

Workbook

Principles extracted from

"The Lofty Principles"

Authored by Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn

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Workbook: tajrīd-al-qawāid-min-al-qawāid-al-muthla

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{So whoever hopes for the meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord} [18:110]

Notes

In the name of Allah, ar-Raḥmān (the Most Merciful), ar-Raḥīm (the Bestower of Mercy).

"Al-qawā'id al-muthla fī şifāti-llahi wa asmāihi al-ḥusnā" (lit. Exemplary Principles Regarding the Attributes of Allāh and His Beautiful Names), is a book authored by Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn which clarifies the correct 'Aqīdah concerning Tawḥīd al-Asmā was-Ṣifāt.

It contains 7 principles regarding the beautiful names of Allāh; 7 principles regarding the lofty attributes of Allāh, and 4 further principles to help understand Āyāt and Ḥadiīh pertaining to the names and attributes of Allāh.

In this treatise, I have extracted the principles mentioned by Ibn al-'Uthaymīn and set it in the form of a workbook. To further assist students in their study of this aspect of Tawhīd, I have added an introduction from the words of Ibn 'Uthaymīn from other sources.

Abul Abbaas Naveed Ayaaz Date: Monday, 29 th Safar, 1444h Corresponding to: 26 th September, 2022.					

قَالَ الشَّيخُ ابنُ عُثَيمِين رَحِمَهُ اللهُ: التَّوحِيدُ لُغَةً: مَصدَرُ "وَحَّدَ يُوحِّدُ" أَي جَعلُ الشَّيء واحِدًا. وهَذا لا يَتَحَقَّقُ إِلَّا بِنَفِي وإِثْبَاتٍ. نَفِيُ الحُكِمِ عَمَّا سِوَى المُوَحَّدِ وإِثْبَاتُه لَه فَمَثَلاً نَقُولُ: إِنَّه لا يَتِمُّ للإِنسَانِ التَّوحِيدُ حَتَّى يَشْهَدُ "أَن لا إِلهَ إِلا الله" فَيَنفِي الأُلُوهِيَّةَ عَمَّا سِوَى الله عَزَّ وَجَلّ ويُثبِتُها للهِ وَحدَه.

وذلِكَ أَنَّ النَّفيَ المَحضَ تَعطِيلُ مَحضٌّ ، والإِثباتَ المَحضَ لا يَمنَعُ مُشَارَكَةَ الغَيرِ فِي الحُكمِ.

Introduction:	
Tawhīd, linguistically is a root noun from the verb	
وَحَّدَ يُوَحِّدُ	
i.e. to make something one.	
This can only be done by negating and affirming.	
Negating the ruling from anything else besides what is being singled out. And affirming the ruling for it.	
For example, we say: A person cannot believe in Tawhīd without bearing witness Lā ilāha illa Allāh. He must negate the right to worship of everybody besides Allāh, the Majestic, and affirm it for Allāh alone.	
Merely negating, is a denial; whilst merely affirming does not prevent others have a share of that ruling.	

وأَنوَاعُ التَّوحِيدِ بِالنِّسبَةِ للهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ تَدخُلُ كُلُّهَا فِي تَعرِيفٍ عَامٍ: "إِفرَادُ اللهِ سُبحَانَه وتَعَالى بِمَا يَختَصُّ بِه". وهِي حَسبَ مَا ذَكرَه أَهلُ العِلمِ ثَلاثَةٌ :

تَوحِيدُ الرُّبُوبِيَّةِ: "إِفرادُ اللهِ سُبحَانَه وتَعَالى بِالخَلقِ والـمُلكِ والتَّدبِيرِ."

تَوحِيدُ الأُلُوهِيَّة: "إِفرَادُ اللهِ سُبحَانَه وتَعَالى بِالعِبَادة" بِأَن لا يَتَّخِذَ الإِنسَانُ مَعَ اللهِ أَحَداً يَعبُدُه ويَتَقَرَّبُ إليه كَمَا يَعبُدُ الله ويَتَقَرَّبُ إليه.

The types of Tawhīd with regards to Allāh, the Majestic, enter into the general definition for Tawhīd: "to single out Allāh in ever quality which is exclusive to him."

According to the classification of the scholars, there are three types of Tawhīd:

- 1. Tawhīd ar-Rubūbiyyah: To single out Allah, Glorified and Most High, with creation, sovereignty and complete control.
- 2. Tawhīd al-Ulūhiyyah: To single out Allah, Glorified and Most High, with worship, such that a person does not associate anybody else with Allāh whom he worships and seeks closeness to like his worship of Allāh and seeking closeness to Him.

