



## Synopsis of Friday Sermon

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IONA  
REPENTANCE  
REVITALIZATION OF FAITH  
RENEWAL OF COVENANT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

### The Secret of Spiritual Success - Part I - Dhikr

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا (٤١) وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا (٤٢)

*“O you who believe! Remember Allah with much remembrance, and glorify Him morning and evening.”* [al-Aḥzāb, 33:41–42]

At the heart of the believer’s relationship with Allah lies a profound truth expressed in the central āyah of The Qur’an:

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ (٥)

*“You alone do we worship, and You alone do we ask for help.”* [al-Fātiḥah, 1:4]

This āyah summarizes the essence of spiritual life. Humanity was created to worship Allah, yet true worship cannot be fulfilled through human strength alone. Every act of obedience, sincerity, gratitude, and remembrance requires divine assistance. Spiritual success, therefore, is not merely the result of effort; it is the fruit of Allah’s guidance and aid granted to hearts that seek Him sincerely.

The believer’s journey revolves around two inseparable realities: worship and dependence. Worship belongs exclusively to Allah, while the servant remains entirely dependent upon Him for the ability to worship properly. This intimate relationship between servitude and divine assistance is beautifully embodied in the supplication taught by the Prophet (ﷺ) to Mu‘ādh ibn Jabal (RAA):

*“O Allah, help me to remember You, thank You, and worship You with excellence.”*

This du‘ā captures the essence of spiritual refinement. The believer seeks Allah’s help not merely for worldly affairs, but for the ability to fulfill the very purpose of existence: remembrance (dhikr), gratitude (shukr), and beautiful worship (ḥuṣn al-‘ibādah). Without Allah’s aid, worship becomes routine and lifeless; with His aid, worship becomes transformative and spiritually elevating.

Central to this transformation is the remembrance of Allah (dhikr). The Qur’an repeatedly commands believers to remember Allah abundantly:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا (٤١) وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا (٤٢)

*“O you who believe! Remember Allah with much remembrance, and glorify Him morning and evening.”*

[al-Aḥzāb, 33:41–42]

Dhikr is not limited to verbal repetition of sacred phrases. Rather, it encompasses every form of conscious connection with Allah. Recitation of the Qur’an, supplication, prayer, reflection upon creation, acts of obedience, and even contemplation of the heavens and earth all constitute forms of remembrance when they awaken awareness of the Creator.

The believer lives surrounded by divine signs (āyāt). The sun, moon, stars, alternation of night and day, blessings and hardships alike all point toward Allah’s wisdom, power, and mercy. The Qur’an praises the people of understanding who remember Allah while standing, sitting, and reclining, and who reflect deeply upon creation:

رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَطْلًا

*“Our Lord, You have not created this in vain.”* [Āl ‘Imrān, 3:191]

Thus, true remembrance combines dhikr with *tafakkur* (reflection). Spiritual awareness grows when the heart moves beyond superficial observation and begins to perceive divine purpose in every aspect of existence.

Among the greatest manifestations of dhikr is engagement with the Qur’an itself, which Allah describes as *al-Dhikr*, “The Reminder.” The Qur’an revives heedless hearts, reconnects humanity to its purpose, and awakens consciousness of the Hereafter. Its recitation, contemplation, and implementation are among the highest forms of remembrance because they connect the servant directly to the speech of Allah. A heart attached to the Qur’an gradually becomes illuminated with *īmān*, tranquility, and certainty.

The Qur'an further teaches that true tranquility is found only through remembrance:

الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ (٢٨)

“Surely, it is by the remembrance of Allah that hearts find tranquility.” [al-Ra'd, 13:28]

Modern life often leaves hearts restless, anxious, distracted, and spiritually empty. Dhikr restores balance by reconnecting the servant to Allah. A heart deprived of remembrance gradually hardens, whereas a heart nourished through dhikr becomes spiritually alive, receptive, and serene.

