

Keywords:
Purpose
Priorities
Meaning



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

19 December 2025 / 28 Jamadilakhir 1447H

Purpose and Priorities in Life

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ، وَأَمَرَنَا بِالتَّقْوَى وَالْخُلُقِ
الْكَرِيمِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ، وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ
مُسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Have taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. with true consciousness. Taqwa in obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. Taqwa in setting our intentions, making our choices, and steering our lives. May Allah s.w.t. grant our hearts tranquillity and steadfastness upon the path of iman. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear blessed congregants,

Allow me to begin today's sermon with several reflections:
What do we truly **prioritise** in this life? We work tirelessly to earn a livelihood and education, we look after our families, and we

seek happiness before eventually returning to our Lord. Is that all there is to the **meaning** and **purpose** of human life?

In reality, many among us live busy lives. Yet, we may not always be clear about the direction and **purpose** of our journey. We rush from one responsibility to another, rarely pausing to reflect: *Where is all this effort truly leading us?*

Allah s.w.t. has reminded us that human beings were not created without **purpose**. He says in Surah Al-Mu'minun, verse 115:

أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿١١٥﴾

Which means: *“Did you think that We created you in vain (without **purpose**), and that you would not be returned to Us?”*

This verse clarifies that every action and effort of a Muslim should never be devoid of **meaning**. It affirms that every human life has a **purpose**, and that each action carries responsibility.

In our time, it is very easy to become trapped in constant busyness. We respond to demands and complete task after task endlessly. Without realising it, our lives become driven more by **demands** than by **purpose**.

When demands overwhelm, our **priorities** may become blurred. What truly matters gets postponed. What is most **meaningful** becomes secondary. Eventually, we lose sight of what should truly define our **purpose** and **priorities** in life.

My dear brothers,

A mindful Muslim is one who is clear about the **purpose** of their life. They do not allow pressure, busyness, or day-to-day routines to dictate the direction of their life. Instead, by identifying their **priorities** and **purpose** in every effort, they align their entire life so that it consistently moves towards the pleasure of Allah s.w.t.

The sermon today wishes to highlight three key points in relation to our **purpose** and **priorities** in life.

First: Living with purpose elevates the quality of a person

A believer who has clarity of **purpose** is more careful in every aspect of life. He is trustworthy in his work, diligent in seeking knowledge, and pleasant in his social interactions. He is fully aware that every role he assumes and every action he performs is an amanah – a trust from Allah s.w.t.

Having a clear **purpose** shapes inner discipline. It becomes a compass that guides one's actions in times of ease and difficulty.

When our **purpose** is clear, it positively shapes our character, our work, and our worship. Our roles are no longer carried out mindlessly, and our worship are no longer performed in haste. Every action is measured not merely by worldly outcomes, but by its value in the sight of Allah s.w.t.

Second: Balancing the worldly and the spiritual, not separating them

As Muslims, we must be cautious not to allow worldly pursuits to consume our hearts. Yet, Islam does not call upon us to abandon our worldly responsibilities altogether. Rather, the world is viewed as a **means**, not the ultimate goal.

Remember: when worldly life becomes the goal, it often disappoints. But when it is treated as a means, it becomes an avenue for divine reward and blessings.

For example, we seek knowledge to build our future. We work to provide for our families. We plan our lives to achieve comfort and stability. All of this can form part of our worship when done with the intention of drawing closer to Allah, not further away from Him.

Reflect upon the declaration we recite daily in our prayers:

إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Which means: “Indeed, my prayer, my worship, my life and my death are all for Allah, Lord of the worlds.”

With this awareness, we are encouraged to be grateful for the blessings of wealth, health, and abilities that we possess. We are reminded to manage them with care, responsibility, and wisdom.

Third: Identifying priorities and being grateful for blessings

Every **priority** that we identify in life – such as our practice of religion, the well-being of our family, our provision, and quality of life – does not exist in isolation. They depend on other factors: a stable environment, respectful social relations, and conditions that allow us to live, work, and worship in peace.

We may not have considered these factors to be of high importance, perhaps because we have enjoyed it for so long. Yet, we should never take lightly the importance of preserving this peace. Often, it is only when such blessings are disrupted or lost that we realise how great a gift they truly were.

Thus, gratitude is not merely expressed through words, but through our attitudes and responsible actions at any time.

Dear blessed congregation,

This time of the year presents an opportunity for us to recalibrate our **priorities** and realign the course of our lives. Do not allow daily pressures and busyness to shape our life's direction. Let our iman guide us, and let the pleasure of Allah be our ultimate goal.

May every role we perform bring us closer to Allah s.w.t. May Allah s.w.t. accept all our efforts and guide our steps towards eternal goodness. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْغَرِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمَحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعِفِينَ فِي عَزَّةٍ وَفِي فَلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْرَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ

وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ
النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.