

The Four Greatest Favors bestowed upon man

Shaykh Uthaymeen رحمه الله said in his explanation of Riyadis Saliheen

1. Islam

The greatest favor Allah has blessed His slaves with is the favor of Islam, which Allah diverted many of the people away from. Allah the Exalted said *"This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."* (Soorah Al-Mā'idah 5:3) Thus if the person finds that Allah has favored him with Islam, and Allah has opened his heart towards it; this is the greatest blessing.

2. Intellect

Next is the blessing of intellect. Thus when the person sees someone who has been tested in their intellect so he is not able to handle his affairs properly and perhaps he harms himself and his family, then let him praise Allah for this favor; for surely it is a tremendous blessing.

3. Safety and security

The favor of safety in the homeland, surely it is from the greatest favors. An example of this is what occurred to our fathers and grandfathers from great fear in this country. We were told that if one of them left the home to go to Fajr prayer he would always carry a weapon with him, fearing someone would attack him. Thus, there is no favor comparable to the favor of safety except the favors of Islam and intellect.

4. Subsistence and livelihood

Allah has favored us – especially in this country (Saudi Arabia) with comfort, it comes to us from everywhere. We are experiencing a great deal of good and all praises belong to Allah. Our homes are filled with provisions. A spread of food for one person suffices two, three or more. This is also from the favors. Therefore it is obligatory upon us to show gratitude to Allah the Exalted for these great favors and we must be obedient to Him so He will increase His favors upon us. Because Allah the Exalted said *"And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed: 'If you give thanks I will give you more (of My Blessings), but if you are ungrateful, verily! My Punishment is indeed severe.'" (Soorah Ibrāhīm 14:7)*

Translator's note: Most of us reading this have been blessed with all four of the greatest favors given to man.