

Allah Gives and Deprives Wealth

Objectives:

- Understand that Allah is the One who gives wealth and health.
- Learn the attitudes that causes our wealth to be blessed and increased.
- Learn and memorize the two hadith in this chapter.

Vocabulary:

Rizq رزق

Taqwa تقوى

Tawakkul توكل

Allah is the one who provides for the human family and all other creations. His mercy is clear to His servants at all times and all situations, everywhere in the world. People usually think that the source of their rizq (sustenance) is their parents, bosses, or employers. The fact of the matter is that Allah is the ultimate provider of rizq to all of His creations. Ar-Razzaq, Ar-Raziq, Al-Mu'ti and Al-Wahhab are some of the names of Allah. If you ponder upon these names, they mean that He is the only owner of provision and He's the provider, forever. Allah says in Surat Hud,

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا وَيَعْلَمُ مُسْتَقَرَّهَا وَمُسْتَوْدَعَهَا ۗ كُلٌّ فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ

There is no moving creature on Earth but its sustenance depends on Allah: He knows the time and place of its definite abode and its temporary deposit: all is in a clear Record. (11:6)

In Surat-ur-Room, Allah challenges the idol worshipper by saying:

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ رَزَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ

It is Allah Who has created you; further, He has provided for your sustenance; then He Will cause you to die; and again He Will give you life (30:40)

Conditions for Obtaining Sustenance

The equation of natural resources and human effort to obtain sustenance has very eloquently been presented in Surat-ul-Waaqa'ah. Allah says: "Consider your contribution against Our laws in agriculture. You plow a field and sow seeds. Who produces crops from seeds, you or we? Who look after crops? A calamity may fall and destroy a crop, leaving you shocked and sympathizing with your fellow and agonizing over the comprehensive loss of not only crops, but also of seeds and hard work!

We have created all this (you only provide work). We state these facts to remind you of that forgotten truth that We have put all this, in place so that the needy get sustenance." (56:63-73)

Laws and Guidance Concerning Rizq

1. Everyone should spend according to his capacity. A poor Muslim should spend as little as he or she can afford, while a wealthy person should spend more for the convenience of his family and himself. Allah says in Surat-ut-Talaaq,

لِيُنْفِقَ ذُو سَعَةٍ مِّن سَعَتِهِ ۗ وَمَن قُدِرَ عَلَيْهِ رِزْقُهُ فَلْيُنْفِقْ مِمَّا آتَاهُ اللَّهُ ۚ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا مَا آتَاهَا ۗ سَيَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ عُسْرٍ يُسْرًا

Let the man of means spend according to His means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him. Allah puts no burden on any person beyond What He has given him. After a difficulty, Allah will soon grant relief. (65: 7)

2. Allah likes moderate spending. Islam encourages Muslims to follow the middle way between two extremes regarding spending: extravagance and miserliness. Allah says in Surat-ul-Furqan,

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا

Those who, when they spend, are not extravagant and not miserly, but hold a just (balance) between those (extremes). (25:67)

3. Wealthy Muslims must avoid arrogance and mischief. Wealth has the tendency to make people arrogant and even mischievous. Since money is power, wealthy people often get into the habit of using this power that Allah tested them with in a wrong manner. Rather than appreciating Allah's favors on them, they disobey Him and break His rules. They may cheat, involve haram deals and show off in front of less fortunate people. Allah says in Surat-ul-Alaq,

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَّاظٍ

Nay, but man does break the rules in that he looks upon himself as wealthy (and powerful). (96:6-7)

Therefore, Allah may restrict wealth on his servant to protect them from falling in major transgression. Allah says in Surat Al- Shura,

وَلَوْ بَسَطَ اللَّهُ الرِّزْقَ لِعِبَادِهِ لَبَغَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَكِن نُنزِلُ بِالْقَدَرِ مَا يُشَاءُ ۗ إِنَّهُ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ

If Allah were to enlarge the provision for His servants, they would indeed transgress beyond all bounds through the Earth; but He sends (it) down in due measure as He pleases. For He is with His servants Well-Acquainted, Watchful. (42:27)

4. Allah may favor some over others in wealth. For a certain wisdom, Allah may bless some people more than others. Allah is our Lord and He knows best how much each should receive. Allah says in Surat Al-Nahl,

وَاللَّهُ فَضَّلَ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ فِي الرِّزْقِ

"Allah has made some of you better than others in rizq." (Surat-ul-Baqarah (16:71)

5. **Do not envy others.** Allah instructed us not to envy others when they acquire more wealth or other blessings different than ours. Envy is haram in Islam, and it does not help us gain more wealth and blessings. It may harm them, and we will be harmed too! How? Well, envy (known as hasad in Arabic) is a sin penalized by Allah. When we allow our hearts to do it, we are not thanking Allah for His blessings. When Allah blesses someone with one of His favors, a good Muslim should be happy for him/her. We are even encouraged to make dua for our brothers and sisters who won Allah's favors. Allah says in Surat-Taha,

وَلَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِنْهُمْ زَهْرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا لِنَفْتِنَهُمْ فِيهِ ۚ وَرَزَقُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ

Do not strain your eyes in longing for the things We have given for enjoyment to parties of them, the splendor of this lower life, through which We test them: but the sustenance of your Lord is better and more enduring. (20:131)

Things that help us gain and increase wealth

1. Having True Faith

Allah provides His sustenance to all people, whether they were believers or disbelievers. However, Allah blesses the sustenance He gives to His faithful and obedient believers. He makes wealth easy to obtain and useful.