The text distinguishes between two complementary forms of remembrance: remembrance of the heart and remembrance of the tongue. Dhikr of the heart is the constant awareness of Allah in all circumstances, a state in which one's thoughts, actions, intentions, and desires are continually measured against divine guidance. This inward consciousness transforms ordinary life into worship. Meanwhile, dhikr of the tongue manifests through recitation of the Qur'an, glorification of Allah, supplication, and prescribed prophetic remembrances. Together, these two forms cultivate a complete spiritual life in which the inner and outer dimensions of the believer remain connected to Allah.

Among the greatest forms of remembrance is ṣalāh, the daily prayer, which combines recitation, glorification, supplication, humility, physical submission, and conscious devotion. Prayer is the most comprehensive manifestation of dhikr because it engages the body, tongue, heart, and soul simultaneously. Within prayer, the believer experiences moments of profound nearness to Allah, especially during sujūd (prostration), about which the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“The closest a servant comes to his Lord is while he is prostrating.”

In this state of humility, the servant pours out supplications, fears, hopes, and needs before Allah, reinforcing complete dependence upon Him.

The Prophet (ﷺ) also taught numerous supplications and remembrances for virtually every aspect of life: morning and evening adhikār, remembrances before sleep and upon waking, supplications connected to eating, travel, entering and leaving the home, hearing the adhān, and countless daily activities. Through these prophetic adhikār, every moment of life becomes an opportunity for spiritual connection. Ordinary actions are transformed into acts of worship and mindfulness.

The prophetic remembrances are remarkable not only for their simplicity, but also for the immense rewards attached to them. Expressions such as:

*Subhān Allāhi wa biḥamdihī, Subhān Allāh al-ʿAzīm*

are described by the Prophet (ﷺ) as light upon the tongue, heavy upon the scale, and beloved to the Most Merciful. These phrases cultivate gratitude, humility, and awareness of Allah's perfection. The believer learns that seemingly simple acts of remembrance may possess enormous spiritual weight in the sight of Allah.

Dhikr also serves as a means of salvation and purification. The Prophet (ﷺ) described remembrance of Allah as among the greatest deeds, surpassing immense charitable spending and even heroic struggle because dhikr nourishes the heart and sustains the servant's relationship with Allah. Through remembrance, sins are forgiven, burdens are lightened, and hearts are cleansed from heedlessness. Those who remember Allah abundantly become spiritually “light,” detached from excessive attachment to worldly distractions and increasingly connected to the eternal reality of the Hereafter.

Conversely, neglect of dhikr leads to spiritual decay. The absence of remembrance hardens the heart and distances the servant from Allah. The Prophet (ﷺ) warned against excessive speech devoid of remembrance, teaching that idle talk contributes to hardness of heart and spiritual heedlessness. The tongue can either elevate a person through dhikr or corrupt the soul through gossip, frivolity, and distraction.

For this reason, the Prophet (ﷺ) advised believers:

“Keep your tongue constantly moist with the remembrance of Allah.”

This concise instruction encapsulates the essence of spiritual discipline. Since believers cannot always engage continuously in every act of worship, dhikr remains uniquely accessible at all times and in all situations. Whether walking, working, resting, or interacting with others, the servant can remain spiritually connected to Allah through remembrance. Over time, constant dhikr penetrates beyond the tongue into the depths of the heart, transforming consciousness itself.

Ultimately, *The Secret of Spiritual Success* presents dhikr as the lifeblood of the soul and the foundation of spiritual purification. Through remembrance, gratitude, contemplation, supplication, and conscious worship, the believer develops a living relationship with Allah. A heart immersed in remembrance becomes illuminated with faith, softened with humility, strengthened with certainty, and tranquil in the presence of its Creator.

The text concludes by emphasizing that spiritual success is not found merely in outward actions, but in cultivating a heart that remains constantly connected to Allah. The believer who remembers Allah abundantly discovers inner peace, divine closeness, and true fulfillment in both this world and the Hereafter.

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