

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

One America Campaign

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إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ ۗ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِّن دُونِهِ مِن وَّالٍ ﴿١١﴾

Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any patron. (13:11)

- Trials and tribulations are coming from all directions for Muslims
 - Individuals- Discriminated against, verbally and physically abused
 - Community- Masaajid are attacked and desecrated
 - Nationally- Muslims dread the surge of lies and demagoguery in our politics and particularly this election year.
 - Ummah-
 - Externally - Our faith and values are distorted and under attack. Recently a new phase of attacks are taking place in Muslim countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Bangladesh, Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia and moreover Islam's holiest site: Madinah. All of these attacks are supposedly done by ISIS; a terror group that claims it practices Islam! Subhan Allah!

- Internally- We see chaos in the Muslim World...country after country. They have become so paralyzed with internal conflicts and bloodshed that they can hardly help others.
- Then Muslims living as minority pay the price every time someone kills innocent people but happen to have a Muslim name or even claim to be Muslim. He doesn't even need to believe in Allah SWT just a Muslim name and we pay the price...
 - The most recent: **The Florida killer** was reported to be bi-polar, deranged, a heavy steroid user, a wife beater, cheater and emotionally unstable. His actions were similar to the actions of all other deranged killers who kill a large number of Americans every year or two. The only difference is that he happened to claim to be a Muslim, rather he has a Muslim name and because of that the blame is on the over 1.7 b peace loving caring Muslims around the globe.
- Not to mention the national news outlets provide repetitious reporting and often air graphic video coverage again and again along with their insinuations and politicians use this tragic moment to score free points in this election year and inciting hatred and bigotry in this pluralistic society.
- The struggles are many...Muslims are being massacred and on top of that they get the blame for the same crime that are victims.
- The wise person can be confused with all that is happening around him
- What we need to do is to find solutions and know that at the end of the tunnel there will be light and the help of Allah SWT.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى ﴿١﴾ وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّى ﴿٢﴾

By the night when it covers (1) And [by] the day when it appears (2)

After darkness comes the light of a new day that brings hope and removes fear. But while we wait for the new dawn to appear we cannot sit back and do nothing. This is not what we learn from The Qur'an.

We learn that in order to overcome trials and tribulations we must have faith and patience along with action. So here are some thoughts how to face these challenges:

The first is for us to know that for every problem Allah SWT has placed ease:

Allah SWT tells us:

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٥﴾ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٦﴾

So verily, with the hardship, there is relief, (5) Verily, with the hardship, there is relief (6)

(i.e. there is one hardship with two reliefs, so one hardship cannot overcome two reliefs). In the end relief will prevail by Allah SWT's help and promise.

Ibn Abbas said I'm so glad that Allah said, WITH it, and He didn't say AFTER difficulty comes ease.

We must also know that Allah SWT has the power to change and alleviate any difficulties that we live through. Jabir Bin Abdullah (RA) narrated that Prophet SAS said :

لِكُلِّ دَاءٍ دَوَاءٌ، فَإِذَا أُصِيبَ دَوَاءُ الدَّاءِ، بَرَأَ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ

Every illness has a cure, and when the proper cure is applied to the disease, it heals by Allah's Will.

Ibn al Qayyim (RA) said: It will be very narrow-minded to look at this hadith and only see it as the physical illness. This is a very general statement of the Prophet SAS so it includes all kinds of illness... psychological, social, political, emotional, spiritual

Secondly: Faith and Action! We must be proactive in initiating changes. We must cast our ballots!

Allah SWT says:

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What happens when we have faith?

The Children of Israel who believed in One God were under the subjugation for many generations from a man who claimed to be God; Pharaoh.

Allah SWT tells us about the power of faith in the story of Prophet Musa (AS)

فَلَمَّا تَرَاءَى الْجَمْعَانِ قَالَ أَصْحَابُ مُوسَىٰ إِنَّا لَمُدْرِكُونَ ﴿٦١﴾ قَالَ كَلَّا ۗ إِنَّ مَعِيَ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ ﴿٦٢﴾ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنِ اضْرِبْ بِعَصَاكَ الْبَحْرَ ۗ فَانفَلَقَ فَكَانَ كُلُّ فِرْقٍ كَالطَّوْدِ الْعَظِيمِ ﴿٦٣﴾

And when the two hosts saw each other, the companions of Musa (Moses) said: "We are sure to be overtaken." (61) [Musa (Moses)] said: "Nay, verily! With me is my Lord, He will guide me." (62) Then We inspired Musa (Moses) (saying): "Strike the sea with your stick." And it parted, and each separate part (of that sea water) became like the huge, firm mass of a mountain. (63)

What do we learn from this incident?

