



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

STAYING STEADFAST





Life is full of ups and downs. You never know what is in store for you. We all know this to be true. One moment we are fine, healthy and happy, and the next due to some unforeseen circumstance, we become agitated, ill or sad. This is the nature of life. This is the nature of life as things constantly change and get altered as part of the test of life. However, through it all we need to keep a level head and understand the importance of being steadfast. To be steadfast means to keep firm in purpose, resolute and strong of faith. It is to be unwavering in the face of trials and tribulations.

Let us explore this concept further...

THE BLESSING OF GUIDANCE

The greatest blessing of God upon us is the blessing of guidance. It gives us clarity regarding our purpose in life and helps us understand our role. To know God properly, to love Him with complete devotion, and to serve Him with ultimate reverence. It is in acknowledgement of this facet that we make a prayer in every unit of the prescribed ritual devotion when reciting the opening chapter of the Quran. We say, “Guide us to the straight path.” 1:6. Show us Your way, keep us firm on it, grant us consistency and success in remaining on it, increase us in guidance and show us things that are not clear to others. The dwellers of the Garden of Paradise will praise God for the blessing of guidance as we have been foretold, “Praise be to God, who guided us to this: had God not guided us, We would never have found the way.” 7:43

NEVER TAKE IT FOR GRANTED

One of the common mistakes many of us make is to think that once we have guidance it is guaranteed for life. Yet, this is not the case. Just as we gain guidance, we can also lose it. For this reason, the Messenger Muhammad would often beseech God to keep him steadfast upon guidance. He would say, “O the One who turns the hearts, keep my heart firm and resolute upon your Way of obedience, i.e. Islam.” This prayer and others like it are to be modelled by those who follow the messenger as we are more in need of such requests.

HOW TO KEEP STEADFAST

There are a number of things we can and should do in order to ensure, God willing, that we remain steadfast. These are easy and practical steps we can take. However, we must try to remember them and make them a part of our routine. Otherwise, we may forget and tend to neglect this issue.



1 ASK GOD

God loves that we pray to Him. It is one of the greatest acts of devotion to God that we raise our hands and beseech Him, asking for all our needs in this life and the next. We should also ask for steadfastness. God teaches us one such supplication in the Quran, “Our Lord, do not let our hearts deviate after You have guided us. Grant us Your Grace: You are the Ever Giving.” 3:8 Remaining steadfast is a blessing from God, so it is something for which we should be forever grateful and continuously seek through prayer.



2

KEEPING OUR FAITH STRONG

Every day we should aim to do good, be it in our worship of God, helping others or making a positive impact on those around us. This in turn keeps our faith strong. We should constantly learn more about God, the Quran and the Messenger Muhammad. This increase in faith and in performing good deeds will help to keep us steadfast as they emanate from a solid foundation. "God will give firmness to those who believe in the firmly rooted word..."
14:27 The firmly rooted word is the statement of faith we make acknowledging that the One True God is the only being worthy of obedience and devotion.



3

READ THE QURAN

This should be a daily part of our routine. Each and every day we should be reading the Quran, even if for only a few minutes. Although the Quran is in Arabic, we should read the translation of the meanings and learn more about its passages, morals and lessons. God encourages us to do this by informing us about the Quran, “The Pure Spirit, Gabriel, has brought the Revelation with the Truth from your Lord, to strengthen the resolve of the believers, as guidance and good news to the Muslims.” 16:102



4

KEEP GOOD COMPANY

Good friendship helps keep our faith strong and us steadfast. We need to surround ourselves with people who are a positive influence. Our friends are the ones who should remind us of God, encourage us to do good and sincerely counsel us when we make mistakes. “Keep yourself with those who pray to their Lord morning and evening, seeking His approval...” 18:28



5

PATIENCE

In life we are faced with adversity and difficulty along with prosperity and ease. It may be the loss of someone close to us, financial troubles or an illness which afflicts us. It may be a birth of a child, a raise in our income or good health that we are blessed with. It's often during such times that our faith is tested either by despair or negligence. Remember that everyone is tested throughout life, including the messengers of God as is often described in the Quran. Tests come in different forms and we do not get to choose our tests. Persevering in the face of difficulty or ease whilst trusting in God and finding solutions to overcome the challenges that face us is a sign of faith and a great means of steadfastness.

May God keep us steadfast.