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أو	كِتَابِه أَ	نَفسَه فِي	ووَصَفَ بِه	الله به نفسه	بِمَا سَمَّى	وتَعَالي	سُبحَانَه	إدُ اللهِ	نِ: "إِفرا	والصِّفَانِ	الأسمَاءِ	تَوحِيدُ ا
							أَثبَتَهُ مِز					

- تَحريفٍ
- ولا تَعطِيلِ
- ومِن غَيرِ تَكِيفٍ
 - ولا تَمثِيلِ".

3. Tawḥīd al-Asmā was-Ṣifāt:
It is to single out Allāh, Glorified
and Most High, in every name
which Allāh has named Himself
with, or attributed to Himself in His
Book or upon the tongue of His
Messenger #; this is by affirming
whatever Allah has affirmed [for
Himself] without:

- Taḥrīf: Altering [its wording or meaning].
- Ta'<u>t</u>īl: Negating [its meaning or attribute].
- Takyīf: Describing or questioning [its reality].
- Tamthīl: Likening [His attributes to creation].

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"ومَنزِلَتُه فِي الدِّينِ عَالِيةٌ وأَهمِيَّتُه عَظِيمَةٌ ولا يُمكِنُ أَحَدًا أَن يَعبُدُ اللهَ عَلى الوَجهِ الأَكمَلِ حَتَّى يَكُونَ عَلى عِلمٍ بِأَسمَاءِ اللهِ تَعَالى وصِفَاتِه لِيَعبُدَه عَلى بَصِيرَةٍ" قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالى:

﴿ وَللَّهِ الأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا } [الأعراف: ١٨٠]

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With regards to Tawhīd al-Asmā was-Ṣifāt, its status in the religion is elevated, and its importance is great, it is not possible for anybody	
to worship Allāh in a perfect manner without having knowledge of the names of Allah, the High, and His attributes, so a person can worship Him upon knowledge and insight.	
Allāh, the High, said {and for Allāh are the beautiful names so invoke Him by them} [07:180]	
[555]	

القَاعِدَةُ الأُولَى: أُسمَاءُ اللهِ تَعَالَى كُلُّها حُسنَى.

Principles regarding the names of Allāh, the Most High.	
First Principle:	
All the names of Allāh, the Most High, are good and perfect.	

القَاعِدَةُ القَانِيَةُ: أَسمَاءُ اللهِ تَعَالَى أَعلَامٌ وَأُوصَافُ: أَعلَامٌ بِاعتِبَارِ دَلالَتُهَا عَلَى الذَّات. وَأُوصَافُ بِاعتِبَارِ مَا دَلَّتْ عَلَيهِ مِنَ المَعَانِي. وهِ عَلَيهِ مِنَ المَعَانِي. وهِ عَلَيهِ عَلَى مُسَمَّى وَاحدٍ - وهو اللهُ عَزَّ وجَلَّ - وبِالإعتِبَارِ الثَّانِي مُتَبَايَنَةُ لِدَلالَةِ كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنهُمَا عَلَى مَعنَاه الخَاصِ. لِدَلالَةِ كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنهُمَا عَلَى مَعنَاه الخَاصِ.

Second Principle: The names of Allāh contain meaningful names and descriptions; They are meaningful names because they refer to [His] essence. They are descriptions due to the meanings they contain.	
Because every name refers to the same essence i.e. Allāh, the Exalted, all His names are synonymous. Because each individual name contains a distinct description, each name is different and unique	

القَاعِدَةُ القَالِئَةُ: أَسمَاءُ اللهِ تَعَالَى إِن دَلَّتْ عَلَى وَصفٍ مُتَعَدِّ تَضَمَّنَتْ ثَلاثَةَ أُمُور: أَحدُهَا: ثُبُوتُ ذلِكَ الاِسمِ للهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. القَّالِثُ: ثُبُوتُ حُكمُهَا ومُقتَضَاهَا. الاِسمِ للهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. القَّالِثُ: ثُبُوتُ حُكمُهَا ومُقتَضَاهَا. وإِن دَلَّتْ عَلَى وَصفٍ غَيرٍ مُتَعَدِّ تَضَمَّنَتْ أَمرينِ: أَحدُهُمَا: ثُبُوتُ ذلك الاِسمِ للهِ عَزَّ وجَلَّ. الثَّانِي: ثُبُوتُ الصِّفَةِ الَّتِي تَضَمَّنَهَا للهِ عَزَّ وجَلَّ. الثَّانِي: ثُبُوتُ الصِّفَةِ الَّتِي تَضَمَّنَهَا للهِ عَزَّ وجَلَّ.