1. Musa (AS) had full confidence that Allah SWT will take them out of what Bani Israel thought was a dilemma. As Believers we do not fall in the trap of the fallacy of false dilemma. We must have confidence and faith that Allah SWT will help us.
2. He was commanded to do something not just putting his trust and sit and it will all happen. Yes it did happen miraculously that the sea parted but he had to strike the sea. Simple as it is he had to do that.
3. If we want changes in our country and the way Muslims are perceived we cannot just sit and think that someone else will do it for us. We ALL have to make that change by casting our vote. We should not only register to vote but we have to get out and vote and help neighbors and friends to do so.

In another incident we read the story of Mary as she was about to give birth to Jesus (PBUH). She felt the world was closing in on her so she cried out:

يَا لَيْتَنِي مِتُّ قَبْلَ هَذَا وَكُنْتُ نَسِيًّا مَّسِيًّا ﴿٢٣﴾

"Would that I had died before this, and had been forgotten and out of sight!" (23)

But she had faith in Allah SWT and she was doing exactly as she was commanded to do.

﴿٢٤﴾ فَنَادَاهَا مِنْ تَحْتِهَا أَلَّا تَحْزَنِي قَدْ جَعَلَ رَبُّكِ تَحْتَكِ سَرِيًّا

But he (Jesus) called her from below her, "Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream. (24)

﴿٢٥﴾ وَهَزِي إِلَيْكَ بِجِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ تُسَاقِطُ عَلَيْكَ رُطْبًا غَنِيًّا

And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates. (25)

What do we learn from this Quranic narration of Mary (AS)?

1. Yes there is a human factor that sometimes kicks in when going gets tough.
2. Keep on doing what you are told to do. She was commanded to shake the date palm tree. We all know that this is an impossible feat for a strong man let alone a woman and moreso w=she is in labor. Yet she still did that minimal act of shaking the date palm tree and with the power of Allah SWT the fresh dates came down.
3. Again we learn that no matter how things may seem tough but we have to get up and do. We must not just sit and talk but do the minimal and leave the rest to Allah SWT.

There are many stories in The Qur'an and in the life of Rasoolullah SAS that can fill volumes with regards to faith and action.

Thirdly: Our concern to help those in need! Backpack giveaways!

Simple, yet profound! When Rasoolullah SAS received the revelation in the Cave of Hira, he rushed home fearfully. But he was comforted by Khadijah (RA) who reminded him of the basic human kindness that he exemplified all his life and he should not be worried about anything else. She said:

Allah would never humiliate you, for you are good to your relatives, you are true to your word, you help those who are in need, you support the weak, you feed the guest and you answer the call of those who are in distress."

We need be part of the helping the less fortunate in society as part of our responsibility. We can join hands with ICNA Relief to provide backpacks for poor children. For the past several years ICNA has been providing school supplies to poor families who find it difficult to purchase these basic necessities for their children. Let us show we care and this is an integral part of our faith.

Fourthly: Let others know who you are and what you stand for

Interact with the wider community and have constant dialog with them. Most Americans are fearful of Muslims because they never met a Muslim who would be willing to sit and talk to them. Dialog would dispel much of the fear that bigots and Islamophobes are trying to instill in the minds of our fellow Americans.

So join USCMO's call to have a National Open Mosque Day. This will be on Sunday October 23rd, 2016 Inshaallah.

After all, isn't this what we should be doing. Says Allah SWT:

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾

And who is better in speech than he who invites to Allah and does righteous deeds, and says:

"I am one of the Muslims." (33)

Finally: Du'a

In addition to all of the above make Du'a sincerely to Allah SWT. Rasoolullah SAS said: ***"Whosoever desires that Allah answers his Du'a in unfavorable and difficult conditions, he should make plentiful Du'a in days of ease and comfort."***

Throughout his life Rasoolullah SAS taught us the importance of Du'a. Just reflect on the Battle of Badr. He spent the entire night on the eve of the battle

begging and supplicating unto Allah for His assistance and Allah Almighty the following day granted the greatest victory in the annals of Islamic history.

We tend to forget the power of a simple sincere Du'a to Allah SWT.

Allah SWT informs:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۖ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي

وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad SAW) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near (to them by My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me. So let them obey Me and believe in Me, so that they may be led aright. (186)