

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

They say, "Since 1990, there has been a guide from such and such global organization that serves as a guide for countries to enable their people to have more prosperous lives, take into account many parameters such as education, health and income and make comparisons between them". We say to them: Imaam Abdul Azeez Bin Baaz [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said:

The causes of weakness, lack of progress and being dominated by the enemies are due to many reasons. And there emerges many factors from one factor, and this one reason and factor is being ignorant about Allaah, the religion He has ordained and the end results (of this ignorance) that has seized the majority, so knowledge became little and ignorance became rife. Affairs arose out of this ignorance, including (blameworthy) love of the worldly life and hatred of death; negligence towards the (obligatory) prayers and following (evil) desires; lack of preparation for the enemy, being pleased with acquiring their needs from their enemy, and lack of high aspiration to cater for their needs from their country and resources. Also splitting and differing resulted from this ignorance- an absence of (sound) unity, togetherness and cooperation.

This shows that the greatest cause of weakness is due to being ignorant about Allaah, ignorant about the religion ordained by Allaah and those realities which one is obligated to adhere to and take into account, and that is the statement of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] in the authentic narration: "If Allaah wishes good for a person, He gives them understanding in the religion". Alongside this narration with the verses of the Qur'aan and other narrations, all of them show the filth of ignorance, its consequences and end results; rather the Noble Qur'an is filled with disapproval of ignorance and its people, and warning against them, as Allaah [The Exalted] said:

[وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ] – And most of them have no understanding], as well as other verses of the Qur'aan that dispraises being ignorant about Allaah and the religion He has ordained, being ignorant about the enemy and that which is obligated (on the Muslims) to prepare in terms of alertness, (sound) unity and cooperation.

And from this ignorance occurred splitting, (blameworthy) differing, inclining towards (evil) desires, negligence towards the prayer, neglecting what Allaah has obligated, lack of giving precedence to the Afterlife and not truthfully associating oneself with it; rather the majority does not give concern except to this present worldly life, just as Allaah said:

كَلَّا بَلْ تُحِبُّونَ الْعَاجِلَةَ

وَتَذُرُونَ الْآخِرَةَ

But (you men) love the present life of this world and leave (neglect) the Hereafter. [Surah Al-Qiyaamah. 21-22]

And just Allaah [The Exalted] said:

فَأَمَّا مَنْ ظَعَى

وَأَتَرَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا

فَإِنَّ الْجَحِيمَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَى

Then, for him who transgressed all bounds and preferred the life of this world (by following his evil desires and lusts), verily, his abode will be Hell-fire. [Surah An-Naazi'aat. 37-39]

Therefore, the statement of the Messenger [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him], "If Allaah wishes good for a person, He gives them understanding in the religion" shows that one of the signs of goodness and happiness for the individual, the people and the state is that they seek understanding in the religion, because seeking understanding in the religion, learning and insight into what is obligated on them – at present and later – is one of the most obligatory duties, and in this is a sign that Allaah wishes good for them. And part of that – alongside making preparations for the enemy – is fulfilment of what Allaah has obligated, keeping away from what Allaah has made unlawful and confining oneself within the boundaries of Allaah's ordainments.

Amongst the dangerous causes (of weakness)- their (bitter) fruits and what they necessitate – is that which has occurred in terms of weakness in the presence of the enemy and being delayed in everything – except what Allaah wills; inclining towards forbidden desires, preoccupation with what hinders from the path of Allaah and guidance, lack of preparation for the enemy in the arena of industry, not having sufficient weaponry that frightens the enemy, to help fight him, strive against him in Jihaad, taking one's rights from him, not preparing the bodies for jihad and not spending money in what is obligatory (or befitting) to prepare for the enemy, guard against his evil, defend the religion and the homeland. The preparation is weak or non-existent and the goals are skewed, except that which Allaah wills.

Therefore, the path of success, the path of progress against the enemies and the absence of weakness in front of them, the path of prosperity and success, the path to obtaining lofty status and the lofty things that are to be sought after, victory over the enemies- the path to all of this is to embrace beneficial knowledge and sound understanding in the religion, give precedence to Allaah's pleasure over His displeasure, give close attention to what Allaah has obligated, abandon what Allaah has made unlawful and truthful repentance to Allaah from one's sins and shortcomings.

