

Tawheed ul ulooheeyah 1

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Why should Tawheed ul uloohiyah (singling Allaah out in matters of worship) be the first thing that the Prophets called to?

Why so much emphasis on this one part of Islam?

ANSWER:

Muslims believe that this right of Allaah to have all worship directed towards Him alone is the foundation of a person's Islam.

Every single other aspect of Islam is built upon this.¹

The Qur'aan states:

If you join others in worship together with Allaah, then indeed all your (good) actions will be nullified; and you will certainly be among the losers.

[Soorah Az Zumar (the 39th surah) ayah 65]

And it is also stated:

Indeed Allaah does not forgive that partners be associated with Him; but He forgives lesser (sins) than that for whomsoever He wishes.

[Soorah an Nisaa (the 4th Surah) ayah 116]

If a person dies upon shirk (associating partners with Allaah) without repenting from it, then Allaah will not forgive him/her – even though He may forgive other sins that a person comes with on the Day of Judgement.

So this is why it was the priority for all the Prophets whether it was Jesus, Moses, Muhammad, Abraham (peace and blessing be upon them all) or any Prophet other than them. All the Prophets came with the same 'Aqeedah (beliefs).

¹ Refer to 'Aqeedah ut Tawheed p48 to 49 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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So for this reason we see that the first step in becoming a Muslim is to state that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah – in Arabic, ‘laa ilaha ill Allaah’.

As a further example of its importance, we see that the Qur’aan mentions in numerous places those matters which Allaah has made obligatory – and He mentions Tawheed ul uloohiyah as the first in the list each time.

Worship Allaah alone and associate none with Him in worship, and be good to parents....

[Soorah an Nisaa (the 4th chapter) verse 36]

And your Lord has ordained that you worship none except Him alone, and that you do good to your parents...

[Soorah al Israa (the 17th chapter) verse 23]

And there are many examples of this that could be quoted.

So Muslims give emphasis to this aspect of belief because it is the foundation of everything in Islam.