**QUESTION FROM A NON-MUSLIM TO A MUSLIM SCHOLAR**

**REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE MUSLIM UMMAH**

A Non-Muslim man approached a scholar and pointedly asked him: “do you really believe your book is entirely true?”

The scholar unhesitatingly answered, “yes, with 100% certainty I believe it is true in its entirety.”

The Non-Muslim said, “if this is the case, then how come the condition of the Muslims is opposite of what God promises them in the Qur’an?” and quoted the following ayah:

## *… and never will Allah give the disbelievers over the believers a way [to overcome them].* (An Nisa 4:141)

The scholar replied saying this verse is talking about believers. Nowadays, unfortunately, we are not believers, but Muslims only.

At that, the Non-Muslim man was intrigued. He asked about the difference between a Muslims and M`omin (believer).

The scholar said: Muslims are those who have submitted ourselves to the guidelines of Islam but are not at the level of true believers. This is the case with the majority of Muslims today. We do all the rituals in Islam like salah, zakah, hajj, fasting in Ramadan etc. but we are in agony, disgrace, and defeat in all facets of life whether it is family structure, society, nation, economy, military, or status in the eyes of the world.

The man asked about how Muslims reached such a low point?

The scholar quoted the following verse to help him understand:

## *The bedouins say, "We have believed." Say, "You have not [yet] believed; but say [instead], 'We have submitted,' for faith has not yet entered your hearts. And if you obey Allah and His Messenger, He will not deprive you from your deeds of anything. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."* (Al Hujurat 49:14)

## Going back to the original question of why Muslims are in this condition of abject disgrace, disarray, division, and humiliation in the eyes of the world; the answer is fairly clear cut. We are Muslims, but we have not elevated ourselves to the level of believers; and the promises from Allah are for the believers, not only submitters (Muslims).

## The scholar began to quote verses from the Quran:

## Allah promised to give victory to the believers saying: “*… and incumbent upon Us was victory of the believers.”* (Ar Rum 30:47)

## Allah promised to elevate believers and make them leaders and shining stars for all nations. *“So do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are [true] believers*.” (Al Imran 3:139)

## Allah will never allow anyone to disgrace the believers or put them down. *“…and never will Allah give the disbelievers over the believers a way [to overcome them]”.* (An Nisa 4:!41)

## Allah SWT will never leave believers in a condition of weakness and disgrace instead elevate them from this condition. *“Allah would not leave the believers in that [state] you are in [presently] until He separates the evil from the good. Nor would Allah reveal to you the unseen. But [instead], Allah chooses of His messengers whom He wills, so believe in Allah and His messengers. And if you believe and fear Him, then for you is a great reward.”* (Al Imran 3:179)

## Allah will support the believers in all conditions and circumstances. *“If you [disbelievers] seek the victory - the defeat has come to you. And if you desist [from hostilities], it is best for you; but if you return [to war], We will return, and never will you be availed by your [large] company at all, even if it should increase; and [that is] because Allah is with the believers.”* (Al Anfal 8:19)

## The scholar went on to say, since we are stuck in a state of Islam and we are not working hard to develop our *iman* / faith, this is why we are in this condition. *“…but most of them were not to be believers.”* (Ash-Shu’ara 26:8)

## The Non-Muslim then asked, “who are the believers?”

## The scholar again quoted from the Qur’an saying: *“[Such believers are] the repentant, the worshippers, the praisers [of Allah], the travelers [for His cause], those who bow and prostrate [in prayer], those who enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong, and those who observe the limits [set by] Allah . And give good tidings to the believers.”* (At-Tawbah 9:112)

## In his conclusion, the scholar said that in Qur’an you will find that Allah SWT joined the status of victory, elevation, ability, reward, and all that we are looking for and we want with the *believers*, not *Muslims*.

## Let’s take this a bit further…

## Allah SWT promised all these great things to the believers. If we see the condition of the Muslims today, we can easily come to the conclusion that the problem lies in us. We are not at the level that Allah SWT requires from the believers!

## When you look at the verses which contain phrases such as…

## “the promise of Allah…”

## “Allah will be with…”

## “Allah loves those who…”

## “Allah promised victory to…”

## “Allah will support…”

## “Allah will be with…”

## …you will find one common factor. All of these verses are about the believers.

## CONCLUSION

## You will not find any educated Muslims today who will argue against the disgraceful condition of the Muslims; whether it is individual, family, society, or nation. We are considered backwards, troublemakers, oppressed, oppressors, uncivilized, dirty, divided, ill mannered, and uneducated by the world. Muslim world is being attacked, butchered, humiliated, looted. Any powerful country can do whatever they like to us, while we sit around watching and wondering about who is next.

## Is this the condition of the people who believe in Allah SWT, the Omnipotent, the All-Powerful Creator of the worlds? The One who can change the condition of any person, place, or nation when He wants? The One whose promise will never change?

## What does it really mean?

## Since the promise of Allah SWT will never change, and since His promise is *only* for the believers, we are clearly not in the state of pure belief.

## The problem is in us.

## May Allah SWT allow us to wake up, help each other elevate ourselves from the status of Islam to the status of *iman* (belief) in order to gain the promise and support of Allah SWT—in this life and the next.

## Look at how many times Allah SWT assured us that His promise is true…

## *Allah has promised those who have believed among you and done righteous deeds that He will surely grant them succession [to authority] upon the earth just as He granted it to those before them and that He will surely establish for them [therein] their religion which He has preferred for them and that He will surely substitute for them, after their fear, security, [for] they worship Me, not associating anything with Me. But whoever disbelieves after that - then those are the defiantly disobedient.* (An-Nur 24:55)

## *Indeed, what you are promised is coming, and you will not cause failure [to Allah].* (Al An’am 6:134)

## *…Unquestionably, the promise of Allah is truth, but most of them do not know.* (Yunus 10:55)

## *[It is] the promise of Allah. Allah does not fail in His promise, but most of the people do not know.* (Ar Rum 30:6)

## *O mankind, indeed the promise of Allah is truth, so let not the worldly life delude you and be not deceived about Allah by the Deceiver.* (Fatir 35:5)

## For an in-depth understanding of this topic, please read the following articles:

## Journey of Victory vs. Journey of Defeat: <http://www.noora1.com/victoryvs_defeat.htm>

## What is Your Identity? <http://www.noora1.com/identity.htm>