

THE BEGINNING OF GUIDANCE



Shaykh Sulaiman Moola

SESSION 2

The Beginning of Guidance by Imam Ghazali

- In last week's session, Shaykh Sulaiman Moola covered the importance of staying away from sin. There is no act of piety greater than abstinence from sin. In this session, Imam Al-Ghazali's chapter on the limbs is covered.

The Limbs

- On the Day of Judgment, the mouths will be sealed, and the limbs of the body will speak out. We need to endeavor to protect all of our limbs from sin.
- There are seven doors of Jahannam. Imam Al-Ghazali makes a delicate correlation that we have seven different limbs that can get us into Jahannam.

- The Seven that will get us into Jahannam:
 1. The eyes
 2. The ears
 3. The tongue
 4. The belly
 5. The private part
 6. The hand
 7. The leg
- Allah SWT has created many creations, but has given us, as humans, the best appearance. It is important that we use them, our limbs, in a way that which is good and grateful to Allah SWT. If we do not, Allah SWT may take them away.
- Shaykh Sulaiman exclusively focused on the protecting the eye during his session. The good ways we can use our eyes are to marvel at the creation of Allah SWT. Shaykh Sulaiman eloquently puts it as “the skies, stars, and mountains are the billboards of Allah SWT.” They are marketing His beautiful creation and the way He constructed it. We have the capability of the mind so we should use to reflect upon His signs.

The Four Things to Avoid With Our Gaze

1. To not look at the opposite gender (in a lustful manner)
 - Faith is interjoined by modesty. The Prophet SAW described them as companions. Your heart is a victim of your gaze. We have to make sure not to look at the opposite gender in a way that does not befit modesty. If needed, we should treat the opposite gender with respect and courtesy when we approach them.
2. Looking at beautiful forms in lustful ways
 - This applies to not looking at the opposite gender, as previously discussed, but it applies to materials such as cars. A believer is not supposed to be impressed by materials and especially not lustfully going after them.
3. Looking at someone with contempt and humiliation
 - We should not look down upon anyone, especially our brothers and sisters. The Prophet SAW said that it is sufficient to think of someone as evil, if they degrad his brother.
4. Seeking the faults of people
 - We should not be going out of our way to seek out others' flaws. The hope is that if we cover up the faults of our brothers/sisters, then Allah SWT will cover up our flaws.

FAQs

- How did Imam Al-Ghazali come up with the number “seven” when referring to the limbs that can enter one into the Hellfire?
- What are those seven limbs?
- What is a good way we can use our eyes?
- What are four things to avoid with our gaze?

