

Fundamentals of Faith 6 - Belief in the Messengers

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The Messengers are sent to deliver a Message. They are the ones to whom Allaah has sent down revelation and who conveys His Law to mankind. Allaah ordered them to deliver these Messages.

The first Messenger to be sent was Noah and the last one was Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). Allaah said, what translated means, **“Verily, We have inspired you (O Muhammad) as We inspired Noah and the Prophets after him.”** [4:163]. Anas ibn Maalik (May Allaah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, during his Hadeeth about Shafa’ah (the right of intercession on mankind’s behalf that Allaah grants to His Messenger on the Last Day), **“Mankind will come to Aadam to intercede on their behalf but he will decline, saying: ‘Go to Noah, the First Messenger that Allaah sent...’¹**. Also, Allaah said, what translated means, **“Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allaah, and the Last (end) of Prophets.”** [33:40].

Allaah sent Messengers to every nation and provided them with Laws that their nations must follow. Some Messengers were sent to revive a Message of a previous Messenger. Allaah said, what translated means, **“And verily, We have sent among every nation a Messenger (proclaiming): ‘Worship Allaah (alone), and avoid all Taghoot (false deities).’** [16:36], **“And there never was a nation but a warner had passed among them).”** [35:24] and, **“Verily, We did send down the Torah (to Moses), therein was guidance and light, by which the Prophets, who submitted themselves to Allaah’s will, judged the Jews.”** [5:44].

The Messengers are only humans and they do not possess any attributes that qualify them to be gods. Allaah described His Messenger, Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), the master of all Messengers and the best of mankind, saying, what translated means, **“Say (O Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him): ‘I possess no power of benefit or harm to myself except as Allaah will. If I had the knowledge of the Unseen, I should have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil should have touched me. I am but a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings unto people who believe.’** [7:188] and, **“Say (O Muhammad): ‘It is not in my power to cause you harm, or to bring you**

¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree

to the Right Path.” Say: (O Muhammad): **“None can protect me from Allaah ‘s punishment (if I were to disobey Him), nor should I find refuge except in Him.”** [72:21].

The Messengers are only humans. They get sick and they die, they need to eat and drink and they have other human needs. Abraham described his Lord, saying, as was mentioned in the Qur’aan, **“And it is He Who feeds me and gives me to drink And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me; And Who will cause me to die, and then will bring me to life (again).”** [26: 79-81]. Also, the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, what translated means, **“I am only human, just like you, I forget as you forget, therefore, when I forget, remind me.”**²

Allaah described the Messengers, while praising them, that they reached the highest attainable degrees in worshipping Him. He said about Noah, what translated means, **“Verily, he was a grateful slave.”** [17:3], and about Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), **“Blessed be He Who sent down the Criterion (of right and wrong, this Qur’aan) to His slave (Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) that he may be a Warner to the ‘Alamin (Mankind and the Jinn).”** [25:1], and about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, **“And remember Our slaves, Abraham Isaac and Jacob, (all) owners of strength (in worshipping Us) and (also) of religious understanding. Verily, We did choose them by granting them the Remembrance of the home (in the Hereafter). And they are in Our Sight, verily, of the Chosen and the Best.”** [38:45-47], and about Jesus, **“He was not more than a slave. We granted Our favour to him, and We made him an example to the Children of Israel.”** [43:59].

Belief In The Messengers Has Four Parts

1. To believe that the Messages are truly from Allaah. Whoever disbelieves in one Messenger, will have disbelieved in all Messengers. Allaah said, what translated means, **“The people of Noah belied the Messengers.”** [26:105]. Allaah considered the people of Noah disbelievers in all Messengers, although they only disbelieved in one Messenger. Therefore, the Christians, who disbelieve in Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and do not follow him, are disbelievers in Jesus, the Son of Mary. Jesus gave the glad tidings of the coming of Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) to the Christians. This glad tidings will be of no benefit to the Christians if they do not follow Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) to guidance and the Straight Path.

2. To believe in the Messengers whom we were told about, like Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Noah (Peace be upon them). These are the five strongest Messengers. Allaah mentioned them in two verses of the Qur’aan, **“And (remember) when We took from the Prophets their Covenant, and from you (O Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)), and from Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, son of Mary.”** [33:7] and, **“He (Allaah) has ordained for you the same**

² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

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Religion (Islam) which He ordained for Noah, and that which We have inspired in you (O Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)), and that which We ordained for Abraham, Moses and Jesus, saying you should establish Religion (by implementing the Commandments) and make no divisions in it.” [42:13]. We must also believe in all other Messengers and Prophets whom their names were not mentioned to us, “And, indeed We have sent Messengers before you (O Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)), of them some We have related to you their story and some We have not related to you their story.” [40:78].

3. To believe in all what the Messengers have conveyed to us.
4. To implement the Laws of the Messenger who was sent to us, Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), the final Messenger. Allaah sent Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) to all mankind, **“But no, by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission.” [4:65].**

Benefits Of Believing In The Messengers

1. Knowing how Allaah takes care of His slaves by sending them Messengers to guide them to His Path. The Messengers teach their nations how to worship Allaah, because the human mind cannot know how Allaah should be worshipped without guidance from Him.
2. Thanking Allaah for this great bounty.
3. Dutifully loving, respecting and praising the Messengers of Allaah. They are Allaah’s Messengers; they worshipped Him, conveyed His Message and gave the best advice to His slaves.

Many rebellious people rejected their Messengers, claiming that Allaah’s Messengers cannot be human. Allaah mentioned this claim and refuted it, **“And nothing prevented men from believing when the Guidance came to them, except that they said: “Has Allaah sent a man as (His) Messenger?” Say: “If there were on the earth, angels walking about, in peace and security, We should certainly have sent down for them from the heaven an angel as a Messenger.”” [17:94- 95].** Allaah refuted this claim, saying that the Messengers must be sent from among humans, because they are sent to the people of earth, who are humans. If the inhabitants of earth were angels, then Allaah would have sent Messengers from among the angels to them. Allaah mentioned what the disbelievers in the Messengers said, **“You are no more than, human beings like us! You wish to turn us away from what our fathers used to worship. Then bring us a clear authority (a clear sign that supports what you say).”** Their Messengers said to them: **“We are no more than human beings like you, but Allaah bestows His grace to whom He will of His salves. it is not ours to bring you an authority (proof) except by the permission of Allaah.” [14:10-11]**