



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International  
Community of Submitters

[www.masjidtucson.org](http://www.masjidtucson.org)



Published by Masjid Tucson  
Jumada I 1446

All Rights Reserved

## Choosing God

Every day we make choices. Every day, we decide what we're going to do that day. We choose what to wear, what to have for breakfast, and we may make a to do list for that day to decide what needs to be accomplished. Every day also, we decide who we are serving – are we serving ourselves and our own desires, or are we serving God and what He desires? Will we put His will before our own?

In October 2022, Hobby Lobby founder David Green announced that he was giving up his company, and that he “chose God” over wealth. He felt that wealth can be a curse and he wanted to be a steward of “what God has given us.”

He said that he worked hard and God gave the results. He felt it was a privilege to give back. He stated that “God was the true owner of my business.” “When I realized that I was just a steward, it was easy to give away my ownership.” Green felt that wealth could be a test on family, marriage and children, and his belief was that God owns everything.

We know through Quran that one can get preoccupied with the worldly pos-

sessions God bestows on us, including money and children.

*[9:69] Some of those before you were stronger than you, and possessed more money and children. They became preoccupied with their material possessions. Similarly, you have become preoccupied with your material possessions, just like those before you have become preoccupied. You have become totally heedless, just as they were heedless. Such are the people who nullify their works, both in this world and in the Hereafter; they are the losers.*

But money and children can be a blessing if one keeps their priorities straight.

*[18:46] Money and children are the joys of this life, but the righteous works provide an eternal recompense from your Lord, and a far better hope.*

*[8:28] You should know that your money and your children are a test, and that GOD possesses a great recompense.*

*[25:74] And they say, “Our Lord, let our spouses and children be a source of joy for us, and keep us in the forefront of the righteous.” [25:75] These are the ones who attain Paradise in*

*return for their steadfastness; they are received therein with joyous greetings and peace.*

Choosing God is not easy for most people to do. Even for Submitters because God made us weak and Satan is always whispering to us to make any other choice besides choosing God.

How is it that we can make the wrong choice so easily? Because we are so easily distracted. So easily preoccupied.

*[35:5] O people, GOD's promise is the truth; therefore, do not be distracted by this lowly life. Do not be diverted from GOD by mere illusions.*

*[63:9] O you who believe, do not be distracted by your money and your children from remembering GOD. Those who do this are the losers.*

*[13:26] GOD is the One who increases the provision for whomever He wills, or withholds it. They have become preoccupied with this life, and this life, compared to the Hereafter, is nil.*

*[17:83] When we bless the human being, he becomes preoccupied and heedless.*

(Continued on page 2)

*(Continued from page 1)*

*But when adversity strikes him, he turns despondent.*

*[7:51] Those who do not take their religion seriously, and are totally preoccupied with this worldly life, we forget them on that day, because they forgot that day, and because they spurned our revelations.*

Even Solomon, such a devout submitter, was fallible.

*[38:30-34] To David we granted Solomon; a good and obedient servant. One day he became preoccupied with beautiful horses, until the night fell. He then said, "I enjoyed the material things more than I enjoyed worshiping my Lord, until the sun was gone." Bring them back." (To bid farewell,) he rubbed their legs and necks. We thus put Solomon to the test; we blessed him with vast material wealth, but he steadfastly submitted.*

So God gives us plenty of examples of how easy it is to become distracted and preoccupied. It takes a conscious and concerted effort to choose God. What does choosing God mean for us? What does it look like? Attending the Friday prayer is a choice.

*[62:9] O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu'ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of GOD, and drop all business. This is better for you, if you only knew.*

*[62:10] Once the prayer is completed, you may spread through the land to seek GOD's bounties, and continue to remember GOD frequently, that you may succeed.*

*[62:11] When some of them come across a business deal, or some entertainment, they rush to it and leave you standing! Say, "What God possesses is far better than the entertainment or the business. God is the best Provider."*

Attending Quran study is a choice.

*[18:28] You shall force yourself to be with those who worship their Lord day*

*and night, seeking Him alone. Do not turn your eyes away from them, seeking the vanities of this world. Nor shall you obey one whose heart we rendered oblivious to our message; one who pursues his own desires, and whose priorities are confused.*

God gives us many opportunities to remember Him.

*[18:23-24] You shall not say that you will do anything in the future, without saying, "GOD willing." If you forget to do this, you must immediately remember your Lord and say, "May my Lord guide me to do better next time."*

*[6:118-119] You shall eat from that upon which GOD's name has been pronounced, if you truly believe in His revelations. Why should you not eat from that upon which GOD's name has been mentioned?*

And if we make the wrong choices, God gives us plenty of verses telling us the consequences of those choices.

