

Keywords:
Steadfastness
Consistency



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Friday Sermon

2 January 2026 / 12 Rejab 1447H

Beginning Our Step with Steadfastness

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 تُمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ
مُسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. with the truest taqwa. A taqwa which is the reflection of our life, the proof of our loyalty to Allah's commands, and the seed of patience and faith in navigating this journey until the end of our lives. Know that the best provision in life is not wealth, rank, or worldly success, but a **steadfast** stance tied to Allah in every circumstance.

True taqwa is not built through a momentary surge of effort, but through **consistency** throughout life. It is not the result of temporary emotion, but the outcome of enduring loyalty. Therefore, anyone who truly wishes to preserve their taqwa must

remain steadfast — in obedience, in goodness, and in the effort to improve oneself even if the steps taken seem small.

Dear blessed congregation,

As we step into the new year of 2026, we are also in the blessed month of Rejab — one of Allah's honoured months. I encourage all of us to view the opportunity of encountering Rajab as a divine invitation to reassess the direction of our lives, not merely in terms of worldly achievements, but more importantly, in terms of our standing with Allah.

Allow me to pose a reflective question: **How many good deeds have we begun with great enthusiasm, only to see them falter halfway?** What is the reason behind this dear congregation? It is because we did not take the time to build the strength to persevere.

It is here that religion introduces a great value, often mentioned but difficult to truly enliven: ***istiqamah* — steadfastness.**

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Fussilat, verse 30:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ
أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

“Indeed, those who have said, ‘Our Lord is Allah’ and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them,

saying, ‘Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.’”

This verse demonstrates that faith is not merely a verbal declaration, but proven through **steadfastness** — the endurance to perform acts of obedience and goodness, and the diligence to continuously improve our character at all times.

Dear congregation,

The arrival of the new year and the month of Rejab reminds us that spiritual life is not a short-term plan. It is a long journey. Spiritual success is not built on temporary bursts of emotion, but on **small, consistent steps**, even when motivation wanes or conditions are unfavourable.

Islam does not demand immediate perfection. What is demanded is resilience through the twists and turns of the journey of life.

So, what steps can we take to cultivate **steadfastness** in this life filled with demands?

Firstly, begin with a clear direction and purpose, not just enthusiasm.

Many of us work hard, setting goals in our careers, finances, education, and family with detailed planning. This is an example of a clear direction. The same should be applied to religious matters. **Steadfastness** begins with a resolved intention: that

every effort, whether at home, in the office, at school, or at the mosque, is for the pleasure of Allah, for we are His servants!

With clear intention, a father provides sustenance from lawful sources for his family. With clear purpose, a mother educates her children patiently and consistently. The same applies to a student who maintains their prayers despite a busy academic schedule — all walking the path of **steadfastness**.

Second, build continuous habits, not just grand resolutions.

Meticulous planning is part of our societal culture: from bus and MRT schedules, to meeting dates and school exam schedules, all of these require a high degree of discipline. The same discipline should be applied in spiritual life.

Steadfastness is not built through drastic change, but through small, **consistent** habits, such as: reciting a few verses of the Qur'an daily, even for a minute before leaving for work; reciting brief dhikr during the our commutes; regular small acts of charity, whether physically or digitally; and striving to maintain good assumptions in daily interactions be it with colleagues, neighbours, or family members. These small habits strengthen our faith's resilience when tests come.

Third, anchor this journey to Allah, not to one's own ability alone.

Many begin their journey with zeal, but become tired halfway through because they shoulder everything alone, forgetting to rely on Allah. True **steadfastness** arises from tawakkul — the awareness that we move with Allah’s support. Therefore, do not let your du’a be merely the conclusion of worship, but make it a source of strength:

اللَّهُمَّ ثَبِّتْ قُلُوبَنَا عَلَى دِينِكَ

“O Allah! Keep our hearts steadfast on Your religion.”

Dear congregants,

The scholars say: “Rejab is the month of sowing seeds, Sha‘ban is the month of watering, and Ramadan is the month of harvesting.” Let us not miss the season of sowing without planting the seeds of **steadfastness**.

May Allah bless us in the months of Rejab and Sha‘ban, and reunite us with Ramadan in a state of stronger faith, calmer hearts, and a more meaningful life. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ 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 نَهَى عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: 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 وَالْقَرَابَةِ 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، وَحُزَنَهُمْ 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 يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِيكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.