

1.	<i>Eemaan</i> (Faith)	01
2.	Belief in Allah	07
3.	Belief in the Angels	15
4.	Belief in Allah's Books	22
5.	Belief in the Messengers of Allah	28
6.	<i>Soorat Al-'Asr</i> (The Time)	35
7.	Belief in the Last Day	42
8.	Belief in the Divine Decree (<i>Al-Qadar</i>)	49
9.	Islam: Meaning of the Five Pillars of Islam	53
10.	<i>Salaat</i> (The Prayer)	62
11.	<i>Zakaat</i> (The Purifying Dues)	72
12.	<i>Aayat Al-Birr</i> (The Righteousness Verse)	86
13.	The Pilgrimage to the House (The <i>Hajj</i>)	95
14.	Fasting in the Month of <i>Ramadhaan</i> (<i>As-Siyaam</i>)	107
15.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 1	116
16.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 2	124
17.	Luqmaan's advice to his son (<i>Soorat Luqmaan</i> , 31: 12-19)	132
18.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 3	144
19.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 4	149
20.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 5	161
21.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 6	171
22.	Our Lord is Allah (<i>Soorat Fussilat</i> , 41: 30 – 36)	182
23.	Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> Part 7	192
24.	The Story of Prophet Moosaa <small>عليه السلام</small> and Pharaoh:	203
25.	<i>Salmaan Al-Faarisee</i> <small>رضي الله عنه</small>	207

26.	<i>Sujood At-Tilaawah</i> – Prostration For Recitation	210
27.	Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Part 1	217
28.	The Creation as Evidence Of Allah (<i>Surah Aal-Imrân</i> 3: 190-195)	230
29.	Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Part 2	240
30.	Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Part 3	252
31.	Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Part 4	263
32.	The Light Verses (<i>Soorat An-Noor</i> , 24: 35-40)	272
33.	Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Part 5	279
34.	Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Part 6	292
35.	<i>Thaabit ibn Qays al-Ansaaree</i> ؓ	302
36.	The Terrible Web of the Two Dangerous D's — Drinks And Drugs	307
37.	<i>Laylat Al-Qadr</i> (The Night of Power or Destiny)	314
38.	<i>At-Taghaabun</i> (Loss and Gain)	320
39.	Islam and the World of Sciences	329
40.	'Ammaar ibn Yaasir ؓ	336
41.	A Moving Supplication	342

Eemaan (Faith)

What is Eemaan?

What is true *eemaan*, or faith? Who is a true believer (*mu'min*)? What are the essential elements, or articles, of *eemaan*? These questions are of vital importance. In fact, this is what Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) explained to Angel Jibreel (جبرئيل) when the latter asked him about *eemaan*.

When Angel Jibreel (جبرئيل) asked the Prophet (ﷺ), "What is faith (*eemaan*)?" He replied, "It is to believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in the Divine Decree (*al-qadar*), both the good of it and the bad of it." (Muslim)

Eemaan is a Statement and Action

Eemaan is a statement and action. In other words, it has three essential elements: belief in the heart, profession by the tongue and performance of the deeds by the physical parts of the body.

1. Belief in the Heart

The heart is the locus of *eemaan* as well as its foundation. The Qur'an says,

﴿يَأْتِيهَا الرَّسُولُ لَا يَحْزُنُكَ الَّذِينَ يُسْكَرُونَ فِي الْكُفْرِ
مِنَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَلَمْ تُؤْمِن قُلُوبُهُمْ﴾

"O Messenger, let not those who race each other into disbelief not grieve you, those who say 'We believe' with their lips, but whose hearts have no faith." (*Surat al-Maa'idah*, 5: 41)

Hence, *eemaan* is the statement of 'the heart'. It is made up of recognition, knowledge and affirmation. In other words, a believer recognizes that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He has knowledge of this truth and he affirms it in his heart.

The second element of *eemaan* is the actions of the heart. This aspect of *eemaan* is made up of commitment, voluntary surrender and acceptance. These include, among other things, love of Allah, awe of Him, trust in Him, heedfulness of His commands and prohibitions, fear of Him and hope in Him.

2. Declaration of Faith with the Tongue

The second essential element of *eemaan* is to declare one's faith with the tongue. In this case, one testifies that one recognizes the truthfulness of the testimony of the faith and intends

to adhere to the commands and guidance of what he has testified to. Mere pronouncement of the words in themselves is not enough.

3. Performance of Righteous Deeds by the Body Parts

Eemaan is a statement and action. Faith increases by acts of obedience to Allah and decreases by acts of disobedience. The heart is the driving force behind all actions. If the heart is filled with *eemaan*—with the love of Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ), fear of Allah, hope in Him, amongst other things—it will certainly prompt the body to perform acts of obedience to Allah. It will keep him away from forbidden, shameful and even doubtful or dubious acts. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "There is a lump of flesh in the body; when it is sound, the whole body is sound; but when it becomes corrupted, the whole body also becomes corrupted. It is the heart." (Part of a *hadeeth* reported by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim)

Faith, however, differs from one believer to another, and true faith is one that is expressed in actions, as Almighty Allah says, **"And this is Paradise which you have been made to inherit because of your deeds which you used to do [in the life of the world]."** (*Surat al-Hijr*, 43:72)

Branches of Faith

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Faith has sixty-odd or seventy-odd branches; the highest and the best of which is to declare that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah, and the lowest of which is to remove something harmful from the road. Modesty, too, is a branch of faith." (Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim)

If *eemaan* has different branches and each part is called *eemaan*, it follows that *salaat* is *eemaan*, *Zakaat* is *eemaan*, and *Hajj* is *eemaan*. Virtues such as modesty, trust, fear of Allah, heedfulness of Allah, and total submission to His will, even removing a harmful thing from the way, are parts of *eemaan*. Some of these parts are very basic: like the two testimonies of faith. If you lose them, you lose *eemaan* completely. Others are marginal, such as removing an obstacle from the way. If, for any reason, you lose them, you do not lose *eemaan* completely. Instead, you have moved from the lofty level of *eemaan* to its lower level.

There are a number of things that testify to one's true faith. These include the following:

1. Loving the Prophet (ﷺ) more than one loves one's parents and children. (See al-Bukhaaree, 1:14)

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ is the locus of *eemaan*.
2. _____ is the driving force behind all actions.
3. Faith has _____ branches.
4. According to a *hadeeth*, the lowest degree of faith is to _____ something harmful from the road.
5. "A thief while stealing is not a _____ believer."

B. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the three essential elements of *eemaan*?

2. What aspects does belief in the heart consist of?

3. What does profession of faith by the tongue entail?
