

THE BEGINNING OF GUIDANCE



Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans

SESSION 3

The Beginning of Guidance by Imam Ghazali

- In the past couple of sessions, Ustadh Ubaydallah went into the initial steps of changing life and religious practice. Imam Al-Ghazali is trying to tell us that religious practice is not simply about tasks and responsibilities, it is about etiquettes. It is about showing devotion to the Creator that when one sins, they have broken a bond of love. Ibadah are acts of love without compulsion.

Where do I start?

- Imam Malik was asked, in my religion, what should I focus on first? He responded by saying learning the knowledge to act in obedience from one end of the day to the end of the next, restating the hadith of the Prophet SAW.
- We should focus on increasing our religious practice to the point we can love it. By doing so and moving past simply looking at it as an obligation, you feel the sweetness of imaan.

You love the faith because you're committed, and it gives you purpose.

Start with Wudu

- Muslims are known by their purification methods and their desire to be clean. The Prophet SAW said purification is half of one's faith. The sunnah is to be careful about purification.
- Tahara (purity) is the key to the salaah, and the salaah is the key to everything else. A person that is careful about wudu is careful about salaah, and being careful about salaah leads to being careful about deen. The means of wudu will be the way the Prophet SAW recognizes us inshallah.
- All minor sins are washed away with wudu. Wudu can change the state of an individual. If one is angry, it is advised that they make wudu, with cool water.
- Wudu unlocks worship, such as salaah and reading Qur'an. Even acts of worship that do not require wudu, such as dhikr, are enhanced in the state of wudu.

The Importance of Oral Hygiene

- After you finish in the restroom and you are about to make wudu, you should use the miswak. The Prophet SAW was serious about oral hygiene; it is a firmly established sunnah.

- The miswak freshens the breath, which pleases Allah SWT and angers the shaytaan. If you are conscientious towards the smaller things, like the minute details about wudu, you will find conscientiousness towards the big concepts, such as brother/sisterhood and unity. The details are not meant for us to lose out on the big themes of life. It is done with a wise purpose.
- The miswak relates to honoring others. The Prophet SAW told the people to refrain from attending salaah if they have eaten garlic or onions until the mouth has been cleansed. It is about respecting others and not being disagreeable. Appearance is a means of honoring others.

Elements of Wudu

- Wudu has its faraidh (mandatory), sunnan (Prophetic elements), and mutammimat (expressions of completion). One should make niyyah before wudu, either to make prayer permissible, reading from the mushaaf, or to enhance spiritual work.

The Seven Things to Avoid When Making Wudu

1. **Shaking your hands and being wasteful with water.**

On a practical level we should be aware of our water consumption and not always put the faucet on full blast.

2. **Do not smack your face with water.** Wudu should be done with dignity, in serene movements.
3. **Do not talk as you make wudu.** Wudu itself is an act of ibadaahb. It settles into a mindset of preparing for worship.
4. **Do not wash anything more than three times.** A bid'ah is described as something against the sunnah and the person committing it thinks they're being rewarded for it. The Prophet SAW did it three times and that is what we keep doing.
5. **Do not pour the water without necessity.** The literal meaning is not to waste water. If one is excessively doubting if they wiped a certain body part at least once a day, they are considered muwaswas. Muwaswas is considered an excessive self-doubt from a shayta and this person is under a different ruling in maliki fiqh, they should wash any limb again if they already have. This does not apply to non-muwaswas.
6. **Do not make wudu with water heated by the sun.** They believed at the time it caused leprosy.
7. **Do not make wudu from water from silver-type containers.**

FAQs

- What act of worship did Imam Al-Ghazali start with first and why?
- According to Imam Malik, what is the most important thing that you could learn?
- What happens when one stresses importance on smaller details?
- The Prophet SAW said which group of people will have a blaze on their face similar to the blaze of the horse?
- True or False: Actions done in a state of wudhu are better than actions done without being in the state of wudhu?
- What is the importance of the miswak and oral hygiene?
- Before the Prophet SAW did wudhu, what would he focus on?
- Why would cleaning your teeth anger the Shaytaan?
- According to Imam Gazzali, when you are washing each limb during wudhu, what should you be doing along with washing?
- What are the three elements of wudu?
- What are the seven things to avoid when making wudu?