

THE REALITY OF SALAFIYYAH & ITS DISTINGUISHING TRAITS

**By the Great Scholar:
SHAYKH SAALIH AL-FOWZAAN**

-may Allah preserve him-

*English Text Prepared by
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SPECIAL VERSION FOR PHONES

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In the name of Allah, the Most-Gracious the Ever-Merciful... All praises are due to Allah, the Lord of all that exists. We ask Allah to raise the rank of our Prophet Muhammad and to grant him and all of his family, followers, and Companions peace. As for what follows: Verily the Prophet – may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- informed us that there would take place an amount of differing within this *Ummah*, similar to what took place among the previous nations. And he advised us for such a time that we hold fast to what he and his companions were upon. He –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- said:

"...The Jews split up into 71 sects; the Christians split up into 72 sects. And my *Ummah*, my followers, shall split up into 73 groups. All of them will be in the Fire except for one." It was said, "Who are they, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, **"They are those who are upon what I am upon today, along with my companions..."**

He –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- said: **"...Verily whoever lives long after me from amongst you shall witness great affairs of differing, so upon him is to stick to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly guided caliphs, hold tightly to that, and grab tightly to that with your molar teeth, and be warned of newly invented matters, for verily, every newly invented matter in the religion is an innovation and every (religious) innovation every bid'ah it's a straying..."** And in another narration [of the same hadeeth]: **"And every straying goes to the Fire..."**

This is how the Messenger of Allah –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- advised us, that we stick tightly to what he was upon and to what his companions were upon when differing occurs, and splitting, as it is something that must happen. This is actually something that has taken place just as he has informed us about it, may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace.

So the way to salvation is to hold tightly to what the Messenger was upon –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- and what his companions were upon. This sect is the one that is saved from the Fire, and the rest of the sects, all of them shall be in the Fire, as has preceded in the hadeeth that was quoted. And this is why this sect is called "The Saved Sect", the people of the Sunnah and the *Jamaa'ah*.

This is the sect that is distinguished from others by way of their following the book and the Sunnah, and every other sect is a stray sect, even if they ascribe to this *Ummah* as followers of this nation, while their methodology and practicing Islaam is in opposition to the methodology of the Messenger –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- and the methodology of his Companions.

And this is from the completeness of the advice that he gave us –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- and it is from the completeness of the clarification that he provided the people with. So the way is clear, and to Allah is the praise: Following the Book, the Sunnah, and what the predecessors of this *Ummah*, from the Companions, the *Taabi'een* (students of the Companions), and their successors, until the end of the blessed/virtuous generations, the first three generations or the first four generations.

As he said –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace-, "**The best of you are those in my generation, then (in virtue are) those who come after them, and then (in virtue are) those who come after them...**" The narrator said –may Allah be pleased with him-, "I don't know if the Prophet –may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace- mentioned after that, two generations or three generations."

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