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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Being Appreciative: A Trait of the Believers

By Emily K. Sterrett

The appreciative person is appreciative for his own good as stated in Sura 27:40 of the Quran. A believer is appreciative of God and follows the command in Sura 2:152, "You shall remember Me, that I may remember you. Be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative." We can never thank God enough. There are endless things to be thankful for.

God created the heavens and the earth, the humans, the animals, and all provisions in exact measure. He sent messengers, previous scripture, and the Quran with its built in mathematical miracle. He knows everything we need for He knows all things. The Almighty states in Sura 6:59, "With Him are the keys to all secrets; none knows them except He. He knows everything on land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls without His knowledge. Nor is there a grain in the depths of the soil, be it wet or dry, that is not recorded in a profound record." He gave us a variety of food (6:99). He is the Forgiver and declares in the Quran in 4:17, "Repentance is acceptable by God from those who fall in sin out of ignorance, and repent immediately thereafter. God redeems them. God is Omniscient, Most Wise." He protects the believers, rewards them for their steadfastness, causes the truth to prevail (8:8, 5:11), and is on the side of the believers. The Most Merciful tells us in 8:19, "You

sought victory (O disbelievers), and victory belongs to the believers. If you refrain from aggression, it would be better for you, but if you return, so will we. Your armies will never help you, no matter how great. For God is on the side of the believers." And finally, for those who uphold God's commandments, He rewards them in this life and in the Hereafter.

Being appreciative of God is important because when we have that attitude we reflect on God's qualities. We think about His awesome power and control over everything. When we are appreciative of God then God is on our minds most of our day. God is so merciful that He gives us endless opportunities to commemorate Him: before we eat, plan something, the contact prayers, the beauty of the world around us. How many times did you commemorate God today? How many times did you thank Him? How often did you really think about God? The remembrance of God is very important and we are told to do this in the Quran in 7:205, "You shall remember your Lord within yourself, publicly, privately, and quietly, day and night; do not be unaware."

God rewards the human for being appreciative. He rewarded Abraham in Sura 16:120-122, "Abraham was indeed an exemplary vanguard in his submission to

God, a monotheist who never worshiped idols. Because he was appreciative of His blessings, He chose him and guided him in a straight path. And we granted him happiness in this life, and in the Hereafter he will be with the righteous." God punishes people when they are unappreciative as He did to the community mentioned in 16:112-114, "God cites the example of a community that used to be secure and prosperous, with provisions coming to it from everywhere. But then, it turned unappreciative of God's blessings. Consequently, God permitted them to taste the affliction of starvation and insecurity. That was the requital for what they did. A messenger had gone to them from among them, but they rejected him. Consequently, the retribution struck them as they transgressed. Therefore, you shall eat from God's provisions everything that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of God's blessings, if you do worship Him alone." Most people are unappreciative and will not believe. We cannot afford to be unappreciative. God gave us one last chance to redeem our soul. We must heed the message that all of the messengers brought: worship God alone. And we must never take that message for granted.

PRAISE BE TO GOD

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUBMITTERS PERSPECTIVE

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

CHARITIES

"Surely, the charitable men and women, have loaned God a loan of goodness. They will receive their reward multiplied manifold; they have deserved a generous recompense" (57:18).

"This scripture is infallible; a beacon for the righteous; who believe in the unseen, even when alone in their privacy, observe the contact prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them, they give to charity" (2:2-3).

"Righteousness is not turning your faces towards the east or the west. Righteous are those who believe in God, the Last Day, the angels, the scripture, and the prophets; and they give the money, despite loving it, to the relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveling alien, the beggars, and to free the slaves; and they observe the contact prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat); and they keep their word whenever they make a promise; and they steadfastly persevere in the face of adversity, hardship, and persecution. These are the truthful; these are the righteous" (2:177).

"You should eagerly race towards forgiveness from your Lord, and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heavens and the earth; it awaits the righteous- who give to charity during the good times and the bad times. They are suppressors of anger, and pardoners of the people. God loves the charitable" (3:133-134).

