



## Bank Your Wealth with Allah

"O you who have Iman! Do not let your wealth or children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. Whoever does that is lost. Give from what we have provided for you before death comes to one of you and he says 'My Lord if only you would give me a little more time so that I can give sadaqah and be one of the Salihun!' Allah will not give anyone more time, once their time has come. Allah is aware of what you do." (Surah Al-Munafiqun: Ayaat 9-11)

The most blessed duty of a believer is to keep in touch with his Lord and Creator through constant remembrance. This means: always keeping in mind and never forgetting Him, acknowledging Him when benefiting from His boundless bounties, mentioning His beautiful name in prayer and elsewhere. In short the believer is ever conscious, aware and attentive to Allah. However, there are many temptations that can lure you away from this and things that are always inviting and attractive, amongst them two things exert the most attractive force on man: wealth and children.

The excessive desire to amass wealth and to provide for children often overwhelms people to such an extent that they become forgetful of ﷻ. Here we are being warned against falling in this trap. 'Dhikr-Allah' or remembrance of ﷻ can refer to; the Divine commands like Salah, Hajj, Zakah, etc... or the obedience of ﷻ

Whoever is distracted from 'Dhikr-Allah' is the 'loser', as he has traded vile and miserable things for noble things and what a contemptible choice that is. What should be done to avoid becoming a 'loser' ? The Glorious Quran offers a simple solution: 'give from what We have given you'. Be generous, give freely out of love for fellow humans.

'Rizq' is not just material things but includes all the skills, abilities, aptitudes and gifts with which we may be endowed with. We are to spend that before death. It is interesting to note that this Surah is all about the hypocrites, describing their despicable attitude and miserable lifestyle and here it prescribes an action which will set us apart from the hypocrites – namely charity. 'Spend' generously is what distinguishes the believers from the hypocrites and charity is an indication of one's love of ﷻ

In order to spur the reader to 'spend', the Quran gives you a stark reminder of death! Then it will be too late to be charitable and give generously for when it will become the property of your heirs,

children and relatives you will have no say in it. What a pity, that wealth for which you worked tirelessly and even forgot your generous Lord for it is no longer yours. What will you take with you? All your estates; house(s), big bank balance, expensive car, gadgets, valuables and clothes will be no longer yours – the inheritors will occupy them, use them or abuse them as they wish. How sad you never got the chance to spend in the path of the Lord who gave them to you in the first place.

The blessed Messenger ﷺ once asked his ﷺ companions, 'who amongst you loves more the wealth of his heirs?' They replied 'none of us' then he ﷺ said 'your wealth is that which you have spent and the rest is the wealth of heirs' (Bukhari).

Once the blessed Messenger ﷺ was reciting 'Surah Takathur', the desire for more has distracted you... and said the 'son of Adam says My wealth! My wealth! O son of Adam what is there for you in your wealth except that which you have consumed or wore or you spent and it is saved' (Muslim)

This makes it clear that yours is what you benefit from, all else will go to the heirs, and you will be like a treasurer for other people's treasure. The Prophet ﷺ lived in poverty and despised the hoarding of wealth. He ﷺ said 'store away your wealth with Allah and Allah will preserve it for your children' (Muslim)

He ﷺ said 'store away your wealth with Allah and Allah will preserve it for your children' (Muslim).

The lesson from this passage is; spend for the sake of ﷻ for it is a clear sign of true Iman and a mark of true believer. And let not the world distract you from the real purpose of your life – 'Dhikr-Allah'.

“give from what  
We have given  
you.”