

سُلْسِلَةٌ تَوَجِّهُ مِنَ الْفُطَابِ

# حِفْظُ اللِّسَانِ



الشيخ صالح بن فوزان الفوزان  
ash-Sheikh Saalih bin Fawzan al-Fawzan

A Series of  
**Advices from**  
**Friday Sermons**  
Guarding the Tongue

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praises belongs to Allaah the Possessor of virtue and Perfection, the One Who created man and taught him clarity, I bare witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone without any partners, any partners in Him being worshipped as well as in His Lordship and I bare witness that Muhammad ﷺ His servant and messenger who warned us from the poisons of the tongue, may the Salaat and the salaam be upon him, his companions and all those who follow him with precision, to proceed:

O mankind fear Allaah and guard your tongues because it is very dangerous. The prophet warned from (the dangers) of the tongue as he mentioned in the authentic Hadeeth when Muadh asked him about an action that will enter him into the Jannah and will distance him from the fire, then he mentioned to Muadh great actions (to act by) and at the end of this Hadeeth he said:

"Shall I not tell you of the controlling of all that?" I said: "Yes, O Messenger of Allah", and he took hold of his tongue and said: "Restrain this." He said: "O Prophet of Allah, will what we say be held against us?" He said: "May your mother be bereaved of you, Muadh! Is there anything that topples people on their faces - or he said on their noses into Hell-fire other than the jests of their tongues?" The people are very negligent when it comes to speaking and they think (what they say) just blows away with the wind, but Allaah the most high says:

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا إِلَّا فَسَنَ وَنَعْلَمُ مَا تُوسُّعُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ، وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ  
جَبَلِ الْوَرِيدِ

"And indeed We have created man, and We know what his own self whispers to him. And We are nearer to him than his jugular vein (by Our Knowledge). (50:16)

(Remember!) That the two receivers (recording angels) receive (each human being after he or she has attained the age of puberty), one sitting on the right and one on the left (to note his or her actions).

مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ

"Not a word does he (or she) utter, but there is a watcher by him ready (to record it)." (50: 16-18)

Meaning there is an angel on his right which records his good deeds and an angel on his left which records his evil deeds and they are not neglectful in recording anything. So it is an obligation upon the Muslim that he guards his tongue and that he cautious of his words, for most of the people their sittings are nothing but he said she said, and the forbidden speech of backbiting and slandering and also what people involve themselves in of speech regarding the scholars and the Muslim rulers specifically. They consider there speech to be fruitful and they don't consider the harms or results of such speech. A group gathered during a war expedition during the time of the prophet and they began to say amongst themselves, "We have not seen the likes these reciters of ours, the most untruthful tongues, the greediest stomachs, and the most cowardly in the face of the enemy..." They were referring to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and his Companions. So

some of those present who had *ghayrah* (a jealousy and love for the religion) went to the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ to inform him and the revelation had preceded them and it was revealed to the Messenger clarifying what they had said in their gathering.

So then the group of individuals came apologizing with excuses once they heard that the Messenger had become aware of what happened in their gathering. They came, hanging on to the Prophet's she-camel while making excuses and the prophet didn't cease to recite what was revealed to him regarding these people;

٦٥ وَلِئِنْ سَأَلُوكُمْ لِيَقُولُوكُمْ إِنَّمَا كُنَّا نَخْوَضُ وَنَلَعِبُ

"And if you were to ask them, they would say: 'Surely we were only jesting and playing.'" (9:65)

They said "O Messenger of Allaah we were just speaking to shorten the way of our travel (so Allaah) revealed;

٦٥ قُلْ أَإِنَّ اللَّهَ وَإِيمَانُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَهِزُونَ

"Say: 'Was it Allaah, His Verses, or His Messenger you were mocking? Make no excuses, verily you have disbelieved after your belief.' "(9:65)

We ask Allaah for well being ( from falling into the likes of this), also there was a man from the children of Israel who was righteous and zealous. He witnessed someone doing actions of disobedience so he forbade him from doing so, then he saw the man doing it again so he forbade him again until he saw the man continue (repeating the sin) so his zealousness and anger cause him to say: "*I swear by Allaah, that Allaah will never forgive him*" So Allaah said: "*who is the one who says I will not forgive so and so!*" *Surely (because of that statement) I have forgiven so and so and I have nullified your actions*" So pay attention to, because this man proceeded and he swore by Allaah that He would not forgive this man, Allaah rebuke him for that and censored him. Allaah is the All forgiving Most Merciful and no one should despair from the Mercy of Allaah and this man despaired from Allaah's Mercy (upon the sinner) and in addition to that he sweared by Allaah to that. This is also having bad manners with Allaah, so from this despairing Allaah punished the righteous one by nullifying his deeds.

Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه said: "*one may say a word that ruins his worldly affairs and his hereafter*" and also as mentioned in a Hadeeth that the prophet ﷺ said: "*(Verily, a man might utter a word that pleases Allah the Exalted, even though he does not recognize the significance of his word, and on its account Paradise is written for him. Verily, a man might utter a word carelessly that angers Allah the Exalted, and on its account, he is cast in the Fire farther than the distance between the heavens and earth.)*" This is only for speaking one word, so what about more than one word! We ask Allaah for well being.

The ills of the tongue are dangerous and the most severe of them is *shirk* (ascribing partners with Allaah) as Allaah says;

٤٨ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَن يُشَرِّكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ ..

"*Verily Allaah does not forgive that a partner is made equal to Him but He forgive all other sins less than that*"

So whoever supplicates to other than Allaah or invites (others) to shirk then Allaah will never forgive him and his resting place will be the fire as Allaah says;



وَمَا أَوْنَهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ

"And his resting place will be the fire and for the wrong doers there will be no helper" (5:72)

As for as in the life of this world, his actions will be nullified and any righteous actions (he may have) will be null and void by way of the shirk and his blood and wealth will become lawful (so know) O servants of Allaah the speech is very dangerous. Also from the ills of the tongue is speaking about Allaah without knowledge which has become very easy upon the people now to the extent that the people give verdicts that Allaah made this forbidden or His made this permissible and they enter into this (affair) and speaking about Allaah without knowledge is just as great as shirk, and the evidence is in the verse;



وَأَن تُشْرِكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَنًا وَأَن تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا نَعْلَمُونَ

"And that you associate partners with Allaah for which He gave no authority and that you say about Allaah that which you have no knowledge" (7:33)

It is an obligation upon the Muslim that he guards his tongue regarding the affairs of (Islamic) knowledge except with proof from the Book and the Sunnah and there being a need for him to speak in this regard. Also from the ills of the tongue is backbiting and slandering. Backbiting is that you mention of your brother with what he dislikes in his absence (for you to mention of him), and Allah said regarding backbiting;



وَلَا يَغْتَبْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا أَيْحِبُّ أَحَدٌ كُثْمَ أَن يَأْكُلَ  
لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرْهُتُمُوهُ وَأَنْقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَابُ رَحِيمٌ

"And neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it (so hate backbiting). And fear Allâh. Verily, Allâh is the One Who forgives and accepts repentance, Most Merciful." (49:12)

The prophet ﷺ clarified what is backbiting and he said: "It is that you mention about your brother that which he dislikes" and this is backbiting. Many people seek out the defects of others and spread them or (even) they lie about them and this is worst. The Muslim must guard his tongue from the ills of a lying tongue and this is (the spreading of) news or information that is not reality. So an individual informs about a thing and if you were to follow it (by investigating), you would find that it does not have any bases and it is only inventing and lying which is from the major sins and we ask Allaah for well being. Allaah says;



فَنَجْعَلَ لَعْنَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَذَّابِينَ

**"And We made the curse of Allaah be upon those who lie"(3:61)**

So lying is dangerous and a person should not speak except that he is sure about what he saying and there is a benefit in spreading it. Allaah says;

يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنْ جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِّيَنًا فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَنْ تُصْبِحُوا قَوْمًا<sup>٦</sup>  
بِجَهَلَةٍ فَنُصْبِحُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَذِيرٌ مِّنَ

**"O you who believe! If a Fasiq (liar – evil person) comes to you with any news, verify it, lest you should harm people in ignorance, and afterwards you become regretful for what you have done." (49:6)**

So it obligatory to verify (and be sure) in matters and that a person does not mention anything regarding people except that it's verified and there is an initial religious benefit (in doing so). As for as the one who speaks regarding the deficiencies of the people and he has more deficiencies but he doesn't turn to them and he sees similar in the eyes of others while he doesn't see what is in front of his own eyes and like this people are destroyed and Allaah's refuge is sought. So this is (uttering speech about the defects of people, while they forget the defects of themselves.) Protect your tongues and with the opposite of that (speak) good speech. If an individual always speaks good words, then this will be for him (a rising) of levels with Allaah, as He says;