"And who give their charities while their minds know full well that they will be summoned before their Lord" (23:60).

"Their sides readily forsake their beds, in order to worship their Lord, out of

reverence and hope. And from our provisions to them, they give" (32:16).

"Surely, those who recite the book of God, observe the contact prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them they spend secretly and publicly, are engaged in an enterprise that never fails. For He will pay them generously, and will multiply His bounties to them. He is Forgiving, Appreciative" (35:29-30).

"Rarely did they sleep the whole night. At dawn, they prayed for forgiveness. A portion of their money was set aside for the beggar and the needy" (51:17-19).

"Why do you not spend in the cause of God, when God possesses all wealth in the heavens and the earth? Distinguished from the rest are those among you who spend before the victory and strive. They attain a greater rank than those who spend after the victory and strive. For each, God promises salvation. God is Cognizant of everything you do" (57:10).

"Who gives from his money to charity. Seeking nothing in return" (92:18-19).

Be Charitable

"You shall spend in the cause of God; do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction. You shall be charitable; God loves the charitable" (2:195).

"O you who believe, you shall give to charity from the good things you earn, and from the products we provide for you from the earth. Do not pick out that which is bad to give away, when you yourselves would not accept it unless your eyes were closed. You should know that God is Rich, Praiseworthy" (2:267).

"You shall give from our provisions to you before death comes to you, then you say, 'My Lord, if only You could delay this for a short while! I would then be charitable and join the righteous!'" (63:10).

"Therefore, you shall reverence God as much as you can, and listen, and obey, and give (to charity) for your own good, Anyone who is protected from his own stinginess, these are the successful ones" (64:16).

Unacceptable Charities

"Do not think that those who boast about what they give, and wish to be praised for something they have not really done, do not think that they can evade the retribution; they have incurred a painful retribution" (3:188).

"They are stingy, and exhort the people to be stingy, and they conceal what God has bestowed upon them from His bounties. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)"

Charities Continued....

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

We have prepared for the disbelievers a shameful retribution. They give their money only to show off, while disbelieving in God and the Last Day. If one's companion is the devil, that is the worst companion. Why should they not believe in God and the Last Day, and give from God's provisions to them? God is fully aware of them" (4:37-39).

"The hypocrite men and the hypocrite women belong with each other- they advocate evil and prohibit righteousness, and they are stingy. They forgot God, so He forgot them. The hypocrites are truly wicked" (9:67).

"And when they are told, 'Give from God's provisions to you,' those who disbelieved say to those who believed, 'Why should we give to those whom God could feed, if He so willed? You are really far astray'" (36:47).

"They do not give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and with regard to the Hereafter, they are disbelievers" (41:7).

Distribution of

"They ask you about charity, say, 'Whatever charity you give shall go to the parents, the relatives, the orphans, the poor, and the traveling alien.' Any good you do, God is fully aware thereof" (2:215).

"Charities shall go to the poor, the needy, the workers who collect them, the new converts, to free the slaves, to those burdened by sudden expenses, in the cause of God, and to the traveling alien. Such is God's commandment. God is Omniscient, Most Wise" (9:60).

"Let those among you who are blessed with resources and wealth give to their relatives, the poor, and to those who have immigrated for the sake of God. They shall forgive and forget; do you not love to attain God's forgiveness? God is Forgiver, Most Merciful" (24:22).

"He should choose the difficult path. Which one is the difficult path? The freeing of slaves. Feeding, during the time of hardship. Orphans who are related. Or the poor who is in need. And being one of those who believe, and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and exhorting one another to be kind" (90:11-17).

"If He asked you for money, to the extent of creating a hardship for you, you might have become stingy, and your hidden evil would have been exposed. You are invited to spend in the cause of God, but some of you turn stingy. The stingy are stingy towards their own souls. God is Rich, while you are poor. If you turn away, He will substitute other people in your place, and they will not be like you" (47:37-38).