*[17:18] Anyone who chooses this fleeting life as his priority, we will rush to him what we decide to give him, then we commit him to Gehenna, where he suffers forever, despised and defeated*

*[19:75] Say, "Those who choose to go astray, the Most Gracious will lead them on, until they see what is promised for them—either the retribution or the Hour. That is when they find out who really is worse off, and weaker in power."*

*[35:39] He is the One who made you inheritors of the earth. Subsequently, whoever chooses to disbelieve does so to his own detriment. The disbelief of the disbelievers only augments their Lord's abhorrence towards them. The disbelief of the disbelievers plunges them deeper into loss.*

Making the right choice:

*[2:272] You are not responsible for guiding anyone. GOD is the only one who guides whoever chooses (to be guided). Any charity you give is for your own good. Any charity you give*

*shall be for the sake of GOD. Any charity you give will be repaid to you, without the least injustice.*

*[17:19] As for those who choose the Hereafter as their priority, and work righteousness, while believing, their efforts will be appreciated.*

*[19:76] GOD augments the guidance of those who choose to be guided. For the good deeds are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and bring far better returns.*

*[73:17-19] If you disbelieve, how can you evade a day so terrible that it makes the infants gray-haired? The heaven will shatter therefrom. His promise is true. This is a reminder; whoever wills, let him choose the path to his Lord.*

*[73:9] Lord of the east and the west; there is no other god besides Him. You should choose Him as your advocate.*

Here are some verses from the bible regarding choosing God.

Joshua 24:15: If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Deuteronomy 30:19: I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,

Psalms 119:30: I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.

Psalms 119:173: Let Your hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Your precepts.

Job 34:4: Let us choose for ourselves what is right; Let us know among ourselves what is good.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Luke 1:37: For with God nothing shall be impossible.

God tells us that choosing God may be the difficult path:

*[90:11-18] He should choose the difficult path. Which one is the difficult path? The freeing of slaves. Feeding, during the time of hardship. Orphans who are related. Or the poor who is in need. And being one of those who believe, and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and exhorting one another to be kind. These have deserved happiness.*

God is like a compass and GPS. A compass that lets us know where we are.

The GPS not only tells us where we are, but it actually lets us know the best route or path we should take to get to our destination. Have you ever used your GPS to go somewhere, and you decided to take an alternate route?

Then you were lost, and the GPS recalculated the directions so that you could go back to the original path. Thank God for recalculating or redirecting paths we have taken in our lives!! How would it be if God never recalculated our path when we messed up? Studying, reading, meditating on the Word of God helps us to choose God's path.

And what is the reward for choosing God? I feel these verses sum it up beautifully.

*[76:11-26] Consequently, GOD protects them from the evils of that day, and rewards them with joy and contentment. He rewards them for their steadfastness with Paradise, and silk. They relax therein on luxurious furnishings. They suffer neither the heat of the sun, nor any cold. The shade covers them therein, and the fruits are brought within reach. They are served drinks in silver containers and cups that are translucent. Translucent cups, though made of silver; they rightly deserved all this. They enjoy drinks of delicious flavors. From a spring therein known as "Salsabeel." Serving them will be immortal servants. When you see*

*them, they will look like scattered pearls. Wherever you look, you will see bliss, and a wonderful dominion. On them will be clothes of green velvet, satin, and silver ornaments. Their Lord will provide them with pure drinks. This is the reward that awaits you, for your efforts have been appreciated. We have revealed to you this Quran; a special revelation from us. You shall steadfastly carry out your Lord's commandments, and do not obey any sinful disbeliever among them. And commemorate the name of your Lord day and night. During the night, fall prostrate before Him, and glorify Him many a long night.*

*[76:29-30] This is a reminder: whoever wills shall choose the path to his Lord. Whatever you will is in accordance with GOD's will. GOD is Omniscient, Wise.*

May God continue to guide us to choose Him first and always.

Bob

\* \* \* \* \*

## Gratitude

*[14:7] Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe.*

We know that one of our most important duties is to be thankful to God for all His blessings. We feel that gratitude in our hearts; then we express our thanks in words; and finally we truly thank God by doing righteous works.

The word "Alhamdulillah" (praise be to God) is in Chapter 1, right after we say "In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful." This word expresses our gratitude to the One God. When asked how you are or how you're doing, a Submitter will often reply, "Alhamdulillah." We use it to express appreciation for waking up from sleep, eating or drinking anything, seeing a beautiful sunset. In this way, our entire life revolves around gratitude towards God.

In Chapter 55 of the Quran, titled Most Gracious, God asks the same question thirty-one times: "Which of your Lord's marvels can you deny?" God created everything and we are blessed with so many provisions and delights. How can anyone do anything but express gratitude to God.