The third principle: If the names of Allāh, the Most High, contain an attribute which is transitive, it necessitates three matters:	
matters.	
1 Affirming that name for Allāh, the exalted.	
2. Affirming the attribute of Allāh the Exalted, which is contained within the name.	
3. Affirming its effect upon the object.	
However if the name contains an attribute which is intransitive, it only necessitates two matters:	
1. Affirming that name for Allāh, the exalted.	
2. Affirming the attribute of Allāh the Exalted, which is contained within the name:	

	- بِالـمُطَابَقَةِ
	- بِالـمُطَابَقَةِ - بِالتَّضَمُّنِ - بِالاِلتِزَامِ
	ءِ: - مانتاکا،
	وِ هُ لِكِرَاءً
Fourth Principle:	
The names of Allāh, the Most High, contain information regarding His Essence and His attributes, through:	
Al-Mutābaqah: Inclusive meanings which reflect His Essencey as a whole.	
2. At-Tadammun: Restricted meanings specific to the attribute.	
3. Al-iltizām:	
Consequential meanings.	

القَاعِدَةُ الرَّابِعَةُ: دَلَالَةُ أُسمَاءِ اللهِ تَعَالى عَلى ذَاتِهِ وصِفَاتِهِ تَكُونُ:

القَاعِدَةُ الحَامِسَةُ: أَسمَاءُ اللهُ تَعَالى تَوقِيفِيَّةُ لا مَجَالَ لِلعَقل فِيهَا.

5.		
The Fifth Principle:		
The names of Allāh, the Most High, are established by revelation only; they are not established through logical reasoning.		

	القَاعِدَةُ السَّادِسَةُ: أَسمَاءُ اللهِ تَعَالَى غَيرُ مَحصُورَةٍ بِعَدَدٍ مُعَيِّنٍ.
The sixth Principle:	
The names of Allāh, the Most High, are not restricted to a fixed number.	

القَاعِدَةُ السَّابِعَةُ: الإلحَادُ فِي أَسمَاءِ اللهِ تَعَالى هُو: المَيلُ بِهَا عَمَّا يَجِبُ فِيهَا.

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The Seventh Principle:						
Deviation concerning the names of Allaah, the most High, occurs due to deviating away from what is obligated regarding them.						

قَوَاعِدُ فِي صِفَاتِ اللهِ تَعَالى

	القَاعِدَةُ الأُولى: صِفَاتُ اللهِ كُـلَّهَا صِفَاتُ كَمَالٍ لا نَقصَ فِيهَا
Principles concerning the attributes of Allāh, the Most High.	
The First Principle:	
All the attributes of Allah contain descriptions of perfection, without any deficiency.	

القَاعِدَةُ الثَّانِيةُ: بَابُ الصِّفَاتِ أُوسَعُ مِن بَابِ الأَسمَاء.

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The Second Principle:	
Knowledge of the attributes is more expansive than knowledge of His	
names.	

القَاعِدَةُ الثَّالِكَةُ: صِفَاتُ اللهِ تَعَالَى تَنقَسِمُ إِلَى قِسمَينِ: ثُبُوتِيَّةُ وسَلبِيَّةُ.

The third principle:	
The attributes of Allāh are classified into two types:	
1. Attributes which affirm a description.	
2. Attributes which negate a description.	

القَاعِدَةُ الرَّابِعَةُ: الصِّفَاتُ الثُبُوتِيَّةُ صِفَاتُ مَدجٍ وكَمَالٍ فَكُلَّمَا كَثُرَتْ وَتَنَوَّعَتْ دَلالاتُهَا ظَهَرَ مِن كَمَالِ السَموصُوفِ بِهَا مَا هُوَ أَكثَرُ

ولِهَذا كَانَتْ الصِّفَاتُ الثُّبُوتِيَّةُ الَّتِي أَخبَرَ اللهُ بِهَا عِن نَفسِهِ أَكثَرُ بِكَثِيرٍ مِن الصِّفَاتِ السَّلبِيَّة.

The Fourth Principle:	
His attributes of affirmation, contain descriptions of praise and perfection. An increase and variation of such attributes, indicate a further increase in the perfection of the One being described.	
For this reason, the attributes of affirmation which Allāh informed of regarding His own self are more in number than attributes of negation.	

القَاعِدَةُ الحَامِسَةُ: الصِّفَاتُ الثُّبُوتِيَّةُ تَنقَسِمُ إلى قِسمَين: ذَاتِيَّة وفِعلِيّة.

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The fif	fth principle:	
	tributes of affirmation can be ied into two types:	
1.	Describing His Essence.	
2.	Describing His actions.	
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القَاعِدَةُ السَّادِسَةُ: يَلزِمُ فِي إِثبَاتِ الصِّفَاتِ التَّخَلِّي عَن مَحذُورَينِ عَظِيمَينِ: أَحَدُهُمَا: التَّمثِيلُ. والثَّانِي: التَّكيِيفُ.

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The sixth Principle:	
When affirming attributes for Allāh, two dangerous prohibitions must be avoided:	
1. Likening His attributes to that of creation.	
2. Questioning or describing their reality.	