Importance of

"Any charity you give, or a charitable pledge you fulfill, God is fully aware thereof. As for the wicked, they have no supporters. If you declare your charities, they are still good. But if you keep them anonymous, and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and remits more of your sins. God is fully Cognizant of everything you do" (2:270-271).

"You cannot attain righteousness until you give from the possessions you love. Whatever you give, God is fully aware thereof" (3:92).

"Say, 'My Lord increases the provision for whomever He chooses from among His servants, and reduces it. Anything you spend (in the cause of God), He will pay you for it; He is the Best Provider'" (34:39).

The Best Investment

"The example of those who spend their money in the cause of God is that of a grain that produces seven spikes, with a hundred grains in each spike. And God multiplies this manifold for whomever He wills. God is Bounteous, Knower. Those who give their money in the cause of God, then do not follow their charity with insult or reproach, will receive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. Kind words and compassion are better than a charity that is followed by insult. God is Rich, Clement. O you who believe, do not nullify your charities by inflicting insult and harm. As for those who spend their money to show off, while disbelieving in God and the Last Day, their example is like a rock that is covered with a thin layer of soil; when heavy rain falls, the soil washed off, leaving the rock barren and useless. Thus, they gain nothing from their efforts. God does not guide the disbelieving people" (2:261-264).

GLORY BE TO GOD

One of the Great Miracles New Discoveries on the Contact Prayers (Salat).

We do the Contact Prayers (Salat) five times a day. The total number of units in these prayers is 17 as follows:

The Prayer Time	N o. of Unit
Dawn (Fajr)	2
Noon (Zuhr)	4
Afternoon (Asr)	4
Sunset (Magrib)	3
Night (Isha)	4
Total	17

As we know already, the number 24434 is a multiple of 19.

2 4 4 3 4 = 19 x 1286.

Note that the digits of 1286 also adds up to 17 (1+2+8+6=17).

New Discoveries

Now, let us look at the Arabic words of the Contact Prayer (Salat) times and see the number of letters in each word and their gematrical value (See Table 2). If you count the number of digits in the numbers of total gematrical values of these words, you will see that there are 17 digits. For example, the number 283 has 3 digits, 1105 has 4 digits, 360 has 3 digits, 1242 has 4 digits, and 372 has 3 digits. Therefore, the total number of digits is 17. Now, since number 3362 represents the sum of the gematrical values of 17 Arabic letters, for 17 units of Contact Prayers (Salat) that are practiced at 5 times a day, we add these numbers

The Prayer Time	No. of Letters	Gematrical Values of the Letters
Fajr	3	80 + 3 + 200 = 283
Zuhr	3	900 + 5 + 200 = 1105
Asr	3	70 + 90 + 200 = 360
Magrib	4	40 + 1000 + 200 + 2 = 1242
Isha	4	70 + 300 + 1 + 1 = 372
Total	17	3362

together:

3362 + 17(letters) + 17(units) + 5 (times) = 3401 (19 x 179).

Note again that the digits of 179 also adds up to 17 (1+7+9=17).

Now let us look at the Arabic letters in the Contact Prayer (Salat) times. We see that they consist of 13 different letters (counting alif and hamza as different letters although they have the same gematrical value). The gematrical values of these letters adds up to 2692. These letters are given in Table 3.

If we add to the number 2692, the number of times we do Contact Prayer (Salat), which is 5, and the number of the Sura we recite during the prayer, which is 1, we get: 2695 + 5(times) + 1 (Sura No.) = 2698 (19x142).

The number 2698 not only is a multiple of 19, but also is the number of times that the word God (Allah) is mentioned in the Quran.

God be Glorified.
Ihsan Ramadan

Table 3

Arabic Letter	Gematrical Value
Feh	80
Jeem	3
Ra	200
Dha	900
Heh	5
'Ain	70
Saad	90
Ghain	1000
Beh	2
Shin	300
Alif	1
Hamza	1
Total	2692

Note to our Readers: The information given in the S.P. is shared for the purpose of spreading the message of worshiping the one true God. Please feel free to reprint any article desired to continue the expansion of the message.

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