

LAWFUL INCOME



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Wealth

The **Qur'an** refers to wealth as 'khair' in some verses

(eg. Quran 2:180)

which literally translates as 'good' and in another verse it refers to wealth as a trial [Qur'an 8:28]. So, wealth has the potential to be both beneficial and harmful to us.

Money is an integral part of life. We need it to buy and use things which are essential for our wellbeing. Money is an object and medium which can be used for good or evil. By itself, wealth is not an indication of piety or good character. Whether it is beneficial or harmful, depends on the way we gain wealth and how we spend it.

The Importance of Lawful Income

Allah tells us in the Quran:

**“O believers! Eat from the good things We have provided for you.
And give thanks to Allah if you ‘truly’ worship Him ‘alone’”**

[Qur’an; 2:172].

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us that Allah is Good and only accepts that which is good. Therefore, if we were to give a small amount in charity, it would only be accepted if it was pure. It is then further multiplied in reward by God until it reaches the size of a mountain.

Pure and lawful income leads to blessings in everything which comes from that wealth. Moreover, lawful income assists in our good deeds being accepted by Allah.



On the other hand we have also been taught by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that a primary reason for our worship and supplications being rejected was due to our food, drink and clothing coming from unlawful income.

The importance of avoiding the unlawful and seeking only the lawful can be seen in the supplication that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to make:

“O Allah suffice me with that which is halal (lawful) instead of that which is haram (unlawful) and enrich me with your grace so that I am in need of no one but You” [Al-Tirmidhī].



Earning A Lawful Income

Earning a lawful income is in and of itself a good deed worthy of God's reward. If we purify our intention for God's sake alone by intending to earn a lawful living in accordance with His laws, then the very act of working becomes a good deed and is rewarded.

When it comes to our jobs and careers, the income we earn must be lawful and pure. Pure In this case, means that the money which is earned according to God's laws and not through sinful means. It is due to the importance of lawful income that Islam greatly encourages work. We are told that it is better to work and earn an income than to depend on others. Many of the companions and disciples of the Messenger (peace be upon him) used to work and engage in trades or other businesses. The Messenger (peace be upon him) taught us that no income is better than that which is earned with one's own hands. Likewise, many Prophets (peace be upon them) had occupations. The Prophet Zachariah (peace be upon him) was a carpenter, while others such as David (peace be upon him) would make a living by working, and the Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) spent some time as a shepherd.



Lawful income means we must refrain from certain actions which would lessen or cancel out the purity of our wealth. Actions such as lying, cheating, being deceitful, stealing and similar behaviours make our wealth impure. Engaging in unlawful types of income such as usury, selling unlawful products such as alcohol and drugs and taking what doesn't belong to us makes wealth impure.

Most professions and jobs are fine and the wealth from them is lawful. However, sometimes our conduct in a job may cause us harm such as not fulfilling our work obligations and contracts for no valid reason; this may render an income unlawful. Giving or taking bribes, engaging in illegal activities or involvement in unethical practices are all things that we should avoid. As Muslims, we don't just want to gather wealth by any and every method. Instead, we want wealth which is pure and gained in a way that is pleasing to God so that it benefits us in this life and in the Hereafter.

We should also give charity from our earnings to purify our wealth. Allah says to His Prophet (peace be upon him):

“Take from their wealth (O Prophet) charity to purify and bless them and pray for them—surely your prayer is a source of comfort for them. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing”
[Qur'an, 9:103].

Leaving The Unlawful

If you are earning something in an unlawful way; then put your trust in The Provider (Allah), and seek a lawful earning.

“And whosoever puts trust in Allah, He suffices them”

[Qur'an; 65:3].

If your earnings include something which you are doubtful about, then ask your local scholars or reach out to NMA for clarification.



How To Increase Our Provision

1 Piety

“And whoever is mindful of Allah - He will make a way out for them and provide for them from sources they could never imagine”

(Qur'an 65:2)

“Had the people of those societies been faithful and mindful (of Allah), We would have overwhelmed them with blessings from heaven and earth”

[Qur'an 7:96]

2 Trust in Allah

“And whoever puts their trust in Allah - then He is sufficient for them”

[Qur'an 65: 3]

3 Gratefulness to Allah

“And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed, ‘If you are grateful, I will certainly give you more. But if you are ungrateful, surely My punishment is severe’”

[Qur'an 14:7]

4 Repentance and seeking forgiveness

“Seek your Lord’s forgiveness, for He is truly a Perpetual Forgiver. He will shower you with abundant rain, give you wealth and children, and provide you with gardens and rivers.”

[Qur'an 71:10-12]

5 Spending for the sake of Allah

“And whatever you spend in charity, He will compensate ‘you’ for it. For He is the Best Provider” (Qur'an 34:39)

6 Kindness to the weak

The Prophet (peace be upon him) informed us:

“You only get provisions and victory by virtue of having the weak among your ranks.”
(Al-Bukhari)

7 Maintaining the ties of kinship

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said

“Whoever loves to be granted ample provisions and a long life should maintain good ties with his or her relatives.”

[Al-Bukhari]