

Lesson 30

Point Number 38

And hypocrisy; *an-nifaaq* is to display Islaam upon the tongue whilst hiding disbelief; *al-kufr* in the heart.

The Explanation:

An-nifaaq (hypocrisy) is to show outwardly that which is good and to conceal inwardly that which is evil. And it (*nifaaq*; hypocrisy) is of two categories:

The first of them being:

Nifaaqun l'tiqaadiyy (hypocrisy of belief) and this is *kuffrun akbar* (major disbelief). And the hypocrite; *munaafiq* is worse than the *kaafirun asliyy* (original disbeliever) because the original disbeliever, it is well known about him that he is a disbeliever; *kaafir* and that he is an enemy. However, the *munaafiq* (the hypocrite), he deceives the Muslims and he manifests that he is from them when he is actually an enemy to them. He manifests openly that he is a Muslim whilst when he is actually a *kaafir* (a disbeliever).

He the Most High said:

﴿يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ

وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٩﴾

(Explanation)

They try to deceive Allaah and those who believe but they do not actually deceive except their ownelves whilst they do not perceive.

(Sooratul-Baqarah (2), *aaayah* 9)

And therefore, Allaah will put them in the lowest depths of the Fire beneath the worshippers of the idols and the *kuffaar* (disbelievers) because they are worse than the disbelievers. And therefore, He, the Majestic and Most High said with regard to them:



(Explanation)

They (the hypocrites), they are the enemy so beware of them, may Allaah curse them, how do they deviate away from the truth?¹

(Sooratul-Munaafiqoon (63), *aayah* 4)

An-Nifaaqun I'tiqaadiyy (hypocrisy of belief) is that which *eemaan* (true faith) can never combine with.

The second type is:

An-Nifaaqun `Amaliyy (hypocrisy in actions); it is that a person is a believer; a *mu`min* outwardly and inwardly. However, some characteristics come from him from the characteristics of the hypocrites, which render his *eemaan* deficient and there is a severe threat for it. However, he does not exit from the religion. It is called *an-nifaaqun `amaliyy* (hypocrisy in action) and it is called *an-nifaaq ul-asghar* (the lesser hypocrisy). And the like of this is occurs in his saying *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam*:

“There are four things, whoever has them all in him then he will be a pure hypocrite and whoever has a single characteristic from them then he will have a characteristic of hypocrisy till he abandons it. When he talks, he lies and when he makes a promise, he breaks it and when he is trusted, he proves treacherous and when he argues, he speaks in a foul manner.”²

¹ Shaykh Saalih as-Suhaymee *hafizahullaah* said, “Indeed there has come down with regard to them (the hypocrites) a soorah which is specifically about them, which is called Sooratul-Munaafiqoon; 63rd soorah and it from its start to its end speaks about their shameful deeds just as Allaah, the Most High also exposed them in other soorahs as occurs in Sooratul-Noor, 24th soorah, and Sooratut-Towbah the 9th soorah to the extent that this soorah is called Al-Faadeehah (the exposing soorah) because it exposes the hypocrites and also Sooratul-Ahzaab; 33rd soorah and some parts of Sooratul-Baqarah and some parts of Soorah-Aali `Imraan.

² Reported by Al Bukhaariyy (34) and Muslim (58) from a hadeeth of Abdullaah ibn Amr *radhiyAllaahu `anhuma*.

So with regard to the believer, then hypocrisy in action may appear from him and it will be a deficiency in his *eemaan* and he will be deserving of the threat, however, he does not depart from the religion on account of that.³

And this hypocrisy is *ar-riya* (performing deeds to show off), which Allaah's Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* feared for his companions and he called it lesser shirk. So he said:

"That which I fear most for you is lesser shirk."

So they said:

"And what is lesser shirk, Oh Messenger of Allaah?"

So he said:

"It is ar-riya (acting to show off). Allaah will say on the Day of Resurrection when the people are recompensed for their deeds; go to those people whom you used to show off to in the world and look and see, do you find any recompense with them and any reward with them?"⁴

And he *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* said:

"Shall I not inform you of that which is more fearful with me upon you than Al-Maseehud-Dajjaal?"

