

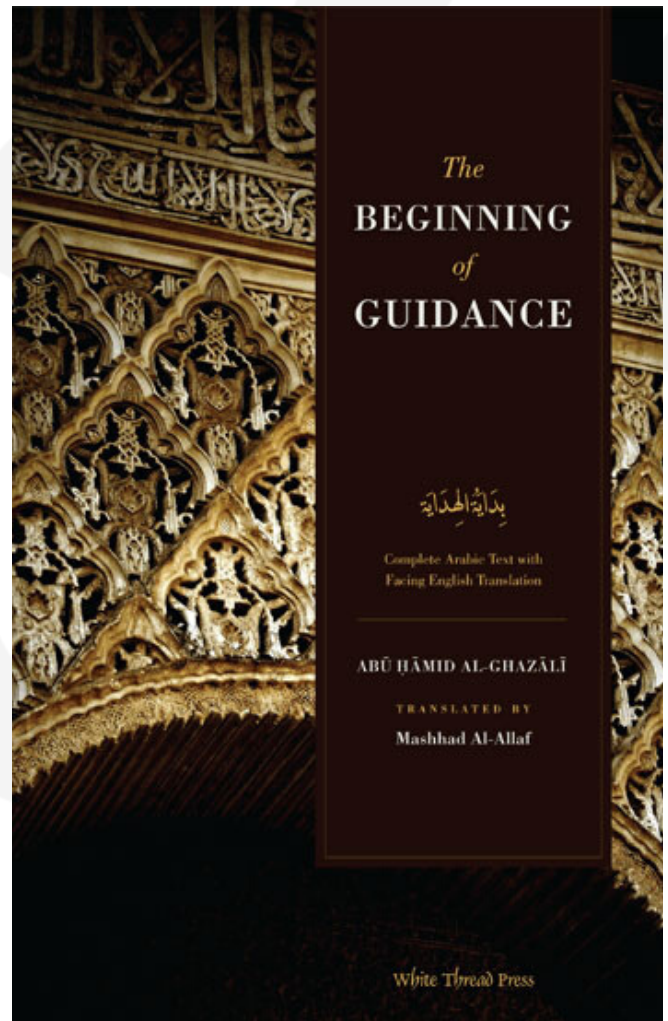
# THE BEGINNING OF GUIDANCE



Shaykh Sulaiman Moola

## The Beginning of Guidance by Imam Ghazali

- Shaykh Sulaiman Moola started his session by briefly noting on the sincerity of Imam Al-Ghazali. For the rest of the lesson, Shaykh Sulaiman focuses on the abstinence of sin and its importance within our lives.
- There are two branches to our faith:
  1. Performance of noble deeds
  2. Abstinence from that which is wrong



- It is a greater feat to abstain from the forbidden than to simply perform mandatory acts. Resisting temptation is harder. Allah SWT has endowed the pious with the ability to stay away from sin and inshallah we can all reach that level.
- We generally think of immigration/migration as physical movement, but the true migration is the one who migrates from a life of sin to obedience.

### Signs of Gratitude

- It is the pinnacle of ingratitude to use the blessings Allah SWT has given to us to violate His commandments. Similar to one who raised their child only to have them talk poorly and disrespectfully to the parents.
- There are two signs of ingratitude:
  1. The one who remembers the bounty but forgets who is the bestower (Allah SWT)
  2. The one who uses the bounties of Allah SWT to disobey Him

### Abstinence from Sin

- Shaykh Sulaiman advises us to leave a legacy of virtue after we pass away, and at the very least, not leave a trail of evil. Figuratively speaking, let us not leave any skeletons in our closet.
- A primary way to abstain from sin is to develop taqwa, or God-consciousness, which has varying levels to it.

- When you are alone and you have a thought that is driving you to sin, you must know that Allah SWT is watching and to abstain from that which is wrong.
- Shaykh Sulaiman tells us to leave sin "cold turkey" (immediately), not gradually. When you forsake something for the sake of Allah SWT, He will replace it with something better.
- When you repent to Allah SWT, He takes the sin away from the memory of the angels writing down your deeds, the limbs that took part in it, and the place of the earth in which you committed it.
- Humans will remind you, even if they forgive you. People taught without forgiving, while Allah SWT forgives without taunting. That is the Mercy of Allah SWT, Allahu akbar!

## FAQs

Q: What are the two branches of faith according to Imam Gazzali?

A: The two branches are the performance of noble deeds and abstinence from sin.

Q: Which of the two branches is a greater accomplishment?

A: Abstinence from the sin.

Q: Who is a true migrant according to the hadith in Imam Gazzali's book?

A: The true migrant is he one who migrates from a life of sin and disobedience to a life of obedience.

Q: According to Imam Gazzali, what is the pinnacle of ingratitude towards Allah SWT?

A: The pinnacle of ingratitude is that we use the bounties that Allah SWT has given us to disobey him.

Q: What is the minimum definition of taqwa and how should we use it in our daily lives?

A: The minimum definition is to stay away from shirk. As Muslims, we use it as a guide to propel ourselves to the greater goal which is abstinence from all sin.

True or False:

Q: In order to quit a sin, you should gradually wean off the deed instead of stopping it altogether, go cold turkey.

A: FALSE

## Quotes

"Humans will remind you if they forgive you. People taunt without forgiving, while Allah SWT forgives without taunting".

"When you forsake something for the sake of Allah SWT, Allah SWT will replace it with something better".

"Leave a legacy of virtue. If not, at least don't leave a trail of evil".

"It's human to err, it's devilish to persist". (referring to sinning continuously)