

THE REALITY OF
SALAFIYYAH
& ITS DISTINGUISHING TRAITS

By the Great Scholar:
SHAYKH SAALIH AL-FOWZAAN
-may Allah preserve him-

Text & Translation Prepared by Moosaa Richardson

السلفية
حقيقتها وسماتها

للشيخ العلامة صالح بن فوزان الفوزان
- حفظه الله تعالى -

ترجمها إلى الإنجليزية موسى الطويل

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..."

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ؛ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ
وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ:
فَإِنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَخْبَرَ أَنَّهُ سَيَحْصُلُ افْتِرَاقٌ فِي
هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ كَمَا حَصَلَ فِي الْأُمَمِ السَّابِقَةِ، وَأَوْصَانَا عِنْدَ ذَلِكَ
أَنْ نَتَمَسَّكَ بِمَا كَانَ عَلَيْهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ هُوَ وَأَصْحَابُهُ،
قَالَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

«افْتَرَقَتِ الْيَهُودُ عَلَى إِحْدَى وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً؛ افْتَرَقَتِ
النَّصَارَى عَلَى اثْنَتَيْنِ وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً، وَسَتَفْتَرِقُ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةُ
عَلَى ثَلَاثٍ وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً كُلُّهَا فِي النَّارِ إِلَّا وَاحِدَةً.» قِيلَ:
مَنْ هِيَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ: «مَنْ كَانَ عَلَيَّ مِثْلَ مَا أَنَا عَلَيْهِ
الْيَوْمَ وَأَصْحَابِي.»

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.

قَالَ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ: «فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ يَعِشْ مِنْكُمْ فَسَيَرَى
اِخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا، فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِسُنَّتِي وَسُنَّةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ
الْمَهْدِيِّينَ مِنْ بَعْدِي، تَمَسَّكُوا بِهَا، وَعَضُّوا عَلَيْهَا
بِالنَّوَاجِدِ، وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَمُحَدَّثَاتِ الْأُمُورِ، فَإِنَّ كُلَّ مُحَدَّثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ،
وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ»؛ وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ: «...وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.»

هَكَذَا أَوْصَانَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: أَنْ نَلْزِمَ مَا كَانَ
عَلَيْهِ هُوَ وَأَصْحَابُهُ عِنْدَ حُصُولِ الْإِخْتِلَافِ وَالِافْتِرَاقِ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا
بُدَّ أَنْ يَقَعَ، وَقَدْ وَقَعَ كَمَا أَخْبَرَ بِهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

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.

فَطَرِيقُ النَّجَاةِ هُوَ التَّزَامُ مَا كَانَ عَلَيْهِ الرَّسُولُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَأَصْحَابُهُ، هَذِهِ الْفِرْقَةُ هِيَ النَّاجِيَةُ مِنَ النَّارِ، وَسَائِرُ الْفِرَقِ كُلُّهَا فِي النَّارِ، وَلِذَلِكَ تُسَمَّى الْفِرْقَةُ النَّاجِيَةَ أَهْلَ السُّنَّةِ وَالْجَمَاعَةِ.

هَذِهِ هِيَ الْفِرْقَةُ الْمُتَمَيِّزَةُ عَنْ غَيْرِهَا بِاتِّبَاعِ الْكِتَابِ وَالسُّنَّةِ، وَمَا عَدَاهَا فَهِيَ فِرْقٌ ضَالَّةٌ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ تَنْتَسِبُ إِلَى هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ، وَمَنْهَجُهَا مُخَالَفٌ لِمَنْهَجِ الرَّسُولِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَأَصْحَابِهِ.

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

وَهَذَا مِنْ كَمَالِ نُصْحِهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، وَمِنْ كَمَالِ بَيَانِهِ

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