So they said:

"Yes indeed."

So he said:

³ Shaykh Saalih As Suhaymee *hafizahullaah* said, "And this type of hypocrisy; *nifaaqun `amaliyy* (hypocrisy with regard to actions) does not take the person outside the fold of Islaam even though the seriousness of its sin is great because it may lead over time to falling into hypocrisy in belief and Allaah's refuge is sought, Aameen. And all of it is evil and hypocrisy is blameworthy from every angle and therefore there has never been any movement against Islaam and against the Muslims except that the hypocrites were found within their ranks; either aiding them with material or by laying down plans for them, plotting for them or by preparing the way for them or by making false promises until Allaah, the Exalted and Most High exposed them."

⁴ Reported by Imaam Ahmad in his Musnad, al-Bayhaqiyy in Shu'b al-Eemaan, al-Bagawiyy in Sharḥus-Sunnah from a *hadeeth* of Mahmood ibn Labeed *radiyAllaahu `anh* and al-Mundhiriyy said in his book At-Targeeb Wa At-Tarheeb, "its chain of narration is good." Shaykh al-Albaaniyy said in his checking of At-Targeeb Wa At-Tarheeb, "*saheeh* (authentic)."

“It is hidden shirk that a man stands up and prays and he beautifies his prayer because of the fact that he sees a man looking at him.”⁵

So when this person prays in the presence of the people, he adorns his prayer and when he prays in his house or in a place when he is unseen, he prays very quickly. Then this is what the Companions used to fear for themselves severely. So, no-one can declare himself to be totally free and innocent of it. So a person should fear it and therefore they said with regard to this:

“No-one fears it except for a true believer and no-one feels secure from it except for a hypocrite.”

So the Muslim fears for himself from this hypocrisy, which is lesser hypocrisy.

His saying, **“And hypocrisy is that he manifests Islaam upon his tongue and he hides disbelief in the heart”**, this is the definition of *an-nifaaqun i'tiqaadiyy* (hypocrisy in belief) and it is *an-nifaaqun akbar* (major hypocrisy) and *eemaan* cannot combine with this. So it will never occur from a *mu'min* (a believer). And Allaah, the Majestic and Most High at the start of Sooratul-Baqarah divided mankind into believers; *mu'mineen* outwardly and inwardly and into disbelievers; *kuffaar* outwardly and inwardly and into the hypocrites; *munaafiqeen*; those who manifest Islaam outwardly but hide disbelief. So, He, the Perfect said in the Qur'aan:

﴿الْم ۝۱﴾ ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَٰبُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿۲﴾ ٱلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِٱلْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ
ٱلصَّلَٰةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ ﴿۳﴾ ٱلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلِكَ وَبِٱلْآخِرَةِ هُمْ
يُوقِنُونَ ﴿۴﴾ أُو۟لَٰئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُو۟لَٰئِكَ هُمُ ٱلْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿۵﴾﴾

(Explanation)

Alif-Laam-Meem. This is the Book about which there is no doubt, it is a guidance for the people of *Taqwaa* (dutiful to Allaah), those who truly believe in the *ghaib* (hidden and the unseen) and who establish the prayer and who spend from that which we have given them and those who truly believe in that which was sent

⁵ Reported by Imaam Ahmad in his Musnad, ibn Maajah in his Sunan, at-Tahaawiyy in Sharḥ Mushkili al-Aathaar, ibn Adiyy and a number of others, at-Tabariyy in Tahdheebu al-Aathaar, al-Haakim and others from a ḥadeeth of Aboo Sa'eed al-Khudriyy *radiyAllahu `anh*. This ḥadeeth was declared *saḥeeh* by at-Tahaawiyy and al-Haakim and ad-Dhaahabi agreed and al-Boosayriyy declared it *hasan* in his Misbaah Az-Zuajaah; al-Boosayriyy's notes on his checking of ibn Maajah. Shaykh al-Albaaniyy said in his checking of ibn Maajah, "this ḥadeeth is *hasan* (good)."

down to you (Muhammad) and who believe in that which came down before you and those who truly believe in the Hereafter. They are upon guidance from their Lord and they are the ones who will prosper.