القَاعِدَةُ السَّابِعَةُ: صِفَاتُ اللهِ تَعَالى تَوقِيفِيَّةُ لا مَجَالَ لِلعَقَل فِيهَا.

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The Seventh Principle:					
The attributes of Allāh, the Most High, are restricted to revelation; logical reasoning has no bearing whatsoever.					

قَواعِدٌ فِي أُدِلَّةِ الأَسمَاءِ والصِّفَاتِ

القَاعِدَةُ الأُولَى: الأَدِلَّةُ النَّتِي تَثبُتُ بِهَا أَسمَاءُ اللهِ تَعَالى وصِفَاتِه هِيَ: كِتَابُ اللهِ تَعَالى وسُنَّةِ رَسُولِه ﷺ فَلا تَثبُتُ أَسمَاءُ اللهِ وصِفَاتِه بِغيرهِما.

Principles in understanding evidences pertaining to the names and attributes.	
The first Principle:	
The evidences by which the names of Allāh, the Most High, and His attributes are affirmed are:	
1. The Book of Allāh.	
2. The Sunnah of His Messenger .	
No other source is used to affirm names and attributes for Allāh.	

القَاعِدَةُ التَّانِيَةُ: الوَاجِبُ فِي نُصُوصِ القُرآنِ والسُّنَّةِ: إجرَاؤُهَا عَلى ظَاهِرِهَا دُونَ تَحرِيفٍ - لا سِيَّمَا نُصُوصُ الصِّفَاتِ حَيثُ لا مَجَالَ لِلرَّأَى فِيهَا.

	صوص الصفاتِ حيث لا منجال لِنزاي قِيها.
The second principle:	
It is imperative for the evidences of the Qur'an and Sunnah, to be understood according to their apparent meanings, without	
altering their them – especially the evidences pertaining to the attributes, because logical reasoning has no bearing.	

القَاعِدَةُ الثَّالِئَةِ: ظَوَاهِرُ نُصُوصِ الصِّفَاتِ مَعلُومَةُ لَنَا بِاعتِبَارٍ ومَجهُولَةٌ لَنَا بِاعتِبارٍ آخَر. فَبِاعتِبَارِ الصَّفَاتِ مَعلُومَةٌ لَنَا بِاعتِبَارٍ الكَيفِيَّةِ الَّتِي هِي عَلَيهَا: مَجهُولَة.

The Third Principle:	
The apparent meanings of a proof pertaining to the attributes of Allāh are known from one angle, and unknown from another angle.	
They are known from the angle of their meanings.	
They are unknown from the angle of their reality.	

القَاعِدَةُ الرَّابِعَةُ: ظَاهِرُ النُّصُوصِ مَا يَتَبَادِرُ مِنهَا إِلَى الدِّهنِ مِنَ المَعَانِي وَهُوَ يَختَلِفُ بِحَسَبِ السِّيَاقِ وَمَا يُضَافُ إِلَيهِ الكَّلام.

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The Fourth Principle:			
The apparent meaning of an proof s the meaning which is naturally understood. This may differ according to the context of its usage or its context within a sentence.			

الخاتمة

ومَن سَأَلَ اللهَ تَعَالَى بِصِدقٍ وَافتِقَارٍ إِلَيهِ ، عَالِمًا بِغِنَى رَبِّهِ عَنهُ وَافتِقَارِهِ هُوَ إِلَى رَبِّهِ فَهُوَ حَرِيُّ أَن يَستَجِيبُ اللهُ تعالى سُؤْلَه. يقول الله تعالى: {وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِي فَإِنِي قَرِيبُ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ}

فَنَسَأَلَ اللهَ تَعَالَى أَن يَجعَلَنَا مِـمَّن رَأَى الـحَقَّ حقًّا وَاتبَعَهُ ورَأَى البَاطِلَ بِاطِلاً وَاجتَنَبه وأَن يَجعَلَنَا هُدَاةً مُهتَدِين وصُلَحَاءَ مُصلِحِين وأَن لا يَزِيغُ قُلُوبَنَا بَعدَ إِذْ هَدَانَا وَيَهِبُ لَنَا مِنه رَحـمَةً إِنَّهُ هُوَ الوَهَّاب.

Ending

Whoever truthfully asks Allāh, the Most High, showing is need in front of Him, knowing that His Lord is rich and free of Him whilst He is weak and poor in front of Him, [such a person] Allāh will readily answer his supplication.

Allah, the Most High, said: {And when My worshippers ask you, [O Muḥammad], concerning Meindeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided} [02:186]

We ask Allāh, the Most High, to make us from those people who see the truth as truth and follow it, and see falsehood as falsehood and avoid it; that He makes guides who are followed, and righteous people who rectify others; and that He does not deviate our hearts after He guided us; and that He bestows upon us mercy from Himself, verily He is al-Wahhāb.