إِلَيْهِ يَصْعُدُ الْكَلْمُ الْطَّيِّبُ ...<sup>١٠</sup>

**"To Him good words ascend" (35:10)**

So to Allaah (Jalla wa ala) the Angels take up (the good speech) but Allaah also says,

وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ...<sup>١٠</sup>

**"And the righteous action is raised to Him" (35:10)**

So speech does not suffice (alone) without action, but it is a must that the speech be good as well as the action. Words without action will not benefit anything as Allaah says;

لَمْ تَقُولُوا مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ  
كَبُرَ مَقْتاً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَقُولُوا مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ<sup>٢</sup>

"Why do you say that which you do not do? (2) Most hateful it is with Allâh that you say that which you do not do." (61:3) and Allaah says;

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُواْ رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ أَسْتَقْدَمُوْا تَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمْ  
الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَا تَخَافُوْا وَلَا تَحْرَجُوْا وَأَبْشِرُوْا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي  
كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُوْنَ

٢٠

"Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allâh (Alone)," and then they stand firm, on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): "Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!" (41:30)

So the Muslim guards his tongue (even) with two light words upon the tongue but heavy on the scales (on the Day of Judgement), it is saying 'subhanaAllaah wa bi hamdihi subhanaAllaah al-atheem'. A man will come on the Day of Judgment and ninety nine scrolls of evil deeds that will be laid out for him and it will be said to him; "do you have any good" (deeds) and he will say "No my Lord" then a small card will be brought which will have written in it (the statement) la ilaha illa Allaah. It will then be said to him, "Surely you will not be wronged" so the card will be placed on a scale and the scrolls (of evil deeds) will be placed on another scale, then card will be heavy and the scrolls will return light. Just one word 'la ilaha illa Allaah' and the scroll that was the distance that the eye can see.

Do not think that every scroll is just a small record you can put away in your pockets No! But every scroll filled with sins will be laid out as far as the eye can see, but this single statement (la ilaha illa Allaah) covered and caused his sins to be forgiven because he said this statement with sincerity and with a correct intention, so Allaah preserved it (the statement) for him on the day of judgment. So make much remembrances of Allaah, and speak much good speech and increase in that which will benefit you with Allaah, so safeguard your tongues Allaah says;

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةً  
أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ

٤٤

"Have you not considered how Allah presents an example, [making] a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches [high] in the sky?" (14:24)

تُؤْتِي أَكْلَهَا كُلَّ حِينٍ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهَا وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ  
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُوْنَ

٤٥

"It produces its fruit all the time, by permission of its Lord. And Allah presents examples for the people that perhaps they will be reminded." (14:25)

# وَمَثُلَ كَلِمَةٍ خَيْشَةٍ كَشَجَرَةٍ خَيْشَةٍ أُجْتَثَتْ مِنْ فَوْقِ الْأَرْضِ مَا لَهَا مِنْ قَرَارٍ

٦٦

"And the example of a bad word is like a bad tree, uprooted from the surface of the earth, not having any stability." (14:26)

يُثَبِّتُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ إِمَانُهُمْ بِالْقَوْلِ الشَّاهِدُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا  
وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَيُضَلُّ اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ وَيَقْعُلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ

٦٧

"Allah keeps firm those who believe, with the firm word, in worldly life and in the Hereafter. And Allah sends astray the wrongdoers. And Allah does what He wills." (14:27)

May Allaah bless me and you regarding the Great Quran and benefit us with what is in from clarity and the Wise Reminder, I ask Allaah to forgive me and all of the Muslims from every sin, so seek His forgiveness surely he is often Forgiving Most Merciful.