Also there should be industry in the Muslim countries, preparation and strength that will enable every individual through every means, so that he has no need of the enemy – until the enemy knows what he has of preparation and talent, and so that the enemy is afraid of him, treats him fairly and gives him his rights. The bodies are to be prepared and should refrain from over-indulging in that type of luxury that will weaken strength and the hearts when required to fight the enemy, and so that one has strength to perform Jihaad. There should be full cooperation

between the state and the people on what is required of obedience to Allaah and His Messenger, refraining from what Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] has forbidden and also cooperating on what is required to make preparations, just as Allaah [The Exalted] said: [وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ – And make ready against them all you can of power]. [Surah Al-Anfaal. Aayah 60]

It is necessary to prepare physically – prepare equipment (of defense and war), and other types of equipment in all respects so that we can suffice with what Allaah [Glorified be He] has given us and not to be in need of what our enemies have, because fighting our enemies with what they have in their hands is very difficult to obtain. If the enemy prevents you from acquiring weapons, then what do you fight with alongside poor insight and little knowledge? It is necessary to prepare what is possible, and what is possible is sufficient as long as the Muslims intend to do without their enemy, fight their enemy, save their country, intending to establish the command of Allaah in the land, and intending (to gain reward) in the Afterlife as much as they can, because indeed Allaah [Glorified and Exalted be He] says: [وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ – And make ready against them all you can of power], but Allaah did not say, "And make ready against them that which is equal to their power", because that might not be possible to achieve.

If the Muslims are sincere, join hands, prepare for their enemy with as much as equipment they can and support the religion ordained by Allaah, then indeed Allaah [Glorified and Exalted be He] will support them, place them in front and above the enemy, and not under the enemy. Allaah – the One who is truthful in His speech and promise – said:

[يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ] – O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allah, He will help you, and make your foothold firm].

Allaah is neither unable nor in need of the people, but He puts His good servants to trial by way of the evil ones, so that the truthfulness of the truthful ones is distinguished from the lies of the liars, the one who truly strives in the path of Allaah is distinguished from others, and the one desirous of safety (in this life and the next) is distinguished from others. This is the reason, otherwise Allaah is able to aid His allies and destroy His enemies without war- without the need for Jihad, preparation and other things, as He [Glorified be He] says: [ذَلِكَ وَلَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ لَانْتَصَرَ مِنْهُمْ] – but if it had been Allah's Will, He Himself could certainly have punished them (without you). But (He lets you fight), in order to test you, some with others]. [Surah Muhammad. Aayah 4] [Ref 1]

Saudi King Abdul Azeez [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said: O Muslims! It is obligatory that we hold onto the Rope of Allaah (i.e. the Qur'aan), follow the Sunnah of Allaah's Messenger Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him], follow the guidance of the Messenger, act on Allaah's orders and keep away from what Allaah has forbidden. Indeed, every speech that is not followed by action is false. There can be no rectification for the Muslims except through their unity in singling out their Lord in [His Lordship, Names and Attributes and worshipping Him alone and associate none to Him as a partner in Worship]. (And with regards to) every differing

that leads to splitting and division, the Religion commands us to hold onto Allaah's Sharee'ah, enjoin one another with the truth and patience, just as Allaah [The Most High] commanded us in the Qur'aan. We should be truly acquainted with our Lord and seek His Aid and Assistance. We do not fear except the (consequences of) our sins and it is obligated on the Muslims to follow Allaah's Religion and obey all that Allaah has ordered- practically. In this is the (means of) rectifying their worldly affairs and the upright establishment of all their (other) affairs. [Ref 2]

Saudi King Abdul Azeez Bin Abdir-Rahmaan [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said: The foundation of the Islamic Creed is the Book of Allaah, the Sunnah of His Messenger (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wasallam) and that which the companions of Muhammad (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wasallam) were upon; then the pious predecessors after them, and then after them the four Imaams of the Muslims, Imaam Maalik, Imaam Shaafi'ee, Imaam Ahmad and Imaam Aboo Haneefah. The creed of these people is one in the foundation of the religion, and that is the three categories of Tawheed: The Oneness of Allaah in His Lordship, the Oneness of Allaah in that He (alone) has the right to be worshipped and His Oneness in His Names and Attributes. [Ref 3]

Saudi King Faysal Bin Abdul Azeez [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said: "Our religion Islaam is the correct Religion, which falsehood can neither approach in front or behind it. And we refute the one who claims that there is neither social organization nor economics and cultivation within it". "We are callers to the word of Allaah [i.e. none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah]. We are callers so that the Religion of Allaah becomes dominant over everything else and we are not harmed by those who fabricate lies against us with that which we do not intend. Our orientation is clear". "If we wish to be nurtured upon goodness in everything- in the religious and worldly affairs; then it is obligated on us to hold unto this belief (of the pious predecessors), and that we follow that which Allaah revealed through the tongue of His Messenger (i.e. the Qur'aan) and to that which His Messenger commanded. And with this, we are guaranteed a good life for ourselves, nobility and protection, and honor only comes from Allaah. Allaah said:

