

# Ten Successful Methods of Tabligh

By

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Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation, and argue with them in a way that is the best. Surely, thy Lord knows the best who has strayed from His way; and He also knows those who are rightly guided. And if you *desire to* punish *the oppressors*, then punish *them* to the extent to which you have been wronged; but if you show patience then, surely, that is best for those who are patient. And, endure thou with patience; and verily thy patience is *possible* only with *the help of Allāh*. And grieve not for them, nor feel distressed because of their plots. Verily, Allah is with those who are righteous and those who do good. (Holy Qur'ān, 16[Al-Nahl]:126-129)

It is not a simple calling to God that is contained in this verse but it is a call towards the glory with which Allah manifested Himself to the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that the world was invited to; for He is the God Who is the Lord of all the worlds. Following are ten important points in this respect.

## 1. The message is for all the believers:

Although the message is for all the believers, but here only the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has been addressed. It is not said that O Muhammad! You alone go and start calling people towards Allah and no companion should accompany you. Thus, it is addressed to the Holy Prophet, but is meant for all the believers.

**Meaning of Hikmat (wisdom, foresight):** By pondering over the word Hikmat it seems that we should first look towards the history. By looking over the events of history, we shall have to deal with our adversaries with extreme love and affection. It is then that our point of view will be accepted, otherwise not.

## 2. Approach according to the Circumstances:

The second point of Hikmat, which is usually ignored, is keeping the circumstances in view. Analyze the circumstances and then start the work of calling towards Allah. Everything is fine if it is done at proper time. Delivering your message to some one who is in a hurry or mentally upset is not proper. This will not be according to circumstances. If a man dislikes something and it is presented to him, he won't accept it even if it is good. Therefore, if the way of presentation is not so agreeable that it overpowers the hatred to hear the message, Tabligh will not be effective for him. Therefore, mind that you are engaged in a very delicate task. Follow the model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him), and be kind to others. Similarly adopt wise way of communication. You will have to think that your addressee will surely change by normalcy, therefore, you need to communicate gently.

## 3. In accordance with human nature:

One of the demands of Hikmat is to talk according to the trend of the person you are talking to, and you should never be oblivious to it. Understand the tendency of the person whom you are conversing with. You should know what he avoids and then deal with him accordingly.

#### **4. Within your capabilities:**

Another demand of Hikmat is to take stock of your own temperament and tendencies. Everyone can not do all kinds of Tabligh. God has blessed faculties according to one's own temperament. For instance, a brother used to wear a robe with Qur'anic verses inscribed on it. Another brother, Qureshi Muhammad Hanif used to roam and preach on his bicycle. To say that one does not have the capacity for tabligh is to blame Allah. It is right to say that as every one has different capacities, therefore, to face the other person will also be in different ways. Everyone has his own personality and should treat others according to his own capacity. You yourself have different temperaments. God has granted you different capacities. Therefore, you will have to adopt the right way of thinking about yourself and how you can discharge your obligations in a befitting manner. Some do not have good conversational or public speaking skills while others lack in effective writing. Some are shy in public, but are good talkers in a small company. There are others who can address large gatherings. Therefore, if someone will act against his/her personality granted to him/her by God, s/he will become a laughing stock.

#### **5. Times also change:**

There are different periods. Needs of time also change. Hikmat demands that one should take advantage of those times. Therefore, different ways of talk suit at different times. There are times when one is sad and that time demands a different kind of talk. Way of talking at happier times will be of different sort. Similarly you will have to adopt a different way at the times of panic.

#### **6. Appropriate selection:**

Another demand of Hikmat is to choose the right person. There is innumerable creation of God who you have to call towards Allah. With a general view, one can learn as to who will require lesser hard work. There are Ahmadis who sometimes work hard on someone who is prejudiced, adamant and far from Taqwa. They forget that Allah has promised to guide those who are righteous and have the courage to call spade a spade. (So said Christ also not to throw pearls before the swine. Matthew 7:6) Therefore, select good natured people especially those who are courageous and may themselves become muballigh later.

#### **7. Remain constantly in contact:**

To take care of your crop is another demand of Hikmat. When you engage in Da'wat ilallah or will engage, you will enjoy it. If you will not see the person you are preaching again and again, you will lose him like destroying your harvest. This is because the effect of your tabligh has not gone very deep. You will have to pay constant attention. If you will not do so, your labor will go to waste.

#### **8. Prayers are needed:**

If you do not irrigate your crop, it will bear no fruit. There are two ways of irrigation. One is the water of your knowledge, you impart in this world. But the real harvest is when it receives the heavenly water. If you will irrigate your crop with merely your own water of knowledge, it will not bring out blessed fruit. Therefore, prayers are essential and you will have to shed tears in front of God Almighty. Seek help from Him. It is the tears of a believer which bring torrents of blessings. Therefore, Hikmat was mentioned first and then good word is mentioned. Good word is clear, true and pious advice which has a pull. It has nothing to do with any sectarian difference.

