generations of the Muslims, in particular the Companions of Muhammad (may Allaah's peace and blessing be upon him).

The Companions lived with him and were able to ask him questions about any matter that was unclear to them.

So they had the clearest and most correct understanding of any of the Muslims that have lived since the time of Muhammad (may Allaah's peace and blessing be upon him).

They are the 'gold standard' that Muslims should refer to, when trying to find out 'what does this verse mean? What does this statement of the Prophet (may Allaah's peace and blessing be upon him) actually refer to?'

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to '*Aqeedah ut Tawheed* p11 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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Sadly, Muslims have seen much argumentation and splitting over the last 1400 years.

Yet this is something that is forbidden and condemned in Islam, since this leads to weakening of the Muslims, spilling of innocent blood and also foreign beliefs and practices coming into Islam.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

**And hold fast all of you together to the Rope of Allaah (the Qur'aan) and do not split apart from each other.**

[Surah 3 (Aal-Imraan) ayah 103]

It is notable that we do not see this fighting and splitting during the earliest years of Islam.

Although there may have been minor differences of opinion about certain issues, the Companions were united in their beliefs about Allaah, the Angels, etc – those things which are referred to as being a part of 'aqeedah'.