(Sooratul-Baqarah (2), *ayah* 1-5)

These *ayahs* are with regard to the believers; *mu'mineen*, those who are believers outwardly and inwardly. As for the disbelievers; outwardly and inwardly and Allaah said with regard to them in the following *ayahs*:

He, the Most High said:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَأَنذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَى سَمْعِهِمْ وَعَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشْوَةٌ وَلَهُمْ

عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٧﴾

(Explanation)

Those who disbelieve, it is the same for them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allaah has put a seal upon their hearts and upon their hearing and upon their sight there is a covering and there will be a tremendous punishment for them.

(Sooratul-Baqarah (2), *ayah* 6-7)

Then He said with regard to the 3rd category; the hypocrites:

﴿وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَقُولُ ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَبِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ

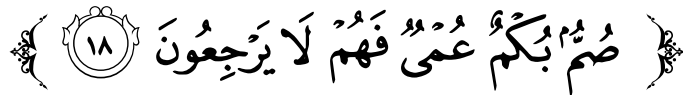
يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ

وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٨﴾

(Explanation)

And from the people, there are those who say we believe in Allaah and in the Last Day but they are not believers. They attempt to deceive Allaah and those who believe but they do not actually deceive except themselves whilst they do not perceive....

Up until His saying, He, the Most High:



Deaf, dumb and blind so they will not return to the truth.

(Sooratul-Baqarah (2), *ayah* 8-18)

So these *ayahs* are with regard to the hypocrites; the *munaafiqeen* and they are 10 and odd *ayahs*.

His saying, **“The hypocrite is the one who manifests Islaam upon his tongue and hides disbelief in the dameer; heart.”** *Ad-dameer* means that which he conceals within the heart.⁶

⁶ Translator’s side point: Shaykh Ahmad an-Najmee *rahimahullaah* said in his explanation, “*An-nifaaq* (hypocrisy) is derived from *an-nafq*, which means *al-juhr*; literally animal burrow or a tunnel, which is found in the earth and it is called that because the person who has it has hypocrisy. He makes apparent something contrary to that which he hides. And this is what is called *an-nifaaqun i’tiqaadiyy*; (hypocrisy in belief) and as for *nifaaqun ‘amaliyy* (hypocrisy in action) then that does not take a person outside Islaam, rather this person remains as a Muslim and this is called *nifaaqun ‘amaliyy* (hypocrisy in action) because the person with it, he manifests something contrary to what he hides does something. As for *an-nifaaqun i’tiqaadiyy* (hypocrisy in belief) then that is the hypocrisy of the hypocrites, those who were in the time of the Prophet *sallAllaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam* and it is to manifest Islaam whilst hiding disbelief and the person tries to guard against revealing what he actually believes and therefore Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic has informed about them that the hypocrites will be in the lowest depth of the Fire and Allaah is the one who grants success.”

Itḥaaful-Qaaree bit-Ta'leeqaat `alaa Sharḥis-Sunnah

by Shaykh Saalih ibn Fowzaan al-Fowzaan *hafizahullaah*

Volume 1, Pages 259-263

Translated by Aboo Talḥah Daawood Burbank, *rahimahullaah*

Transcribed by Saima Zaher

Points discussed by Shaykh Saalih al-Fowzaan hafizahullaah in this excerpt include:

- There are two types of nifaaq (hypocrisy):
 - I'tiqaadee (in belief) which is when someone manifests Islaam but conceals disbelief
 - `Amaliy (in action) which is when performs certain sins, but does not exit from the fold of Islaam
- Ar-Riyaa (beautifying one's acts of worship to show off) is also a type of nifaaq `amaliy
- The beginning of soorat-ul-Baqarah describes three categories of people: the believers, the disbelievers and the hypocrites