



LESSON 3

WHAT IS TAWHID?

OVERVIEW OF TAWHID, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF IMAN.

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MCMC LEARNING SERIES:

CONTEMPORARY COMPREHENSION OF THE IMAN: BELIEFS, ARGUMENTS AND PROOFS



IS DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF IMAN NECESSARY?

الحمد لله وحده، والصلاة والسلام على من لا
نبي بعده، وعلى آله وصحبه، أما بعدُ



LESSON 3

WHAT IS TAWHĪD?

From the verb **وَحَدَّ يُوَحِّدُ** “to make or consider something one”.

Belief in the Oneness of Allah, monotheism.

Opposite of **الشرك** Shirk, polytheism, belief in more than one God.

Judaism and Christianity are considered monotheistic religions.

However, Islamic monotheism is unique.



WHAT IS TAWHĪD?

The most important teaching in Islam.

In the entire Makki phase of 13 years, the emphasis was on Tawhīd.

The practical laws were revealed only in Madīnah.

Definition: the belief that Allah is One in His Lordship, in His Godship, and in His Names and Attributes.



WHAT IS TAWHID?

This word itself is not found in the Qur'ān or Sunnah. However, words from the same root are found.

﴿وَالْهُكْمُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ ۖ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

“Your God is One God. There is no deity but He, the Compassionate, the Merciful.” (2:163)

When the Prophet ﷺ sent Mu'adh to Yemen, he instructed him:

فليكن أول ما تدعوهم إليه أن يوحدوا الله تعالى، فإذا عرفوا ذلك، فأخبرهم ..

“Let the first thing that you call them to be to declare the unity of Allah. When they know that, then inform them ...” (Al-Bukhari & al)



WHAT IS TAWHID?

Also in the following ḥadīth, in Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim:

عن ابن عمر رضي الله عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال : (بُنِيَ الْإِسْلَامُ عَلَى خَمْسَةِ
: عَلَى أَنْ يُوحَّدَ اللَّهُ ، وَإِقَامِ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ وَصِيَامِ رَمَضَانَ وَالْحُجِّ)

Islam is built on five pillars: that Allah be unified, establishment of prayers, paying of Zakāh, fasting Ramaḍān and making pilgrimage.



WHAT IS TAWHID?

Its opposite, shirk, is strongly condemned.

﴿وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ أَشْرَكَتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

And it was already revealed to you and to those before you that if you should associate [anything] with Allah, your work would surely become worthless, and you would surely be among the losers." (39:65)

﴿وَلَوْ أَشْرَكُوا لَحَبِطَ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

But if they had associated others with Allah, then worthless for them would be whatever they were doing. (6:88)



WHAT IS TAWHID?

Allah is the Creator of everything. He has power and control over everything. He gives life and causes death. Anyone who believes otherwise is not a believer.

The Arabs before Islam believed in all this. They believed that He sent down the rain and provided them with sustenance. Yet they were disbelievers because they worshiped idols with Him.

The Christians also believe that He is the Creator. But they believe that Jesus, peace be on him, shares creation with Him. Some Christians pray to Mary and to their saints. Their monotheism is corrupt, so they are disbelievers.



WHAT IS TAWHID?

The essence of Tawhīd is contained in the declaration لا إله إلا الله
This phrase does not mean “there is no god but Allah”, as it is often translated. It means “there is none worthy of worship but Allah.” It is an acknowledgement that only He should be worshipped. Thus, anyone who worships anyone other than Allah, is not a believer.



WHAT IS TAWHID?

وقضى ربك ألا تعبدوا إلا إياه

“Your Lord has decreed that you should worship no-one else than He.” (Sūrah Al-Isrā, 23)

واعبدوا الله ولا تشركوا به شيئاً

“And worship Him and do not associate partners with Him.” (Sūrah An-Nisā, 36)



WHAT IS TAWHĪD?

An essential aspect of Tawhīd is to believe that Allah is not like His creation and His creation is not like him. Allah says:

﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ ۖ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

“There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing.”
(Ash-Shūra, 11)

Thus, to give people a divine attribute or to give Allah a human attribute is a deviation from Tawhīd.

The Bible is full of people who have been given divine attributes and vice versa.



WHAT IS TAWHĪD?

To simplify the understanding of Tawhīd, scholars have studied it deeply and divided it into three categories.

1. Tawhīd Al- Rubūbiyyah “the Unity of Lordship”
2. Tawhīd Al-Ulūhiyyah and “the Unity of Godship”
3. Tawhīd Al-Asmā wa aṣ-ṣifāt “the Unity of His Names & Attributes.”



WHAT IS TAWHĪD?

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