

Commanding a person to do something he is already doing

With regards to directing a commands towards someone who is already fulfilling that command, the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* comments on hadeeth number 10 of an Nawawee's 40:

Benefit no 10:

Directing the command to the one who (already) possesses (that) attribute - as per His statement:

(O Messengers! Eat from the foods which are *tayyib*) and work righteous deeds...

Soorah al Mu-minoon (23) aayah 51

So the command to perform righteous deeds was directed to the Messengers, despite them (already) performing righteous deeds - and there is no doubt about that.

And this is like His statement, He the Most High, to His Messenger Muhammad *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*:

O Prophet, have *taqwaa* (fear and dutifulness to) Allaah...

Soorah al Ahzaab (33) aayah 1

And His statement:

And when you said to him, upon whom Allaah had bestowed Favour and upon whom you had bestowed favour, "Keep your wife to yourself and have *taqwaa* of Allaah." But you did hide in yourself that which Allaah will make manifest...

Soorah al Ahzaab (33) aayah 37

So in these *aayaat*, Allaah commanded His Messenger *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* to (have) *taqwaa* - despite his *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* being the person from the people with the most *taqwaa* of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic.

And were to be said to one of us – and we are people who fall short –
“*Fear Allaah!*”, he would become filled with anger.

And if were said to him, “*May Allaah guide you!*”, he would certainly say,
“*And what is it that I am supposed to have fallen into?*”.

And (yet) the Messenger of Allaah *sall Allaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam* was being
addressed by his Lord, with His statement:

O Prophet, have taqwaa (fear and dutifulness to) Allaah...

Soorah al Ahzaab (33) aayah 1

So the Messengers *‘alaihim us salaatu was salaam* were commanded with
doing righteous deeds, even though they were (already) doing them –
affirming for them that which they were upon, in order that they
continue upon doing it.

*(Sharh of an Nawawee’s Forty of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen
rahimahullaah , p148)*