*[2:152] You shall remember Me, that I may remember you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative.*

Being grateful to God is not just saying Alhamdulillah. We have to mean it in our heart, show it in our actions, live it each day. When we do, God promises us in 14:7 that He will give us even more.

Gratitude makes us feel good, helps eliminate negative attitudes and bad thoughts. It has physical, mental and spiritual benefits. Yet, the Quran tells us many times that most people are unappreciative.

*[7:10] We have established you on earth, and we have provided for you the means of support therein. Rarely are you appreciative.*

*[10:60] Does it ever occur to those who fabricate lies about GOD that they will have to face Him on the Day of Resurrection? Certainly, GOD showers the people with His grace, but most of them are unappreciative.*

*[17:67] If you are afflicted in the middle of the sea, you forget your idols and sincerely implore Him alone. But as soon as He saves you to the shore, you revert. Indeed, the human being is unappreciative.*

*[22:66] He is the One who granted you life, then He puts you to death, then He brings you back to life. Surely, the human being is unappreciative.*

*[27:73] Your Lord is full of grace towards the people, but most of them are unappreciative.*

*[43:15] They even assigned for Him a share from His own creation! Surely, the human being is profoundly unappreciative.*

*(Continued on page 4)*

MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel: (520) 323 7636

internet web site: [www.masjiduntucson.org](http://www.masjiduntucson.org)

e-mail: [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org) (or: [masjiduntucson@gmail.com](mailto:masjiduntucson@gmail.com))

Non-profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tucson AZ

ISSN 1089-053X

*Happiness is Submission to God Alone*

Keep up with history in the making. Subscribe now.

\$12/yr. U.S., Canada and Mexico, \$19/yr. overseas.

*(Continued from page 3)*

*[80:17] Woe to the human being; he is so unappreciative!*

God has provided us with everything we need in this world. He has made it not just productive but beautiful as well. We take so much for granted, without being properly appreciative of these blessings. The sun for our warmth, the moon and stars, the seas for provisions and transportation, the livestock for food and shelter. We can never fully grasp all of God's gifts. *[14:34] And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count GOD's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative.*

Further, the ultimate blessing of God upon us is His guidance. He showed us the right path, gave us the wisdom to become successful in the hereafter. We stand apart from the lot, because we know the true path of success without any doubt. Therefore, it becomes necessary to appreciate these blessings of God.

Gratitude in Islam is a form of worship. So do not be like the one who was blessed with earning a lot of money every day, and after a year he started thanking the money and not the One who blessed him with it. Being ungrateful to God is irrational as well as a form of spiritual and intellectual bankruptcy. Every blessing of God is worth appreciating. It

is quite unfortunate that those who forget to thank God or fabricate lies about God will be in a very pitiable condition on the day of resurrection.

*[10:60] Does it ever occur to those who fabricate lies about GOD that they will have to face Him on the Day of Resurrection? Certainly, GOD showers the people with His grace, but most of them are unappreciative.*

God does not need our appreciation or glorification. He is just finding the ways and the excuses to forgive us, and He asks us to be thankful and appreciative. *[39:66] Therefore, you shall worship GOD alone, and be appreciative.*

Ironically, we humans are the only ones who forget to be sufficiently grateful to Him. *[17:44] Glorifying Him are the seven universes, the earth, and everyone in them. There is nothing that does not glorify Him, but you do not understand their glorification. He is Clement, Forgiver.*

Thanking God and showing gratitude for His blessings in good times is quite obvious but appreciating it in the midst of hard times is truly phenomenal.

*[2:216] Fighting may be imposed on you, even though you dislike it. But you may dislike something which is good for you, and you may like something which is bad for you. GOD knows while you do not know.*

*[7:99] Have they taken GOD's plans for granted? None takes GOD's plans for granted except the losers.*

So, if we aspire to be closer to God then we must never lose an opportunity to remember God. Hence to achieve the closeness to God we need to have perseverance and patience. Nobody achieves success instantly. We all know that the day you plant a seed is not the day you eat the fruit. Be patient, be humble, keep moving forward and know that all this hard work you are putting in will surely produce the results you have been looking for. May God guide us and grant us the success we are seeking. And may He have mercy on us to have the right attitude to show gratitude to Him.

Remember, we have a choice: *[76:3] We showed him the two paths, then, he is either appreciative, or unappreciative.* Let's be appreciative.

Abdul Ghani

### Write for the Submitters Perspective

We appreciate your contributions to the *Submitters Perspective* in the form of articles, comments and suggestions. Please email us with your articles or questions at: [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org) Past *Submitters Perspective* issues are available on our website [masjiduntucson.org/publications/books/sp](http://masjiduntucson.org/publications/books/sp)