## Part 2

All praises belong to Allaah for His virtue and His perfection and I thank him upon His success and thankfulness, I bare witness that none has the right to be worship except Him without partners while exalting His greatness and I bare witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger may the Salaat and Salam be upon him, his family and his companions, to proceed;

O mankind have taqwa of Allaah (know) from man are those who do not speak with bad speech or the least of it, but they accompany the sittings that have in them backbiting and gossiping and also in those gatherings are speech regarding people, rather it be the Muslim leaders, the scholars, or the righteous people. They don't prohibit this speech, so they become their partners and their partners in sin so it's obligatory upon this individual to avoid these sittings. Also it maybe that the person does not sit in these gathering but he watches the (tv) screens, Internet and computers which have foul speech (including) shirk, insulting and swearing in relation to the Muslims and he accepts this and (even) enjoys it and he does not reject it. Allaah says;

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ يَخْوُضُونَ فِي إِيمَانِنَا فَاعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّى يَخْوُضُوا فِي  
حَدِيثٍ غَيْرِهِ وَلَمَّا يُنْسِيَنَّكَ الشَّيْطَانُ فَلَا تَقْعُدْ بَعْدَ الْذِكْرِي مَعَ  
الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ

٦٨

"And when you see those who engage in [offensive] discourse concerning Our verses, then turn away from them until they enter into another conversion. And if Satan should cause you to forget, then do not remain after the reminder with the wrongdoing people." (6:68)

So the people should not sit in the gathering of vain talk and play, he said this and that, backbiting and slandering, but he should raise himself from these gathering and he should sit with the righteous. Allaah says;

وَاصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَدْرَةِ وَالْعَشَّيِ  
يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ، وَلَا تَعْدُ عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الْدُّنْيَا  
وَلَا تُطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلَنَا قَلْبَهُ، عَنْ ذِكْرِنَا وَأَتَّبَعَ هَوَنَهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ  
فُرُطًا

٢٨

"And keep yourself patient [by being] with those who call upon their Lord in the morning and the evening, seeking His countenance. And let not your eyes pass beyond them, desiring adornments of the worldly life, and do not obey one whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his desire and whose affair is ever [in] neglect." (18:28)

So guard yourselves and remove yourselves from the gatherings of people of falsehood and the sittings of evil people, as Allaah says;

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشَهُدُونَ الْزُّورَ ...

"And [they are] those who do not testify to falsehood" (25:72)

Meaning that they do not attend the sittings of falsehood, nor the sittings of vain speech, play and heedlessness. They are not witnesses to it, they (also) turn away from it and they do not sit amongst it as Allaah says;

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا الْلَّغُوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا لَنَا أَعْمَلْنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَلُكُمْ  
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا يَنْتَهِي الْجَهَلُينَ

٥٥

"And when they hear ill speech, they turn away from it and say, "For us are our deeds, and for you are your deeds. Peace will be upon you; we seek not the ignorant." (28:55)

And this is the Salaam of abandonment not the greeting of encountering. So fear Allaah O servants of Allaah and know that the best speech is the book of Allaah and the best guidance is the guidance of the prophet ﷺ and the worst of all evils are the newly invented for every newly invented matter is an innovation is misguidance, so upon you is to hold to the Jamaa'ahj for verily the Hand of Allaah is over the jamaa'ah and whoever deviates does towards the fire.

Allaah says,

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلِّوْنَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَتَأَمَّلُهَا الَّذِينَ إِمَّا  
 صَلَوْا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

٥٦

"Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [ Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [ Allah to grant him] peace." (33:56)

O Allaah send salat and Salam upon Your servant messenger and prophet Muhammad and be pleased with his rightly guided successors and imams, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali and all of his companions, and with the successors of the companions and with those who follow them (all) in goodness until the day of judgment.

O Allaah give might and honor to Islam and the Muslims and debase shirk and the polytheist and annihilate the enemies of Islam and make this land (Saudi Arabia) safe and secure as well as the rest of the Muslim countries.

O Allaah preserve for us our security and stability in our lands O Allaah do not make our sins severe upon us as someone who does not fear You and shall not have mercy upon us Allaah protect us from the harms of those who disbelieve for you are the most severe in afflicting harm and the most severe in punishing O Allaah we ask You to smite their necks and suffice us from their evil O the All living, the One not in need of His creation, O Hearer of supplications. O Allaah correct and make upright our leaders, make them from the guided and not from those who are astray or debased , O Allaah correct their advisors and distance them from evil and corrupt advisors.

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَأَلِلْحَسَنِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَاتِ  
 وَيَنْهَا عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ  
 لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴾

٩٠

"Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." (16:90)

So remember Allaah and He will remember you and thank Him for His blessing and He will increase you, certainly the remember of Allaah is the greatest (of affairs) certainly Allaah knows what we put forth.

**We ask Allaah that He makes this a benefit**

**Source:**

**From Sheikh Salih ibn Fawzan al-Fawzan's website**

**<http://www.alfawzan.af.org.sa/node/14343>**