2. Practicing Taqwa, or Righteousness.

As you learned earlier, Allah is the owner of this universe and He is the ultimate One who distributes wealth. Therefore, the best way to obtain His good favors is by obeying Him. Indeed, obedience brings you Allah's favors.

Companion Abdullah Ibn Mas'ood said: "Taqwa is that Allah is obeyed and not disobeyed, that He is remembered and not forgotten, and that He is thanked and not shown ungratefulness." (Reported by At-Tabaraani in al-Kabeer)

3. Observing Tawakkul, or True Reliance on Allah.

Tawakkul means putting full trust in Allah and showing true reliance on Him. A true believer trusts Allah and relies on Him more than on anyone else. He firmly believes that even if he worked so hard and got the help of all people, nothing will happen except for what Allah has permitted. On the other hand, if he didn't put forth much work, and had little or no help from people, he would get the sustenance he needs if Allah permitted.

Also Prophet Muhammad once said, "If you relied on Allah with a true reliance, He would provide for you the same as He provides birds: they set off in the early morning with empty stomachs and return back at the end of the day with full stomachs." (Reported by At-Tirmithi and Ahmad)

4. Being kind to relatives.

Additional to the great rewards they will win in the Hereafter, Allah rewards those who are good to their relatives and kinship by increasing and blessing their wealth in this life. Look at this great hadeeth,

Abu Hurayrah narrated that Rasoolullah said: "Whoever likes to have his wealth expanded and his good deeds remembered for long time, he should be kind and close to his relatives." (Reported by At-Tirmithi)

- Does that mean that we are not instructed to work hard to obtain our sustenance?

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا
فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ
اللَّهِ وَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ
تُفْلِحُونَ



- No, Allah and His Prophet instructed us to trust Allah and rely on Him, but also to work hard and to try our best to achieve our goals. Indeed, relying on Allah doesn't mean that one leaves striving in this world.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ
دَلْوًا فَامْسُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا
وَكُلُوا مِنْ رِزْقِهِ وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ



Allah says in Surat-ul- Mulk:

It is He Who has made the Earth manageable for you, so navigate through its tracts and enjoy of the Sustenance which He furnishes: but unto Him is the Resurrection. (67:15)

Types of Rizq

When we think of rizq, or wealth, one immediately thinks of money. Wealth indeed is a blessing from Allah. Allah is Ar-Razzaq, (the Ever-Provider of livelihood and all bounties) Indeed, Allah tells us in the Qur'an that He allocates the wealth. *إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ*

"Allah is He Who is the provider of all 'rizq', the lord of all power." (51:58)

The term 'rizq' in the Islamic context is used to mean wealth, but there is a wider meaning to it. It refers to all of the bounties of Allah which are needed for us to be successful in this life and in the Hereafter. Rizq not only refers to money and income but also means iman, akhlaq, noble offspring, etc. Therefore, there are two kinds of rizq (sustenance):

1. **Material Rizq:** Some call "the lower Rizq" which consists of money, food, spouses, children, and so on.
2. **Higher Rizq:** Some call it "elevated rizq" which consists of guidance, iman (faith), taqwa, generosity, comprehension, wisdom, light, cleansing of the soul, elevation in Jannah (paradise), forgiveness, and the ability to do numerous good deeds.

CHAPTER REVIEW

Projects and Activities

1. Write a 500-word essay on who controls the distribution of wealth in natural resources in our world.
2. Find or write a story which tells that Allah is the One who grants people their wealth.

Stretch Your Mind

1. A successful businessman comes to you and boasts about the fortune he collected over the years. He claims that his own hard work alone made it all possible! How would you respond to him?
2. Why do you think Allah increases the wealth of those who are good to their relatives?

Study Question

1. Who has the ultimate power of distributing rizq, or wealth? Support your answer with an ayah and a hadith.
2. What Will Allah do to us in the Day of Judgment concerning the wealth we collect in this life? Support your answer with an ayah or a hadith.
 - a. Allah gives equal wealth to everyone.
 - b. A Muslim must be balanced when he or she spends their money.
 - c. If a person becomes rich, he should spend on his family in the same manner he used to do when he was poor.
 - d. A Muslim should demonstrate true tawakkul on Allah in matters of Rizq.
 - e. True tawakkul mean that you rely on Allah to bring you rizq and not exerting much effort to make money.
 - f. It is haram to envy others who are blessed with more wealth than you.
3. What are the practices that help us having our wealth increased and blessed?
4. What are the two major types of rizq? Which one is more important, in your opinion?