It comes direct from heart and goes straight to heart. Therefore, arguments come later, but begin with a good word. First, tell the people that you have sympathy for them. They are ruining themselves. The society is being destroyed. Think, why it is being destroyed. Tell them that divine people come and after delivering their message depart. Give them the message that a caller has come and it is better for them to accept that divine caller. This is the reason that the Holy Qur'an advises not to hurry. Begin with Hikmat so that people should know that you are truthful and their sympathizer. They should realize that you are not interested only in yourself, but are interested in them as well.

#### **9. Discussion:**

Despite your good and wise word, people will be ready to argue with you. Allah says, therefore, We also advise you to face them and do not show your back to them. Now, be prepared and you have the right to argue with full strength and vigor with those who counter you. But this encounter should not be with brute force and it is said that argue with them with what is good. Therefore, even now, encounter with evil will be with goodness. They will come with evil but you will have to present goodness. They wish to harm you, but you wish good for them. They will bring feeble arguments but you present strong and powerful proofs. Represent goodness every time whereas they will be representing hatred and evil.

#### **10. Patience:**

And if you will remain patient, then know that this is better for those who remain patient (Holy Qur'an, 16[Al-Nahl]:127).

Therefore, remember that you should show patience, and Allah tells you that those who show patience are more successful than others. It is better for those who show patience, in religious contests, they should not take revenge but should keep overlooking mistakes of others and remain tolerant. Call towards the way of Allah began with singular number and now it has become plural. That is why I had concluded that the duty of tabligh is not confined to the Holy Prophet alone and it is obligatory for his followers as well. Allah says to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him), "And endure thou with patience; and verily, thy patience is *possible* only with *the help of Allah.*" (Holy Qur'an, 16[Al-Nahl]:128).

This means that Allah says to him, O Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), We do not say that you may show patience or take revenge, as you please. For you, Our advice is that you have to show patience. We know that you are already showing patience for the sake of Allah. Therefore, you are not to abandon this path because this is the way that is the best. You should know that patience is of two kinds. One is patience in anger and other is patience during grief. You know that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) never went even near rage. Therefore, always remember that we have to follow the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in whom there was least anger. He was the man who showed patience of real mother, and even more. He is the man who is pining for his opponents who are harming themselves by not accepting him. That's why Allah says: "And grieve not thou for them." (Holy Qur'an, 16[Al-Nahl]:128).

**You are all Dais.** Therefore, I call upon all the members of our Jamaat to call the whole world to One and Living God. Call people of the east and of the west. Call the black as well as the white. Call the Christians as well as Hindus. Call every one who has gone astray and call the atheists also. You are responsible to call Eastern Bloc and the Western Block as well. It is you alone who have to grant life instead of death to the world. If you will neglect, the people who have to die will die and will be wandering in the dark.

Therefore, O ye the devotees of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the lovers of his religion, now don't think about your profession and your worldly duties. Every one of you should consider himself a Dailallah and he will be accountable for this obligation before God. Whatever your profession or job, to whichever country you may belong, your primary duty is to call the world to the God of Muhammad. (Friday sermon dated February 25, 1983)

**Every Ahmadi Should be a DaiIallah:**

I am repeatedly calling you to become a Daiilallah and call the world towards salvation and call them to Lord of the worlds. Otherwise the destiny of the people will go in the hands of godless people, and there will be no doubt about their doom. Therefore, every A<sup>TM</sup>madī without exception must become Dailallāh. The time is gone when the task was entrusted to only a few Daeens. Now is the time when even the children will have to become preachers and old people will have to become Daeen. Even people who are sick and confined to bed will have to become muballighin.

Such people can at least help in this jihad with prayers. They can cry before God, day and night saying that O Lord! Due to sickness, we are weak and cannot go out. Therefore, we pray unto you to transform the hearts of the people and we realize our responsibilities. If we start our work with this determination, I am sure that by the grace of God, the destruction of the world will be staved off.

**Supplications:**

Every Ahmadi must start praying very seriously that O God, grant us strength that we may fulfill our responsibilities to become Dailallāh in Your sight. Our Lord! Grant strength to the people also that they may listen to our message. Their hearts should become soft and their intellect may become straight and they may start believing in Your Name. Along with that also pray that He may grant the new entrants that they remain steadfast even in gales of opposition. O God grant them Your mercy, blessings and love so they may become models for others to follow. (Friday Sermon dated 4th March 1983)