

Ten Principles for Those Seeking the Path of Allah

*As-Salaam 'Alaykum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh.
Bismillah Walhamdulillah Was Salaatu Was Salaam 'ala Rasulillah*

Principle 1: Have a sincere, unwavering intention. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "each person will be rewarded for what he intended" (Muslim). A sign of having sincere intentions is that one does not change his resolve for fleeting reasons; what is done for God, the Truth, should not be forsaken to please His creation.

Principle 2: Work purely for God, (the One) without partners or associates. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: "worship God as though you see Him, but if you do not see Him (know that) He sees you" (Muslim). A sign of working purely for God is to not accept anything except the truth and to see everything else besides the truth as vain and fleeting.

Principle 3: Align one's desires with the guidelines and rulings of the Shari`ah (Islamic law). Be patient in times of hardship and difficulty, when struggling with personal desires, and in avoiding sinful acts and pleasures.

Principle 4: Base one's actions on following [the prophet's way and scholarly opinions], and not on innovation. This prevents the following of one's own desires and becoming proud of one's own opinion.

Principle 5: Have high ambitions, and do not procrastinate.

Principle 6: Be aware of one's incapability and insignificance. This is not referring to laziness in worship or lack of productivity in work. It is about realizing that one is not capable of doing any action without support from God, the Most Capable, and Most Generous.

Principle 7: Have fear and hope, and do not be sure that your good deeds are accepted until you have witnessed this [on the Day of Judgment].

Principle 8: Be consistent in one's wird (a regular litany of worship), for the one without a wird does not have an additional source of support from God. With a

wird, the soul opens up in public and private; it becomes more mindful of the rights of others; it increases in loving and hating for others what it loves or hates for itself.

Principle 9: Be constantly observant of your actions and do not stray away from the remembrance of God even the blink of an eye.

Principle 10: Know what one should be occupied with, both internally and externally for whoever thinks that he is not in need of obeying [God and His messenger] is a broke man who is in opposition to God's words:

"...Say 'If you love Allah, then follow me, Allah will love you' " (3:31)

Taken with slight editorial modifications from SuhaibWebb – Imam Ghazali.

Subhanakal lahomma wabihamdik. Ash-hado alla-ilaha-illa ant. Astaghfiroka w'atoobo-ilayk.

Glory be to You, Oh Allah, and all praise! I testify that there is no deity but You. I seek Your forgiveness and to You, I do repent.

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