إِنَّا لَنَنْصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فِي الْحَيٰوةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ يَقُومُ الۡاَشْهَادُ

Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah Islamic Monotheism) in this world's life and on the Day when the witnesses will stand forth, (i.e. Day of Resurrection)]. [Soorah Ghaafir Ayah: 51].

And Allaah (The Most High) said: [وَكَانَ حَقًّا عَلَيْنَا نَصْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ] – And (as for) the believers it was incumbent upon Us to help (them)]. [Soorah Ar-Rum. Aayah 47]

However, the most important affair in this is that we (strive to be) true believers. So if we are true believers, then by the Might of Allaah we will be guaranteed help, safety and security, ease and nobility for us and our society. [Ref 4]

Saudi King Abdul Azeez [may Allaah have mercy upon him] stated: Indeed, we do not seek after the revival (or reformation) that will deprive us of our (sound) religion and creed; rather we seek after the pleasure of Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic]. Whoever acts to seek the pleasure of

Allaah, then indeed Allaah will suffice him and will be his Helper. The Muslims are not in need due to lack of reformation, rather they are in need of returning to that which the Salafus Saaleh [pious predecessors] were upon. Indeed, they distanced (themselves) from acting on that which has been revealed in the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of Allaah's Messenger, then they became immersed in evil and sins; so Allaah forsook them and thus they got to this situation – humiliation and degradation. Had they adhered to the book of Allaah and the Sunnah of Allaah's Messenger, they would not have been afflicted with what has afflicted them – trials and sins– and they would not have lost their honor and (days of) glory. [Ref 5]

NB: We remind ourselves of the fact that king Abdul Azeez [may Allaah have mercy upon him] is pointing out the reason behind the weakness of the Ummah, but his observations neither calls for pessimism nor hopelessness and despair, rather it is a clarification of the main reason that led us to this state of affairs. However, guidance will remain until the hour is established, as Shaikh Saaleh Al-

Al-Allaamah Saaleh Al-Fawzaan [may Allaah preserve him] said: (A person) should not lose hope when trials and evil increases. Indeed, he has to remain upon tranquility and should make others tranquil when trials occur, and he should say: "All Praise is due to Allaah, we are upon guidance and a clear Religion. Solace is close by and evil will cease to exist by the permission of Allaah" This is what is incumbent upon THE PEOPLE OF GOOD AND THE SCHOLARS–that they have tranquility and make the people tranquil; because this (EVIL) is something that will cease to exist by the permission of Allaah and solace will come after it. It is not permissible for a person to say: "the people are destroyed." This is not permissible; rather (a person) should make the people tranquil, firm upon goodness, whilst expecting assistance, for indeed the good end is for the people of piety. Therefore, no matter how great the evil and trial is, it will cease to exist. He (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wasallam) said: "A group of my followers will remain manifest upon the truth. They will neither be harmed by those who forsake them nor by those who oppose them till Allaah's command arrives." [i.e. the day of judgement] [Bukhari and Muslim]

Therefore, Islaam will not cease to continue and all praise be to Allaah. The Religion and the Qur'aan will not cease to exist until that appointed time which the prophet (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wasallam) has informed us of – that at the end of time the Qur'aan will be taken away from the hearts of men and from the masaahif (i.e. the copies of the Qur'aan); but this will be at the time of the destruction of the world. (However) good will continue to exist whilst the Qur'an, the Sunnah and the Qiblah are present, even though there is one who is led away from it and becomes misguided; and even though there is one who deviates from it and becomes deviated, as the saying goes: "Fitnah has its victims". It takes away the one who goes with it; but the people of Eemaan will remain even if they are small in number. Even if there is one who goes along with the Fitnah, and the one who goes astray and the one who comes along with it, (still) the truth and its people will remain and all praise be to Allaah. The truth is present, as Allaah (The Exalted and Most High) said: [إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ] – Verily We: It is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Qur'an) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption) 15:9]

