

## Tawheed Basics 12

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

Compiled by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Checked by Aboo Talhah Daawood Burbank (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Muslims believe that Allaah's Names and Attributes are *tawqeefiyyah* – an Arabic word meaning that the Names and Attributes are taken only from:

- 1) The Qur'aan and/or
- 2) The Sunnah (the statements of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)).

One of the famous Islamic scholars of the earliest times, Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal said:

'Allaah may not be described except with what He has described His own Self with, or what His Messenger has described Him with. This cannot go beyond the Qur'aan and the hadeeth.'

It is easy to find where the Names of Allaah are mentioned in the Qur'aan or the authentic hadeeths but some people may not be so sure about what constitutes an Attribute.

Attributes of Allaah are established in one of three ways:

- 1) The Attribute is clearly mentioned – such as when Allaah in the Qur'aan mentions His Strength, or His Face.
- 2) The Attribute is derived from one of His Names – such as the Attribute of Forgiveness which is derived from Allaah's Name al Ghafoor (the Oft Forgiving)
- 3) The Attribute is directly understood from an Action or Description that occurs in the Qur'aan or the Sunnah - such as the Attribute of Retribution for the acts of the Criminals – this Attribute can be derived from the following verse where the Qur'aan states:

**Indeed We will get retribution from the criminals.**

[Soorah as Sajdah (the 32nd chapter) aayah 22]

So it was seen that this is a field where people's opinions count for nothing if there is no evidence from the Qur'aan and hadeeths to back up what they say.