A person should not lose hope nor should he despair. He should not make the people lose hope of a return to goodness. He should not make the people lose hope regarding (the fact) that truth will prevail and falsehood will be repelled because Allaah (Glorified and Exalted Be He) has made that promise and He does not fail to fulfill His promise. Imaam Ibnul Qayyim (rahimahullaah) said: "The Religion is aided when put to the test; therefore do not be amazed for this is the way of Ar-Rahmaan (The Most Merciful). [Ref 6]

So, we say to the one who attacks the Muslim rulers, even though they strive to strengthen their armies: Do you not want the Muslim nations to become self-sufficient in their defense industry?" "Are the Muslim rulers not commanded to strengthen their nations and become self-sufficient?!" Indeed, it is praiseworthy and a great achievement when one witnesses the fact that some Muslim nations are now able to design and manufacture 100% of their needs in critical sectors. They are capable of defending themselves against the external enemy as well as conducting counterterrorism operations without any outside assistance. Why should not a Muslim country's defense industry be among the major league players in Industry and Technology?! Why should they not become the top of the list of the world's most prestigious defense industry companies, so that no enemy seeks to threaten Islaam and their lands?! May Allaah strengthen the Muslim rulers, bless them with more bravery and determination, so that they can foster a defense industry that is capable of defending all the Muslim lands Aameen, just as Imaam Abdul Azeez Bin Baaz [may Allaah have mercy upon him] stated: "Also there should industry in the Muslim countries, preparation and power that will enable every individual through every means, so that he has no need of the enemy – until the enemy knows what he has of preparation and talent, and so that the enemy is afraid of him, treats him fairly, gives him his rights and stays within his limit. The bodies are to be prepared and should refrain from indulging in that type of luxury that will weaken strength and the hearts when required to fight the enemy, and so that one has strength to perform Jihaad. There should be full cooperation between the state and the people on what is required of obedience to Allaah and His Messenger, refraining from what Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] has forbidden and also cooperating on what is required to make preparations, just as Allaah [The Exalted] said: **وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ** – And make ready against them all you can of power]. [Surah Al-Anfaal. Aayah 60]

It is necessary to prepare physically as well as prepare material equipment, and other types of equipment in all respects so that we can suffice with what Allaah [Glorified be He] has given us and not to be in need of what our enemies have, because fighting our enemies with what they have in their hands is very difficult to obtain. If the enemy prevents you from acquiring weapons, then what do you fight with alongside poor insight and little knowledge? It is necessary to prepare what is possible, and what is possible is sufficient as long as the Muslims intend to do without their enemy, fight their enemy, save their country, intending to establish the command of Allaah in the land, intending (to gain reward) in the Afterlife as much as they can, because indeed Allaah [Glorified and Exalted be He] says: **وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ** – And make ready against them all you can of power], but He did not say, "And make ready against them that which

is equal to their power”, because that might not be possible to achieve. If the Muslims are sincere, join hands, prepare for their enemy with as much as equipment they can and support the religion ordained by Allaah, then indeed Allaah [Glorified and Exalted be He] will support them, place them in front and above the enemy, and not under the enemy. Allaah – the One who is truthful in His speech and promise – said: [يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ – O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allah, He will help you, and make your foothold firm]. [Ref 1.1]

Finally, as for the Khawaarij [terrorists (ISIS and their ilk), they are not in control of anything nor are they legitimate rulers of any Muslim land; rather they are murderers, people of corruption, evil and chaos. They perform Jihaad in the path of Shaytaan. Read here: Salafi Shaikh Fawzaan on Jihaad in our times and the guidelines of Jihaad according to Islam:

Salafi Shaikh Fawzaan on Jihaad in our times and the guidelines of Jihaad according to Islam

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Informing The Authorities Of Terrorist Plots

<http://www.salafipublications.com/sps/downloads/pdf/MNJ140008.pdf>

[Refs 1 & 1.1:

<https://binbaz.org.sa/discussions/42/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%B6%D8%B9%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%88%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%89%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC>. paraphrased]

[Ref 2: Haqeeqah Manhaj Al-Mamlakah Al-Arabiyyah As-Su'oodiyyah' page 31]

[Ref3: The Nation State of Tawheed and Sunnah: page19]

[Ref 4: The Nation State of Tawheed And Sunnah: pages: 53-54]

[Ref 5: Haqeeqah Manhaj Al-Mamlakah Al-Arabiyyah As-Su'oodiyyah' page 33]

[Ref 6: <https://salaficentre.com/2019/08/27/admonition-from-the-hadeeth-of-hudhaifah-people-used-to-ask-the-messenger-of-allaah-about-the-good-times-but-i-used-to-ask-him-about-bad/>]